

## **ROLE OF THE PARENTS**

As parents, you are your children's primary educators. Children learn first and most from YOU. Therefore, it is important that the parents, parish, and catechists work together to teach and model the Catholic faith. As parents, you are called to:

1. Acknowledge that you are the primary influence on your children.
2. Share faith and values with your children and openly discuss these and other religious beliefs.
3. Encourage children to respect life and property, pray, praise, and worship together and individually.
4. Attend Mass with your child on Saturdays/Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Attend the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
5. Be aware of what the children are learning each week.
6. Take time to listen to your children and encourage them to grow in faith.
7. Become active participants in the parish programs. (Examples of programs include Adult Faith Formation opportunities, Lenten services, Adoration, Parish mission, Parish picnic, etc.)
8. Be supportive of the Sunday School catechists and program, especially when it comes to discipline.
9. Bring your child (children) to session no sooner than 9:30 a.m. and pick them up at 11:15 a.m., unless special arrangements have been made in advance.
10. Contact the catechist if you know that your child will be absent for an extended time period.
11. Teach your children their prayers as required in each grade level.

As catechists, we will provide the opportunity for children to experience a variety of prayer forms and practice the common prayers of our Church. However, we also depend upon the child's daily lived experience of prayer with family, at meals, before bed, spontaneously, in praise and thanksgiving, in petition and need. Take the opportunity to explain liturgical events to your children. Explaining holy days, the missalette, and basic Catholic traditions and customs can go a long way in helping your child become more familiar with his/her faith.

Included with your handbook are the prayers the children are expected to learn throughout the years. You will notice that prayers are introduced early in the child's experience by their parents. It is your role to initially teach these prayers to your children. We will continue to assist you by reviewing and reciting the prayers in session. Sharing the rosary as a family experience will provide a great opportunity for you and your child to develop a devotion to Mary.

I understand and acknowledge the above information.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_