

Summer—So much to think about

I am sitting outside on this beautiful night writing the last PRE newsletter for the year 2017-2018. I always think in August that May will take forever to get here but then all of a sudden it is Christmas and boom—it's the end of April. After PRE is over I get together with all the teachers and I am amazed at what the teachers would like to see done different next year. I take all these ideas and then try and implement a big majority of them and I know from the bottom of my heart that these ideas the teachers want to implement are for the best for all our children.

I read this quote on Facebook a year ago.

"In one year a child spend 7800 hours at home and 900 hours at school and 44 hours at PRE. Which teacher should be more accountable?" (I added the hours for PRE)

I believe this goes the same way with PRE. I have so many parents that do not understand why I ask these kids to say their prayers at home so when we test out at PRE they know them. Here are a few examples I have heard, "Why don't you practice with them at PRE" or "set 10 minutes aside and help them with the prayers", and a few more that I haven't heard??

When I first started teaching with PRE we only had an hour to get our lesson presented to the children. That was very hard, by the time you got them all situated and focused and then presented the topic and then put in a time for the director to tell the children what she needed, took the class time down to about 40 minutes. That was very hard to get what we needed presented and discussed before it was time to go home.

Then we decided to go up to 1 1/2 hours so we could complete a chapter in our books we teach out of. Sometimes this is still rushing us through a chapter a night but we get it done. So there really is no time for us to set ten minutes aside for just practicing prayers.

The teachers and myself discussed, in the past, that this is something that parents need to take control of and help their children learn. Some teachers have decided to either pick one prayer to say at the beginning or end the night for one month and then move on to a new one for the next month. But I will say this, children with not learn a prayer only saying it once a week. So I ask you to read that saying again. See the hours that kids are with their parent, see that you are the influential person in their lives. You took a vow between God and your family that you are going to raise your kids according to the Catholic Church. Going to church on holy days and all Sundays is one of the vows you took. To bring them up according to God's plan was another vow. How are you doing?? Doing good, I hope so. Only you and God know the truth.

When I go to my meetings for PRE, I have a set of guidelines I have to abide by to be the director of the program. One rule is that each student is to know about 4-5 *more* prayers, per grade. So if you feel these are a lot for the kids to know, more than we use in church are a regular basis, please ask me at registration night and I will show you what they are required to know and you may just like my list.

All families should have gotten color coordinated prayer cards that show the prayers each grade should know. If you don't have one and would like one, let me know and I will get one to you.

And one last note, nothing says that your second graders **will** make their First Communion two weeks after Easter if they don't meet the requirements (knowing prayers, knowing concept of what First Communion means). This goes the same way for Confirmation. If your child does not meet the requirements they will not be allowed to join the class with this sacrament. If you feel this is something very important to you, then I ask as a parent, please be the person your child is looking up to and help them get to the point they need to be at for this sacrament.



See you in August

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Website

Check out the parish website!

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PRE Newsletters are on the website monthly if you misplaced yours. View all that is going on at church through the website.

JC CAMP

If you have a child that will be entering the 9th grade, you should have already received paperwork for the upcoming camp. JC Camp is scheduled for July 26-29. If you have not turned in your paperwork please do so soon. If the dates for the Humphrey/Lindsay JC Camp don't work for you, please let me know as I have other area JC camp dates that may work. If you have questions, please call and I will answer any questions you may have.

First Communion

I want to congratulate Savannah, Klayton, Autumn, Cash, Khloe and Archer on receiving their First Holy Communion on April 15. They all were very excited to have this day finally come and I am excited to see them receive the sacrament after all the hours them and Mrs. Schneider put in to get ready for the day. A big shout out to you parents also for allowing us to get them prepared and now they will be able to continue to receive Jesus every week for the rest of their lives. Congratulations 2nd Graders!

Prayers

Make sure you are practicing prayers with your child. Included in this letter is how your child tested out at the end of the year. Please work with them on the ones that are marked, need help and anyone that falls in their grade lever. Remember if they are a 3rd or 5th Grader, they don't need to know all the prayers, they have another year to get the last half. But the further along they are the better.

*We make a living
by what we get,
we make a life
by what we give!*

Teachers

I mentioned this a little bit last month in the newsletter, but I have to touch on it again. I am looking for 4 teachers this year. YES, FOUR. I have two stepping down due to personal reasons and two that are moving. I ask that you pray on this and see if this is something you can help the program out for one year. Just one year. You don't have to be a saint on your faith to be a teacher. Heaven knows I don't know everything but I am willing to learn each day.

In the past I have asked parents to be a teacher if I don't get anyone to volunteer so if this is something you would like to do, please let me know.

Trust me, this is not the worst job in the world, and you may even find the rewards are pretty special too. If interested, you may contact me and I will let you know what grades I need help in.

