

Spring 2017

*The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and His Eucharist
is at the heart of the Church's life.
"Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated
in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed
as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church.
Catechism of the Catholic Church #2177*

*On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate
in the Mass. "The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance
at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a catholic rite either on the holy day
or on the evening of the preceding day."
Catechism of the Catholic Church #2180*

Dear Catechists, Aides, and Parents of Junior High Helpers,

Our Saint Thomas Sunday School Program was born out of a desire to help parents with very young children fulfill their weekly obligation and desire to attend Sunday Mass. Everything about the program is shaped by this focus. Sunday School is not considered an educational ministry of the parish. We would not schedule an educational ministry or any other ministry or activity that conflicted with the times set aside for the celebration of Mass or that caused people to choose between participation in the program or worshipping at Sunday Mass.

As adult catechists, aides and junior-high-aged helpers involved in our Sunday School Program we consider you witnesses to both the children who participate in the program and their parents. Just as you witness to them the importance of worship at Sunday Mass each week. The foremost way in which you give this witness is to worship at Sunday Mass yourself. Then, in your Sunday School involvement with the students, you "speak" to them out of the inspiration of your sacramental union with the Lord and your communion with your fellow believers in worship at Mass. We deeply appreciate the volunteers who assist us in our Sunday School program. They "break open" their worship at Mass with *an*

A spiritual home nurturing Catholic faith



additional hour in which they bring the children into solidarity with their offering of the Sacrifice of the Cross in union with the Body of Christ.

Our expectation is that each volunteer who participates in our Sunday School program worships at Sunday Mass weekly. This is of particular importance to us on the Sundays you serve as a catechist or aide in the program. If this is not something that you are ready or willing to do, we invite you to share your gifts and talents in any of our many other programs held throughout the week that are not so intrinsically connected to worship at Sunday Mass.

While we respect the fact that each adult grows in both understanding and commitment to their Catholic Faith at their own pace, weekly worship at Sunday Mass is the reason for the Sunday School Program, shapes its character and drives its activities.

Listed below are the Sunday Mass obligation times at Saint Thomas that you can attend if you are involved in the 9:00 Sunday School program:

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM

Sunday Mass at 7:30 AM or 11:00 AM

Thank you for all that you do for our children in the Saint Thomas Faith Formation Sunday School program!

Peace and All Good,

Patti Reynolds
Faith Formation Director

Father Jim Chelich, Pastor
