

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Program of Religious Education

Welcome to another year of religious education at St. Alphonsus!

Our Church teaches that the parent has the first responsibility to teach the Doctrine of the Catholic faith. The success of religious education classes depends on you. The role of our parish catechists or religious education teachers is to help families teach their children about our Catholic faith and community. It is essential that our catechist be viewed as a support for, and extension of, the message that you teach in the home.

It is important that your child be present for all classes and, if this is a preparation year for a Sacrament, it is important that your child attend the retreat given for them. **Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation requires two years of class.** Parents whose children are participating in First Holy Communion or Confirmation need to be present at the Parent's Meetings. Changes to the calendar will be sent home as they arise.

Religious education classes are held Sunday mornings. To avoid disruptions, please assist your child in being punctual. Classes will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall. Students should arrive prepared for class. Our PRE registration fee covers one set of books per child. It is important that the students bring their book(s) to class each week, as we do not keep extra books on hand.

Children will move to the church for the recitation of the rosary. After completion of the rosary, parents are encouraged to have their child(ren) sit with them for Mass. Mass attendance is a vital part of faith formation and is required by all PRE students. If your child attended the Saturday vigil Mass he (she) may be picked up from church **after the rosary**. If you are unable to attend Mass, your child will sit with his (her) teacher and may be picked up after Mass (11:30). *Please do not interrupt the rosary or the Mass to pick up your child.*

Before leaving church, please make sure your child(ren) have their PRE books. Many chapters have an activity to complete at home with the family. The books also contain a section with all the prayers the children are to learn. Students should spend a few minutes each evening practicing their assigned prayers.

Last year it was necessary to cancel PRE due to inclement weather. Should this happen again, we will attempt to notify all parents via email, phone, and the parish website. Please submit an email address that you have access to on Saturdays. Also, become familiar with our parish website at: www.saintalphonsuschurch.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to Maureen Stephens, our PRE Director. She is available during PRE classes, or you can reach her at 901-476-1180 or allstephens@yahoo.com.