

Dear Parents,

Hello! I am the new catechist for your child's Sacramental Preparation Class, *Name*. I am very happy to be sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with co-catechist *Name*. I enjoyed meeting many of you Sunday morning and getting to know your children. Our classroom lesson was on, **Christ truly present in the Eucharist, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity!** Chapter 33, Jesus is Always present.

We had a beautiful monstrance on loan for the class period and pyx to bring Holy Communion to the sick. We had a photo of the Sanctuary candle and both of our Tabernacles at St. Michaels. We reviewed blessing ourselves with the holy water in the classroom and when we enter the church. We talked about reverence and respect in the church and being aware of Jesus' presence.

Chapter 34, Heaven our Home. We talked about our true home is heaven, the eternal reward of the just. **Love God and obey His laws!** Purgatory the transitional state of purification for those who have died in friendship of God but are not ready for Heaven. Hell for those who CHOOSE to reject God. We all decided we wanted to go to Heaven!

We reviewed the 7 Sacraments and discussed inviting Jesus into our hearts each day in work and play.

Next Lesson January 19, 2014

Lesson 17 Asking Forgiveness, Read with your child. Do activity page 65, 68 and the prayer sheet- Remember parents are the first catechists, please review prayers with your child and make a daily habit of praying together.

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven" John 20:22

Dear Parents,

We continue in our class time to prepare the children for the sacrament of Penance. This week we covered chapter 19, *The Sacrament of Penance*. We discussed asking the Holy Spirit to help us make a good confession!

5 Steps to make a good Confession:

1. Know my sins
2. Be sorry for my sins
3. Make up my mind not to sin again.
4. Tell my sins to the Priest.
5. Do my penance.

Father Larry let us borrow a purple stole as we "role played" the sacrament of confession. Each child had a partner and was penitent and then priest. Our "priest" had a kleenex to show he represented Jesus, who wipes away our sin.

We dropped a raw egg to demonstrate how sin makes a mess of our lives and our penance is reparation or repair for our sins.

Question for the week: *What are the effects of the Sacrament of Penance?*

The effects of the Sacrament of Penance are the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of grace and the strength to be a good Christian.

Traveling Madonna: Diana took home our statue of Blessed Mother last week and reported she prayed the Rosary and said other prayers with her family at home and in the Church every day! Aiden will have the traveling Madonna for this week.

Homework: Chapter 20 pages 96-100 read/ workbook pages 77-80.

Miss Kay is doing oral testing on prayers: Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory Be and the biggie, Act of Contrition. Please continue to review these prayers with your children and congratulations to those of you who learned all your prayers!

Make prayer a daily habit in your family life!

Yours in Christ, catechists, *Names*

SAMPLE PARENT LETTER FOR FIRST DAY OF CLASS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FIRST CLASS

- Goal: to help our students and their families improve their relationship with Jesus Christ

I once heard that you can't learn to ride a bike by watching. You have to get up on that bike and do it yourself. I think the same holds true for learning that God's words are powerful. You can't *just listen* to someone talk about God's Word and "get it" ...you have to see it for yourself by living it!"

The Catholic Faith has many beautiful ways to live the words of Jesus Christ and we will be sharing these ways with you through your children: reading Scripture, saying the rosary, Stations of the Cross, praying as a family, etc. The goal is to help ignite your family's faith: to be excited to be a part of the church of Jesus Christ!!!

Catholic traditions help to celebrate our faith and serve to keep us close to our Lord. As with anything really worthwhile, you have to invest time to reap the benefits. For example, saying the rosary as a family may not be what your child would choose to do with 20 minutes of family time. But they will eventually treasure those memories and **the blessings are guaranteed!**

We have your children 60 minutes each week. To have a relationship with our God and Savior, interaction with Him has to be a part of our daily life—not a "lesson" we learn but life's reality that we live. (Remember the bike analogy?)

There will be homework & quizzes...not to stress you, but to determine the depth of understanding. The life lessons taught by Jesus Christ are simple and yet profound—guaranteed to change the lives of those who listen. During class we will focus on the lesson of the week, but will also discuss the homily from the prior Sunday, what happens at Mass and how all of this impacts our lives.

Please make sure your children have access to a bible. Please make sure it is either a New American version or Revised Standard Version (RSV) Catholic Edition.

We are here to help you. We are all beyond busy, but focusing on our eternal life is never a bad thing. Put forth the effort to get to know Him and He will meet you more than halfway!

Thank you for entrusting your children to our care!

In Christ,