

## To the Parents of Faith Formation Students

As we begin this new year of Faith Formation, please be assured that the staff at St. Catherine of Sweden Parish and the catechists in our Faith Formation program are dedicated to helping your children grow in our Catholic faith and draw closer to God. As parents, you are the primary educators of your children and are their best teachers in the faith. Your children learn the most from the example you set when you pray together and actively participate in Mass and the sacraments as a family.

Every student is given an *Alive in Christ* (Gr. 2-5), *Christ Our Life* (Gr. 6-7), or *Chosen* (Gr. 8) textbook on the first day of class. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these wonderful learning tools. The teachings of our Catholic Faith are explained in age appropriate language, lessons are reinforced with activities, and scripture stories and faith concepts are connected to life experiences in the church and family. Each chapter closes with a summary of the lesson and provides activities and suggestions for ways your family can participate in your child's religious formation.

Students in Grades PreK – 1 are enrolled in *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, a Montessori-based, hands-on model of Faith Formation that engages the child's whole person in a beautifully-prepared, retreat-like setting called the "Atrium". (Please note that while enrollment in Faith Formation is optional for students in Preschool and Kindergarten, it is a requirement for students entering First Grade as part of their two-year preparation before receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at the end of their Second Grade year.)

St. Catherine of Sweden is committed to providing a safe environment for all our students. Please read the Faith Formation Handbook and use this information for future reference. Our Faith Formation Program is designed to assist you in the faith formation of your children. Please feel free to visit your child's classroom at any time and get to know his/her teacher. We are grateful for the opportunity to journey with your child(ren) as they grow into a deeper relationship with Christ and a greater understanding of the gift of our Catholic faith!