



*“Faith Formation is more than a subject to be taught – it’s an invitation to a way of life.”*  
*Joe Paprocki, Loyola Press*

## **Welcome to Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church K-6 Religious Education & Faith Formation!**

Each year we begin with enthusiasm and love for the ministry of catechizing/teaching families about our Catholic faith! Working with your children is an honor and privilege, but especially so because we are called to be the shepherds in the fields bringing little ones to the great love offered by our Triune God: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you would like to be part of this ministry, **we welcome you!** We can meet to discuss how to be involved catechizing/teaching about Christ!

At the beginning of the year, I have the wonderful opportunity to thank all of our many **Volunteers, Catechists, Co-Catechists, and Hall Monitors** who come forward to give of themselves for all of the children. We are very blessed to have both returning and also new Catechists and Assistants. Please be sure to get to know them, and to thank them for all they do!

**There are some specific instructions for our families! Please have a look below!**

**Parent Participation:** Children love having parents involved as do the Catechists! Like Christ, show up, hang around, and if you have some fun crafts or ideas to do with the kids in the classes, please tell us! We love to hear your ideas and have your input! We have a terrific Advisory Board and all parents are invited to join!

**Safe Environment:** As in years past, each parent/guardian is **required to sign their child in and out of class** on the roster provided in each class. It is imperative that adults do this and that siblings who are under 18 years of age do not. If there is just cause to do otherwise, please let me know. We will continue with the Diocese of Arlington policy of closed doors. Once the session begins 4:30-5:30 and 6:00-7:00 p.m. the front doors to the Pastoral Center (classrooms) will be closed and remain so until the end of class at which time the doors will be opened for parents to go sign-out their child.

**Promptness:** We only have a short time period to be with your children so we ask you to please be prompt in bringing and picking up your children! With only one hour per class, every moment counts for the Catechist who has lesson plans and wants to provide the students ample time for learning and engaging with the material.

**Bathroom Breaks:** We ask that you make sure the children have a little snack after school before class sessions. However, it is important to have the children, particularly the younger ones, visit the bathroom

before class begins. This will greatly help with the number of students asking to go to the bathroom during class.

**Volunteer! Volunteer! Volunteer!** We need your help with our *Annual Christmas Pageant* which has become one of our hallmarks for religious education. Through the re-telling of the holy Christmas story, our children are able to tangibly learn the Nativity Story: the birth of Jesus and the importance of His coming into the World. And this coming year, we are adding the *Living Stations of the Cross* with our older students! A great way to help prepare our hearts during Lent.

I want to personally **THANK YOU** for bringing your children to us! You are wonderful parents who live out your faith every day in the home, school, and with your families. Thank you for loving your children for the great gifts that they are: **Miracles from God!** To love and nurture is a privilege; to be role models of the mercy and love of Christ is also gift!

Let us journey together to inspire, share, and be examples of love and holiness in our World.

**May God Bless You and Yours in Christ,**

*Hunter*

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