

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Department of Religious Education

November 2017

242-4449 ext. 100

**WE ARE: SOLDIERS OF CHRIST!**

## *From the desk of the Director of Religious Education*

Dear Parents,

The Department of Religious Education assists the Church in proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Our mission is to put adults, children, and youth in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ, by educating, evangelizing, and empowering them for life and for heaven. With God's grace, catechesis develops initial faith, nourishes de Christian life, and continually unfolds the mystery of Christ until the believer willingly becomes Jesus' disciple.

In class, children are taught to know, love, and serve God by going to Mass, reading the Bible, reading about the lives of the Saints, knowing their prayers and how to pray for themselves and others, to become altar servers, to help others in need, among many other practices. It is not enough to bring your child to one hour of catechesis. It is not enough to bring your child for two years to only receive a Sacrament one time. It is not enough to come to church whenever we fell like it. Leaning more about our King takes a lot of time, and we should want to put extra effort into getting to know Him. Going to Mass should be at the top of our list of things to do. The first precept of the Church is ***"You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest form servile labor."*** This is the way in which Christians fulfill the Third Commandment: ***"Remember, keep holy the Sabbath day."*** We participate in the Mass and refrain from any unnecessary work that distracts us from proper celebration of Christ's Resurrection. As a parent, you owe it to your child to fulfill this precept of the Church. Going to Mass on Sundays to visit the King of Kings should be a great time of joy for the entire family.

***The Pope stressed that Mass is where we receive Jesus***

See you and your family in Church!

In the Spirit of St. Francis Xavier

Mrs. Miriam Rios Day, DRE

## **Help for the Victims of Hurricane Harvey**

Many of us remember hearing the news about sending help to hurricane victims. Yes, these disasters happened two months ago, but it seems like we have forgotten these events altogether. People are still in need of help and will be for a long time. As part of our Project Mercy in the fall, we have chosen a small elementary school in Port Arthur, Texas.



### **Items needed**

Polo shirts-white  
Navy or Khaki pants  
Navy or Khaki skirts/skorts  
Sweaters/jackets  
Gift cards to Walmart  
Tennis shoes

These items may be new or gently worn.

### **Children's sizes 6 to 16.**

The last day to bring your donations will be November 5th. So far we have collected five items. Please, come forward and donate all you can. Let's show our brothers and sisters in Texas how much we care!

## **Arrival Time/Dismissal**

### **Our Family Handbook states:**

Students should arrive no more than ten minutes ahead of their session time. An adult must accompany children in kindergarten through fifth grade into the building...For safety, students in kindergarten through fifth grades will be dismissed from the Leven Center to an adult only.

Parents, we ask that you comply with this request. Thank you.



**FLOCKNOTE:** For the past two months you have been receiving short messages through flocknote. Only 130 characters can be typed through flocknote, so the messages are concise and to the point. There is a way to write a longer message but a longer message doesn't come up on your screen, you will need to tap your screen to view the entire message. I will continue using this form of communication for short messages regarding canceling of classes due to inclement weather or another type of emergency, special requests, invitations to participate in RE or Church activities, etc. If your telephone service is through Pioneer, you will not be able to receive these messages. Please contact the parish office, check the website, and/or local radio and television stations for cancellation of classes due to inclement weather. Please let us know if you changed your telephone number, otherwise this form of communication is useless.

### **Coming up...**

**November First:** All Saints Day  
No Class—**Go to Mass!**

November 2: All Souls Day

**November 21, 22, 26**  
No Class—**Thanksgiving Break!**



### **Reconciliation Retreat**

December 2—9am-Noon/LC

### **First Reconciliation**

December 16—10am/Church. In order for your child to receive this sacrament, I must have his/her baptismal certificate on file.

### **Eucharistic/Confirmation Seminar:**

Parents of students receiving sacraments in April/May 2018 will need to attend a Eucharist/Confirmation Seminar on a Saturday in February or March. Please stop by the office to reserve the date that will work best for your family.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

All students in year one or two who are receiving sacramental preparation cannot have more than three absences in the entire year. If your child is sick or your family is in some type of emergency, please call the office 242-4449 x 100 so your child is not counted absent. Thank you.