



Dear Religious Education Families,

In addition to Religious Education classes, we ask that our families participate in activities to help grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ by focusing on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. At St. EAS we believe that there are four characteristics of discipleship. A growing disciple prays, learns, shares, and witnesses.

**PRAY** - Growing disciples have a daily commitment to prayer and “in the Liturgy, all Christian prayer finds its source and goal.” (CCC, no. 1073) Sunday Liturgy is the cornerstone of our faith and we want to encourage you to dive deeper into the Mass by reflecting on the Gospel and homily during one of our message series. After your family attends Mass, you should take some time to discuss what you heard and experienced and then share your thoughts on our Mass Reflection form on the parish website.

**LEARN** - Growing disciples are continuous learners. Our faith is rich with information and tradition that spans centuries, there is always something new to learn about our faith and about ourselves. We provide opportunities for you to do this learning as a family in hopes of enriching what your child learns in the classroom. We offer several options for you to attend and ask that you plan ahead and make it a priority. Specific information about events hosted both here and outside of our parish will be sent to you throughout the year.

**SHARE** - Growing disciples are generous with their time. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta said “faith in action is love and love in action is service”. We are encouraging you to take these words to heart. As a family we would like you to find a way to put your time and talents to use in our parish and local community. Once you have done so, you will reflect on the experience together and share with us by filling out our Service Reflection form on the website.

**WITNESS** - Growing disciples invite others to grow spiritually through example. You are an example of discipleship to your family and are the primary teachers of the faith; but you cannot share what you do not have. We encourage you to take time in your life to nurture your faith and in so doing be a witness to your family. We have a number of ways in which you can do that, and if you are already doing something to nurture your faith, let us know what it is.

Further explanation and some specific event opportunities accompany this letter. Please take a moment to become familiar with the expectations and calendar, and as always contact the formation staff with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Angela Bulman  
Coordinator of Religious Education

Kris Walker  
Formation Administrative Assistant

## 2019-2020 Religious Education

*As a Formation Staff we look to, "Bring people into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ." Growing our faith goes beyond the classroom. To do that effectively, we ask that our RE families participate in several activities in addition to Religious Education classes. There are four areas that we focus on; Family Formation, Parent Formation, Family Service, and a Mass Reflection. Below you will find a listing and explanation of each of these four activities along with some of the events that will be available.*

*Families that participate in all four of the additional activities will be eligible for our early registration for the 2020-21 school year. If you have questions, please contact Angie Bulman or Kris Walker in the parish office, 393-3778.*

<b>PRAY</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mass Reflection</b></p> <p>Attending Mass is an integral part of our faith. Without it kids lack the context for what they are being taught in class. As Catholics, it is our hope that Mass is part of your regular family routine</p>	<p>After attending at least one Sunday Mass during the September, November or Easter Message Series we ask that your family spend a few minutes discussing their Mass experience and then share your thoughts with us through the reflection page found on our website. We hope that this is a family activity and would encourage older kids to complete the online reflection. The online reflection forms will be up on the website during each message series.</p>
<b>LEARN</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family Formation</b></p> <p>We offer several Family events each year. This is a time we hope your family will come together in a faith focused environment to build family and community connections. We ask that all families attend at least one family event each year.</p>	<p>Reference our event calendar for specific dates and times. Events will also always be listed on our webpage and communicated through email. Some events to watch for are listed below, others will be added as they arise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Super Family Sundays</b></li> <li>● <b>SWP (MS/HS focus)</b></li> <li>● <b>Parish Renewal</b></li> </ul>
<b>SHARE</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family Service and Reflection</b></p> <p>We are the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. There are many people and places both in our church and community that can use our help. We hope that doing service as a family will help bring awareness to the importance of bringing our Catholic faith actively into the world.</p>	<p>After completing a service project of your families choosing, we ask that your family spend some time discussing the experience and then share your thoughts on our online Family Service Reflection Form. The form is located on the RE page of our parish website. The service can be done in our church or the community, it can be something you've done before or something new, we just ask <b>that it be done as a family</b> and completed between August and March. Anyone/Everyone can fill in the online reflection, ideally, we would like to have the kids fill it in if they are able.</p>
<b>WITNESS</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parent Formation</b></p> <p>Building faith is a lifelong process and it all begins in the home. You are the best catechists for your children, which is why we ask that parents attend or participate in at least one adult formation event each year. We offer several different options for this. Some events are geared toward parenting and passing on the faith while others offer subjects that keep the faith alive for you.</p>	<p>Reference our event calendar for specific dates and times. Events will always be listed on our webpage and communicated through email. Some events to watch for are listed below, others will be added as they arise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Parent Formation Night</b></li> <li>● <b>Wine and Wisdom Series – Bi Monthly</b></li> <li>● <b>Alpha Program</b></li> <li>● <b>CEO Events</b></li> <li>● <b>Small Group Book Study or Faith Sharing</b></li> </ul>