



NOTRE DAME DU MONT CARMEL PARISH

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Parent's role & participation

Dear Parents,

We all recognize that your children bring a special joy, laughter and a strong meaning to family existence but responsible parenting involves more than simply laughing and playing with them. As parents you are the first primary educators of your children in the way of faith. As such, we encourage you to fulfill the duties you assumed at your child's baptism, to rear your child in the Catholic Faith and prepare them for their sacraments.

Although you have already introduced them to catechism by registering them in our parish program, you still have a duty with following-up on the material that will be taught or any course material they have been asked to complete by their catechist in an effort to help them grow and understand the teaching of our Lord, our church and make a connection with the liturgical life of the parish as a community.

The objective of this letter is to outline some expectations we have from the parents and identify that all our catechists and volunteers are committed to welcoming and teaching your children in a safe environment which promotes their overall development of our catholic faith. However, this will require your participation and can only be achieved with your complete contribution as a "**committed parent**".

This year similar to previous years, we are requesting the presence of each parent in the educational process by having a parent physically participate in each class on a rotating basis to support their child's catechist. We count on you being there in the class at least once throughout the season. Your presence will help uphold discipline while the catechist focuses on educating the children.

Moreover, we count on everyone's assistance throughout the coming year and hope all parents will support and abide with our appeal:

- On a rotating basis, parents are expected to attend at least one class and support the catechist.
- Arriving & departing: Children should arrive 15 minutes prior to class commencing and the parent must ensure the child has entered the church safely. Parents are also expected to be present to pick-up their child 10 minutes prior to the dismissal of class or mass.
- Weekly mass attendance – it is **mandatory** that every child attends mass on Saturday or Sunday.
- Parents are requested (at least one) to attend mass and sit with their child.
- Follow-up and review what was taught by the catechist after every session.
- Encourage your child to pray (before meals & when they go to bed).
- Promote and support your child to serve mass or join the choir.
- Support your child in participating in a parish event or Youth Activity.
- **Children who miss more than three (3) classes throughout the season will not be entitled to receive their sacrament and those in PRE classes will have to repeat their year of formation.**
- Notify the parish / catechetical team of any changes regarding legal custody or guardianship of your child.
- Parents shall openly support these rules and take action / steps to ensure other parents that aren't present follow and uphold these responsibilities.
- Educate your child on verbal, physical or relationship **bullying** as this will not be tolerated.

* We would like to place emphasis on the last bullet point, there will be **ZERO Tolerance with bullying** and any child that displays this behavior will be removed from the class and depending on the actual issue, eventually from the program.