**ST. POLYCARP FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2019/2020 Faith Formation Program. The Catechists and I look forward to working with you children this year. Our goal is to help you bring your child closer to Jesus and The Sacraments. This is achieved through catechetical instruction and the study of: The prayers, the teachings of the Church, and the Traditions of our Faith. However, we are only a part of the educational process. As parents, you are the primary educator of your child. It is our role to assist you in your child’s Faith Formation/Religious Education.

**The Religious Education program begins with participation at Holy Mass together as a family**. If for some reason the family cannot attend Mass on Sunday, they can go on Saturday evening. We ask you to participate and guide your child at Holy Mass. The Holy Mass is considered part of the program, it is your responsibility to sit down with your child after Mass and review the readings, the Gospel, and talk to your child about the message that God is giving you in the readings. Mass cards will be given, which will be turned in to the collection basket here at St. Polycarp. If you cannot attend Mass here, turn in a bulletin from the parish which you attended to your Catechist.

The Prayers found on these sheets are for your children to practice and learn at home. **Parents are responsible for their children learning these prayers by heart**. Be sure to pray in the morning and at night, so that they may be well prepared to receive these sacred sacraments such as their First Confession and First Communion. Remember that without your help, your child will not be able to learn what they need.

The class schedule has been provided**. It is very important that the child reviews the lessons and does the homework together with the parents**. Reviewing the material in class is not enough for the child to learn. If your child has problems learning and understanding the material, please contact the catechist or coordinator as soon as possible.

Attending classes should be a priority. If your child is unable to attend class for any reason you must call the office

(714) 892-3158. When the child has missed, it is the parent's responsibility to study the lesson at home and be sure to deliver and complete assignments. We encourage parents to talk to the teacher when their child returns to class to do the work before the next class begins. **The excess of absences can result in an incomplete year, a maximum of three absences are allowed in the year.**

Our Teachers are volunteers who spend time preparing material and lessons for each class. They deserve our respect and that of the children. Sometimes it is surprising to see the lack of respect that children may have in the classroom. Catechists do not have to tolerate such behavior. We have been blessed with a large enrollment of students in our program. We are equally blessed with wonderful people who donate their time and talent as catechists for the children. You, as a parent, are an important part of our team, and we look forward to your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to call the Faith Formation Office at 714-892-3158

We hope to be able to share the teachings and rich traditions of our Catholic Faith with your child.

Thank you,