

Dear Parents,

When you brought your child to the Church for Baptism, you made a promise before God to be the first and most important teachers of your child in the Catholic faith. The Church reminds us that parents are the primary educators in the faith, and that this sacred responsibility begins in the home. It is within the family that children first encounter God's love, learn to pray, and discover what it means to follow Jesus Christ. For this reason, the Church calls the family the domestic church.

Our Religious Education program is honored to partner with you in this sacred mission, but it cannot replace what happens within your domestic church. One hour of Religious Education each week cannot form a lifelong disciple. Faith grows when it is lived every day through family prayer, conversations about God, reading Scripture, acts of kindness and forgiveness, and the loving example of parents who strive to live the Gospel.

Children learn the faith by watching the people they love most. They notice when Sunday Mass is a priority, when the family prays before meals, when parents forgive one another, help those in need, and place their trust in God during both joyful and difficult times. These everyday moments quietly form the hearts of children and strengthen the domestic church.

Sunday Mass is the heart of our Catholic faith and the foundation of a vibrant domestic church. It is where we gather as God's family to encounter Jesus in the Word of God and in the Eucharist. We come not simply to fulfill an obligation, but to worship God, deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, and receive the grace we need to live as His disciples each day.

The celebration of the Mass does not end with the final blessing. The grace we receive is meant to accompany us home and shape our daily lives. Talking about the Gospel on the ride home, discussing the priest's homily around the dinner table, praying together, and encouraging one another to live God's Word throughout the week are simple but powerful ways to build your domestic church.

The attached Mass Reflection Worksheet is not intended to be a "ticket" showing that your child attended Mass. Rather, it is a tool to help your family continue the Sunday celebration at home. We hope it encourages meaningful conversations about the Gospel and helps your child recognize how God is speaking through His Word and working in your family's daily life.

Thank you for embracing your vocation as the first teachers of your children's faith. It is a privilege for us to walk beside you as partners in this important mission. Our parish community is here to support, encourage, and pray for you as you build a home where Christ is known, loved, and followed. Together, may we help every child grow into a joyful disciple of Jesus Christ by strengthening the domestic church, one family at a time.

The Religious Education Team
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

"The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith." (CCC 1666)