

Letter to Parents regarding Religious Education

Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians,

God tells us in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4: *We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen.*

As volunteer teachers, we give thanks to God for you for teaching the faith to your children. We are praying for you to grow in your faith, hope, and love for God. We realize that God desires all to have a deep friendship with Him.

Here is some initial information regarding the 2016-17 Religious Education (RE) year.

Class locations, dates, and times:

Our Lady of the Snow (OLS): Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. St. Peter (StP): Sundays, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

First class date: Thursday, September 8 (OLS).

Sunday, September 11 (StP). On the first date, there will be a 15-minute meeting with parents, students, and their teachers. You will receive a first semester schedule.

Cost: The cost is \$25. *Please contact the office 970.887.0032 if you have trouble paying.*

-The RE schedule for OLS will be posted on www.GrandCatholic.com soon.

- Please spread the word to others and have them call the office; 970.887.0032. You are the best way we have to reach others who we may not see regularly.

- We will be using the *Faith and Life Series* textbooks, this series was recommended by Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI.

In all things, parents, you are the primary educators of your children. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, excerpts from paragraphs 2221-2226 we see what God expects in families and parents:

“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute” [2221]. “Parents must regard their children as children of God...they educate their children to fulfill God’s law” [2222]. Parents should teach their children to put spiritual needs ahead of material needs [2223]. The home is the natural environment to teach children to be holy members of a community (Church and society), in order to help others and to be in solidarity with them. Rugged individualism is against God’s teaching [2224].

“Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate

their children at an early age into the mysteries of faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ of their children” [2225]. “Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation [to become a priest, sister, married, single] as children of God” [2226].

With this truth being stated, we are asking you—using the courage, freedom, and responsibility that God gave you—to take charge of the spiritual development of your children. Teach them the even-numbered chapters of their textbooks and help them with their activity books (and any missed class work). We will assist you by teaching them the odd-numbered chapters (and activity books). Just as you help them with their regular schoolwork, you will be teaching your children grade-school level material about God and His Church. *You do not have to be an expert; you just have to love your children.* By practicing your faith, going to Mass every weekend and cultivating a daily prayer life, you set an example for your children. You send an authentic message to your children. Your example will root their faith in their entire being. (Mere heart or head knowledge is not enough). By setting this example, you will teach your children to become saints! This is the goal for each of us! Remember, in Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, “*Let the children come to me.*” When you go to the Lord, your children will learn to go to Him too!

This year as we continue to lower Confirmation age, now at 5th grade, we are requiring at least one parent to attend classes taught by Fr. Joseph that are at the exact same time the child is in RE class. This is to maintain continuity for the child’s learning of religious education and the good of the family. Classes, if missed, must be made up. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Joseph 970.557.4020 or father.mclagan@archden.org.

Practically, we all set an example living the virtue of the “golden rule”—treat others how you want to be treated. Please have your children arrive on time, or call their individual teachers if they will be late or miss class. For safety reasons, please escort your children to the inside of the church do not simply drop them off. We would appreciate your presence, and volunteers to sit in on your children’s classes and assist the teachers.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Michael Fr. Joseph Valerie Steineck
Peggy Walker Teachers*

Keeping Yourself and Your Home Catholic

Jesus, teaching through our Church, has always taught that temptations come from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Jesus respects your free will. Do you want to follow Him or not? In order to remain a strong follower of Jesus Christ, it is critical that you let God nourish you and let the saints intercede for you. Consider the following things in order to grow in your faith and love.

- Read Sacred Scripture daily. Really focus and reflect on readings from the four Gospels—what Jesus says.
- In addition to going to Mass for your Sunday obligation, make time to go to daily Mass. We believe that Jesus is in the Eucharist; we should want to come to Him and receive Him as much as possible before we die.
- Let Jesus cleanse you frequently in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What excuse do you have for not going six to twelve times a year? Fear? “My parents did not go”? “I don’t believe in it”? Jesus wants you to go.
- Be sure that your home is loaded up with blessed crucifixes, pictures of Jesus and Mary and the saints, and a holy water font.
- Have your home blessed by a priest or deacon.
- Ask your Guardian Angel to help you each day, and ask for St. Michael’s protection.
- Pray the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day. Mary will crush the head of Satan.

St. Faustina’s Experience of Hell

Diary, 741. Today, I was led by an Angel to the chasms of hell. It is a place of great torture; how awesomely large and extensive it is! The kinds of tortures I saw: the first torture that constitutes hell is the loss of God; the second is perpetual remorse of conscience; the third is that one’s condition will never change; the fourth is the fire that will penetrate the soul without destroying it—a terrible suffering, since it is a purely spiritual fire, lit by God’s anger; the fifth torture is continual darkness and a terrible suffocating smell, and, despite the darkness, the devils and the souls of the damned see each other and all the evil, both of others and their own; the sixth torture is the constant company of Satan; the seventh torture is horrible despair, hatred of God, vile words, curses and blasphemies. These are the tortures suffered by all the damned together, but that is not the end of the sufferings.

There are special tortures destined for particular souls. These are the torments of the senses. Each soul undergoes terrible and indescribable sufferings, related to the manner in which it has sinned... Let the sinner know that he will be tortured throughout all eternity, in those senses which he made use of to sin. I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell.... The devils were full of hatred for me, but they had to obey me at the command of God. What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there was a hell... Consequently, I pray even more fervently for the

conversion of sinners. I incessantly plead God’s mercy upon them. O my Jesus, I would rather be in agony until the end of the world, amidst the greatest sufferings, than offend You by the least sin.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit (by St. Augustine)

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit,
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit,
that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,
that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,
that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit,
that I may always be holy. Amen.

A Memorare to the Angels (Ask Your Angel for Help)

Remember, O holy Angels! that Jesus, the Eternal Truth, assures us that you “rejoice more at the conversion of one sinner, than at the perseverance of many just.” Encouraged thereby, I, the most unworthy of creatures, humbly entreat you to receive me as your servant, and make me unto you a cause of true joy. Do not, O blessed Spirit, reject my petition; but graciously hear and grant it. Amen.

Quick Apologetics (Defending Your Faith)—Call No Man Father

One time when I was working at Lackland Air Force Base as a chaplain candidate, a good man asked me, “Why do you call your priests ‘father’? The Bible says not to call any man ‘father’ in Matthew 23:9.”

Matthew 23:9 does state: “Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven.”

I told him that if we took everything literally in the Bible that I would be a blind paraplegic. He smiled. He knew what I was saying. In Matthew 5:27-30, Jesus basically says that if our eyes cause us to sin, we should pluck them out, and if our hands cause us to sin, we should cut them off. We know that Jesus is, in this passage, trying to get us to think about avoiding sin, not to maim our bodies.

Anyway, I explained to him that we needed to look at the whole Bible in context. Even God the Father called human men fathers in the fourth commandment: “Honor your father and mother.” Also, in Romans 4:16-17, St. Paul refers to Abraham as “the father of us all.” In 1 Corinthians 4:15, St. Paul says, “You do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.”

So there are many times in the Bible where ‘father’ is permitted. Priests are called ‘father’ in the sense that they are called to be spiritual fathers to everyone meet. Priests ask God the Father to participate in His Fatherhood. God is the origin and source of all fatherhood. He is perfect in love and mercy. All of us pray to the Father to be more like Him.

Sale of Religious Goods to Benefit St. Elizabeth Convent in Belarus to Help the Mentally Challenged. Thursday Evening and Friday Morning, OLS

Please come to Mass on **Thursday** (Aug 25) at **5 p.m.** and **Friday** (Aug 26) at **8:30 a.m.** at OLS and support the sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent. You can purchase their handmade religious articles after Mass to help them with their ministry.

The Sisterhood of St. Elizabeth was founded in 1996. Their missionary activity began in the national mental hospital located not far from the convent. The sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults. The life of the child with diagnoses such as Down syndrome, birth traumas or congenital physical defects may be quite short and it is painful to see them suffering. Also the adult patients need constant support; their illnesses make it impossible for them to adapt socially.

In the recent years a shelter and House of Labor for former drug- and alcohol-addicted people was organized 20 miles away from the convent. Many homeless, struggling and lost people get a chance for new start in life to find the God.

In order to help these people, some workshops were organized on the premises of the convent. Here, vulnerable people have a possibility to express themselves in art for God working together with nuns and sisters and making icons (including hand painted), crosses, crucifixes, wood carvings, embroidered and ceramic gifts, rosaries and vestments. All these goods are made with love and prayer and bring blessings to their owners.

With Love in Christ,
Sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent

Return from Pilgrimage (from Fr. Michael)

Hello, Family. Nine of us went to five countries on pilgrimage. We had Mass in all five—Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and France. It was great to offer Mass in Strasbourg, France, where I was born. We prayed for each person of each country. We especially prayed for you and for all the intentions that were sent to me on Flocknote. We laid the intentions on the altar at Mass.

We prayed a novena each day after Mass. Here is part of the novena:

O God Almighty! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I love You, praise You, and adore You. I beg You to descend into the hearts of all of my family members, relatives, and friends. Your love heals all the “un-love” that is in our hearts. I also beg You to “rain down” Yourself into the hearts of believers and unbelievers in our parish boundaries, and into the hearts of all those for whom we are interceding during this pilgrimage. I ask for Your divine visitation upon our local Catholic churches.

Pilgrimages are not vacations. They require lots of travel and prayers. They are a chance to praise God from various parts of His creation.

Pilgrimage with Archbishop Aquila to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Oct 27 – Nov 1, 2016

Archbishop Aquila invites you on pilgrimage with him to Mexico City for the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. The 6-day excursion will include visits to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (which displays the original tilma of the Holy Virgin), the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, the Shrine of San Miguel Del Milagro, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the colonial city of Puebla, and many more sites. There are limited spots available and reservations are still open until Sep 16. To confirm your place, contact Canterbury Pilgrimages today at **1-800-653-0017**, or visit: <http://canterburypilgrimages.com>.

Calendar of Events

- Aug 25-26.** Sale of goods for St. Elizabeth Convent
- Sep 3-4.** Sale of goods from Jerusalem after Masses
- Sep 8 (Thu).** Begin Religious Education at OLS
- Sep 11 (Sun).** Begin Religious Education at StP

Mass Collections, August 13 – 14

St. Anne	\$ 1302
St. Bernard	1554
Our Lady of the Snow	2734
St. Peter	1568
St. Ignatius	304
Total	\$ 7462

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat--Francesco Basso & Deacon Guillermo Bustillos

Sun--Deacon Joe Grady

Mon--*Redemptoris Mater* Seminary staff

Tue--All religious sisters in formation in Colorado

Wed--St. John Vianney Seminary staff

Thu--Deacon Nicholas Larkin/Deacon Peter Wojda

Fri--Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Aug 20, StA, 5 p.m., Peter and Kathleen Brownell

-Sat, Aug 20, StB, 7:30 p.m., +Dorothy and John Dorr

-Sun, Aug 21, StB, 7 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Aug 21, OLS, 9:30 a.m., +Ken Gerlach

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Aug 22, StA, 8:30 a.m., +Garry Creath

-Tue, Aug 23, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Patrick and Lisa Hayes

-Wed, Aug 24, StB, 8:30 a.m., Scott and Donna Webb

-**Thu**, Aug 25, **OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, +John Dorr

-**Thu**, Aug 25, **OLS, 5 p.m.**, Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Belarus

-**Fri**, Aug 26, **OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, Fr. Michael's intention

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StI = St. Ignatius (Walden); StP = St. Peter

-Sat, Aug 20, StI, 4 p.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Aug 21, StP, 10 a.m., Adele O'Toole