Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year!

Pope Francis in his book ***The Joy of Love*** says, **"The family is the first school of human values, where we learn the wise use of freedom.**" He also says, **"a family enlightened by the Gospel provides a school for Christian living!"** As parents, you are invited to teach Christian values through Gospel stories about God's kingdom of love, forgiveness, and compassion. **"…where one learns faithfulness, patience and sacrifice."**

"We all want our children to have faith, but sharing our faith requires both words and actions - and a living faith of our own," states Tom Rinkowski in the ***Catholic Update. (August 2013)***

In his first encyclical, ***The Joy of the Gospel.*** Pope Francis addresses catechists. As parents you are the primary catechist and educator of your children.

> ***"On the lips of catechists…must ring over and over Jesus Christ loves you; He gave his life to save you; and now He is living at your side everyday to Enlighten and strengthen you…"***

We encounter Christ each day through our Church. As parents and primary educators of your children, you have the privilege and responsibility to help them to know, love, and serve God. Pope Francis says: "**Be living examples of love…be sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life…rise with Jesus and Mary and set out on the path the Lord traces for each of you." (*The Blessing of Family)*** As you participate in the Mass each week, modeling for your children the importance of prayer, reading Scripture, and learning about the Sacraments, you help your children develop a deeper relationship with Jesus and an appreciation of the richness of our Catholic Faith.

What a privilege it is for our teachers and their assistants to support you in sharing with your children the joy of experiencing a loving God. We, too, desire to help them to know that by following Jesus' example they will come to know, love and serve God and to proclaim that love by their words and actions. Like the mustard seeds that grow into trees and become homes for birds to nest, our love and teaching together are sprinkled with the words of God's goodness. These seeds are destined to sprout and grow in your children.

As we begin this new year of Faith Formation, let us be grateful to God for the many gifts we have received, especially the gift of your children.

Sincerely,

Sister Rosalie

7/2/2026