

Welcome to the Religious Education Program. We are excited to have the opportunity to teach your child(ren) this year. St. Catherine of Alexandria has many wonderful catechists who have volunteered to help educate the children of the parish in their faith.

Our spiritual leader, Fr. Dennis, Director Sandra Bustamante, catechists, and volunteers look forward to supporting you as you strive to pass on the catholic faith to your children. We recognize that the family home is rightly called “a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity (CCC # 1666). You are the primary catechist for your children; we cannot take your place. Our goal is to assist you in whatever way we can. It is our intention to work together with you to build a genuine community. You belong to this parish. You are part of what goes here. We want you and your children to sense a community of faith, a community where we experience God as our loving Father.

The Religious Education program at Saint Catherine of Alexandria Parish exists to help children and families grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ as together we pray, serve, give, learn, and belong!

Through our program, we seek to help children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8th grade and their families to:

Come to know God more personally as we learn to PRAY individually and to participate fully, consciously, and actively in communal worship (Mass) of the church.

Discover ways to love and SERVE others in the wider community.

Explore our call to GIVE generously of our time, talent, and treasure to build up God's kingdom.

Deepen our knowledge of the Catholic tradition as we LEARN what it means to live as people of faith today.

Experience what it means to BELONG to God and to be a member of this great Catholic community of faith.

I am confident that, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as we study and pray together, participate in Sunday Mass together, and reach out people in need, we will be successful in showing our children that the Catholic Faith is the true faith.

God Bless You all!!!

Sandra Bustamante

**Coordinator of Family Faith Formation**

**Religious Education Session times:**

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. -12:00 noon

**FAMILY MASS:**

**Sunday's : 9:30 am.**

*\*Parents and students are welcome to attend every Sunday Mass, especially those masses when our students have a role in the Liturgy.*

## **SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION**

Children who are in the second grade of the Religious Education Program will celebrate First Reconciliation weeks before of the Sacrament of First Communion. Parents, of course, will be involved in their preparations, as well as the celebration of this sacrament. There will be additional meetings for parents that pertain specifically to Reconciliation.

### **FIRST COMMUNION**

Baptized children in grades 2 through 7 who have not yet received First Communion and have completed two years of religious Education will be eligible to celebrate this Sacrament. The students will be expected to attend class sessions related to Eucharist in addition to their regular classes. All candidates for First Communion will have required extra activities, such as retreat and evaluations. Parents, of course, will be involved in the preparation as well as the celebration of this Sacrament.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Students who are attending seven grades, or higher, and have at least two years of Religious Education will be eligible to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition to regular classes, candidates for this Sacrament must complete 15 hours of volunteer service work: in the parish, and outside of the Parish. Candidates must show a description of the work, the date, and number of hours; also, where the service of charity was given by the candidate. In addition to this a Outreach project is required. We will help students and parents along this journey.