

# K-12 Religious Education 2015-2016

**Mission Statement:** *To teach the truths of the faith, as taught by Jesus Christ and reiterated through the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, in such a manner as to instill in those learning a knowledge of Christ, so that they may better grow in their love of God and gain eternal life.*

**Parents:** The Church emphasizes that parents are the primary educators of their children, especially in the Faith. To assist you with this task our religious education program uses CR Publication's "Catholicism and..." series for our high school students and the Faith and Life Series by Ignatius Press for grades 1-8. These texts and activity books are designed to be used in conjunction with the Holy Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC).

We hope that all families have a Catholic bible and CCC in their homes. Through a generous donation by a parishioner, several copies of the CCC are available for your home through the religious education office, if you do not already own one. If you would like a copy, please contact the office. Both the Bible and CCC are available online or with an app through many good sources, (vatican.va; laudete app; usa catholic church app). In our program we also emphasize the importance of the precepts laid down by the Church. Among them: regularly attending Mass, going to confession, and participating in the Church's mission of evangelization. Schedules and opportunities for these are always printed in our parish's weekly bulletin or on its website.

**Absences:** Your child should be fever free for at least 24 hours before coming to class after an illness. Please inform catechists of absences and if your child will miss more than one class acquire any work that will need to be done in that absence.

**Safety:** We ask that all parents park their car and escort their child to and from class each week. There have been several incidents recently within our neighborhood and we feel that the parking lot can be unsafe and a child should not be outside of the building unattended. We also ask that you arrive in a timely manner.

**Inclement weather:** Policy states that if classes or afterschool activities/programs in Fairfax County Schools are cancelled, religious education and other programs at our parish are also cancelled (except Mass). On bad weather days, please use your best judgment in bringing your child to class if the roads in your neighborhood seem unsafe.

We ask that parents ensure a clear line of communication with their child's teacher. Please make sure that all information is updated (phone numbers, email addresses, etc.) throughout the school year as they occur.

Although your child may not receive homework each week, we would like children to understand that studying the Faith is just as important as studying mathematics or science, as going to dance class or soccer practice, as saying "Please" and "Thank you". Being a faithful member of the Church should be more than a once a week event, recognizing that God is a part of every day and every thing. Families should pray together, attend Mass, and receive sacraments regularly.