



St. Patrick Catholic Church



320 West Broadway
Kokomo, Indiana 46901
Phone: 765-452-6021
Fax: 765-868-8384

August 1, 2011

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

"I believed, therefore I spoke, we too believe therefore we speak" (2 Cor 4:13). St. Paul encourages us to speak what we believe. When we are speaking what we believe about our Catholic faith, a powerful witness comes from the way that our faith is integrated through our life. However, this witness disintegrates when our children do not experience this integration in their home lives. It manifests itself in the way they approach religious education. Over the years we have found that the children enrolled in our religious education program have struggled to be engaged in the Sunday Religious Education classes. Often they have mentioned that they do not have to study their faith at home, and they do not understand why they are "just dropped off" on Sunday by their parents to endure another class. Experience has also shown that our children are not consistent in their SRE attendance both from week to week and year to year.

So how do we go about confronting these realities so as to help our children build a stronger faith foundation on which to integrate their lives so they may believe what they speak? As parents, you have the privilege of being the primary educators of your children in the Faith. Your role is vital in ensuring that what we believe is spoken and integrated into your children's life. Our current textbook series, Faith and Life, is the primary tool used in the education of your children on Sundays. Building on the strengths of the scriptures and the four pillars of the Catechism, students will know why we do, what we believe and to speak it with their lives. It will give them the foundation in the faith to help them grow in a deeper understanding of the faith. Therefore to make religious education more of a family experience we are asking every family to become more proactive in keeping the baptismal commitments that have been made for their children. How?

1. By witnessing your own desire for the faith by attending and assisting the volunteer catechist with the maintenance of the classroom for at least one class each semester.
2. **By understanding that it is now a parish policy that for a child to receive their sacraments they must be enrolled and shown to have attended every year of religious education.** Each year religious education builds upon itself. We have found that when a child tries to enter the confirmation program after having NOT attended religious education since First Holy Communion, we have to begin at a remedial level which causes further frustration for those who have been engaged in Religious Education.
3. By going over the materials covered each Sunday with your child. This can be done by reading over the chapters with them and using the provided question and answers at the end of each chapter to reinforce the truths learned.
4. By learning about the topic covered with your child, you will be speaking of the importance of life long learning about the faith. This is a powerful witness.
5. By incorporating this learning into a family time of faith sharing.

It is an awesome privilege to share what we believe, especially with our children. Conveying to our children the values of our Catholic Faith so that they can become saints and attain eternal life with God



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is the ultimate goal of the educational endeavor. This is accomplished in the family through the witness of an integrated life of prayer, the life of virtue, on-going formation in the faith, and regular reception of the sacraments. May you be blessed by Our Lord for helping your children to speak what they believe through an integrated life.

Enclosed please find the 2011-2012 SRE Calendar and fee schedule. We look forward to meeting with you on **September 8 at 6:00pm in the parish hall for our parent meeting. Safe conduct training will be provided in the parish office at 7:00 pm for anyone who has not completed the training.** If you should have any questions, please contact the parish office at 452-6021.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Ted Dudzinski
Pastor

Fr. David Huemmer
Associate Pastor

Mrs. Lisa Sipes
SRE Coordinator