



NATIVITY SCHOOL OF RELIGION

2016–2017 School Year

July 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Children:

Greetings and Welcome to the Nativity School of Religion Program! ! We hope that you are all having an awesome summer break and are able to enjoy this time of rest and renewal. Summer is a great time to relax and reconnect with your children as well as reflecting upon and appreciating the gift of family that God has blessed us within our lives. We are looking forward to a wonderful and rewarding year of faith formation with you and your children.

Nativity School of Religion program is proud to offer faith formation classes to the youth of our parish and community. The goal of our program is to pass on the essential elements and traditions of our Catholic faith and to help the children incorporate these teachings into their daily lives. Our program seeks to supplement and support what the children are learning at home from their parents about the Catholic faith.

We believe parents are the primary educators of their children in all learning, including faith formation. We believe that parents serve as role models of faith in action for their children in their home by encouraging regular class attendance and by participating with their child at mass on a regular basis. Taking the time to look over your child's work with them and doing the supplemental at-home activities can encourage them to take greater interest during their time in class.

We do our best to maintain a small program with reasonable class sizes. You can be sure that your children will make friends and enjoy learning about Jesus in this environment. The teachers are volunteers who love children and are eager to teach them about our Catholic faith. All teachers in our program meet the Archdiocesan guidelines for those qualified to work with children in a religious/educational setting.

Students receive textbooks and supplemental materials in class. Students who are prepared for and attend class regularly develop a deeper understanding of the doctrine and teachings of our church.

Our program has developed and grown over many years at the Church of the Nativity, but one thing remains the same – *we are a PARISH program working with the members of our community to make our parish family stronger.* We look forward to your continued involvement and support of our program and our staff. We

anticipate a productive year with faith-filled teachers and many opportunities to share in God's love through our faith-based learning.

IMPORTANT DATES:

This year we will KICK OFF our year with Catechetical Sunday on Sept. 18 and we will have a special blessing and commissioning for our catechists and staff at the 9:30 am Mass. They will also be recognized for their dedication in teaching the Catholic faith to the youth of our parish. All of our families, including the Confirmation candidate families will also receive a special blessing before the end of Mass. We hope to have a large representation of our families in attendance. We will have a continental breakfast featuring coffee, juice, donuts and other goodies following the Mass at the O'Hare Center. Plan on attending and introduce your children to their teachers before the first class meeting. *There will not be class that day.*

Our Sunday School Term begins Sunday, September 25 – 8:15 a.m. We will begin our year with a Prayer Service and Orientation in the gymnasium. Please park in both parking lots by the gym or in the front of the school. Dismissal to the classrooms will follow where children will be led by their teachers. Parents are welcome to attend the first class with their children. At 9:15, we will dismiss everyone to Church for the 9:30 Mass where we will have the first Children's Liturgy of the Word for this year.

Confirmation Preparation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 28th– 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This gives them more accessibility to the church and the clergy for more in-depth studies in the teachings of our faith.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Registration forms for the next school year are now available. New students will fill out the New Student Registration Form. A separate form is needed for each new student. Returning Families need to complete the Returning Family Form and fill in the information for all of their children on one form. Please mail the forms along with your tuition check made payable to Nativity School of Religion and your completed form(s) as soon as possible, but no later than September 16th. The address is Nativity School Of Religion, 1250 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA, 94025. – Attention: Monica Hickam, DRE. Should you have any questions just phone me at 650-853-1009 or email me at mon.hickam@gmail.com.

FEES:

Registration Fees for the 2016-2017 school year are \$90.00 for the first child and \$50.00 for each additional child. If there is an issue regarding your ability to pay please let me know. *No child will be deprived of his/her religious education due to financial hardship.*

If this will be your student's FIRST year attending the Nativity School of Religion, please provide us with copies of the certificates of the Sacraments your child has received to date. For all students receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation, a copy of the Baptism certificate is required (even if Sacrament was received at Church of the Nativity).

Please note that classes are held at Nativity School and begin at 8:15 a.m. Classes end at 9:15 a.m. Mass follows at 9:30 a.m. at Nativity Church. ***No child should walk to church unless a note is provided from a parent. Also, if a child needs to leave early, please let me know by sending a note that day.

In addition to the regular Faith Formation classes for grades 1 through 8, a Sacraments Class will be available for children in grades 4 through 8 who have not received their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

CALENDARS:

Calendars will be available for the 2016-2017 school year on the first day of class.

DROP OFF/PICK UP:

For Sunday classes:

Please note that when dropping off and picking up your children you will use the school parking lot. Please enter the drive way in front of the school, pick up your student and exit at the opposite end of the driveway – the exit end is the driveway furthest from Oak Grove.

For Wednesday Confirmation classes:

Please drop off and pick up at the O'Hare Center.

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Opportunities:

Our goal is to build community in our program through parent involvement. The following are some suggested areas:

- classroom assistant
- hall monitor
- prayer/Scripture reading helper (practice with children learning prayers and/or Scripture readings for mass)
- party organizer/contributor
- Sacramental Preparation family activities events-retreats
- Outreach coordinator

*****OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE A CLASSROOM ASSISTANT IN EACH CLASS TO ASSIST THE TEACHERS IN WHATEVER THEY MAY NEED. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF OUR GREAT STAFF AS A CLASSROOM ASSISTANT, PLEASE CONTACT ME!***

Our parties were very successful with all of the wonderful contributions you all volunteered for during the school year.

In closing, each of us in the School of Religion Program at Nativity are happy to assist you as we continue to partner together to inspire and nurture the spiritual growth of your children.

May God bless all of us in this endeavor.

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Monica Hickam
Director of Religious Education**