

**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**5330 Babcock St., NE**  
**Palm Bay, FL 32905**  
**(321) 727-1565**

Dear Parents,

Your child has begun a journey in his/her faith life in which you should be actively involved. If your child is attending P.R.E.P., you are aware that our catechists have just one hour a week to provide guidance along this journey. Therefore, families must provide the basic foundation and formation by the examples they set. It is essential that you bring your child to class and attend mass on a consistent basis.

If your child attends St. Joseph School, he/she is receiving a more comprehensive Catholic education. However, as parents, you are still the primary catechists who are responsible for your child's faith formation. The Faith must be lived and shared in the home and, attending Sunday mass consistently is imperative.

A few things that you and your child needs to know...

1. Understanding the Sacraments of Initiation.
2. Each student must have some understanding of what is contained in the *Prayer Book*.
3. Each student must participate in a Reconciliation service - dates and times will be announced in a timely manner.  
*(Non-baptized children do not receive the sacrament of reconciliation but should attend the service and can ask for a blessing from the priest).*
4. *Each student* is required to attend mass and *make a point of introducing him or herself* to the pastor or associate pastor.
5. *Parents will be asked to attend meetings on a consistent basis.* These meeting are designed to help parents learn, understand, and grow in their faith. *(calendar enclosed).*
6. The Pastor will schedule interviews with the candidates prior to the reception of the Sacraments.
7. A *Prayer Book* has been provided to you so that you may help your child understand his/her Catholic/Christian Faith - please take the time to go over it between now and the time your child becomes fully initiated into the Church.

The task at hand may seem somewhat overwhelming to you. I assure you that our goal is to teach, support, encourage and foster the Catholic Faith so that you and your family will want to become active members in our parish community. In order to accomplish this goal, there has to be a commitment on your behalf as well. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please call the Religious Education Department.

God bless you for making your child's faith formation a priority in your life.

Yours in Christ,  
Linn Wyatt  
Director of Religious Education