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*God has been orchestrating these moments just for you ...*

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*How cool is that?*

Dear Parents /CareGivers of 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation Children,

Yes! We are so excited to welcome you and your children to Faith Formation! Our mission each Wednesday is really quite simple: We don't have to teach children to love God; they easily love! Our JOYful ministry is to instill/nurture faith and share Catholic teaching that will build a lifelong connection to Jesus and our Catholic Church!

*Let's begin ...*

On Wednesday, September 27, join us for our **MEET YOUR CATECHIST/ OPEN HOUSE** for all 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> grade families, in the St. Michael Catholic Education Center/School building. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's catechist, and locate his/her classroom before the first night of formal class! Families will also be invited to participate in a **"Welcome to Wednesday"** scavenger hunt! \*All 1st through 5th grade children have been placed in the time slot requested on the registration form. Plan on attending at the class TIME you selected (5:00~6:00 P.M. or 6:30~7:30 P.M.) *Know that you can come any time within your child's "class" hour ~ for example ~ if your child's class meets from 5:00~6:00, it's O.K. to come at 5:30! Children need to (please) be accompanied by a parent/adult! Staff and catechists will not be supervising ~ they'll be meeting and greeting!*

FORMAL CLASSES for GRADES 1~5 are scheduled to begin on: *Wednesday, October 4, 2017*. Classes are held in Saint Michael Catholic Education Center/School. Your child should enter and exit the building using the doors off the parking lots – not the front doors. We strongly encourage parents to park their vehicles and walk their children into the building. We are not requiring this, but for safety concerns, make this recommendation. St. Michael Catholic Church will not provide supervision or be responsible for children OUTSIDE the building before or after classes. 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> grade children will gather, and be seated, in the Multipurpose Room; at 5:00/6:30 (respectively); each class is dismissed from the Multipurpose Room and escorted to the classroom by their catechist.

**ALL CHILDREN GRADES 1 ~ 5** should be picked up by a parent/adult at their individual classroom. At dismissal, the 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> graders will remain in their classrooms (with their catechist) until the "pick-up" person arrives and comes into the classroom. This procedure is in place in order to have all 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders escorted to their vehicles by a parent/adult. This is a huge safety concern. **THANK YOU for your cooperation!** We truly appreciate your efforts to be here at dismissal time! If catechists need to leave before children are picked up, I have asked them to bring their children to the Faith Formation Office for "safe-keeping". The Faith Formation Office is located on the first floor of the new building!

Each 1<sup>st</sup>~ 5<sup>th</sup> grade child will be given a Faith Formation folder and carry~all pack! Please have your child bring the folder and "cinchpack" to class each week, and you, the parent(s), please check the folder EACH WEEK for catechist and Faith Formation program communications!

...To ensure we maintain an *active* home connection as “partners in faith”, we kindly ask for your signature **each week** (in the space provided) on the front inside cover of your child’s Faith Formation folder! Thank you! **Please give your child the opportunity to share what he/she has learned in class, and check for any home work/time requests!**

*Please note:* General 1<sup>st</sup>~ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation communications will arrive (at your home) primarily by e~mail; Thank you for your attention and watchful eye to these communications! In addition to the Elementary program family e~mails, each catechist will be given contact information for their grade level that includes phone numbers and e-mail addresses. The catechist will send class updates/requests as needed! **Please visit the parish website** for current and updated information at: [www.stmichael-pl.org](http://www.stmichael-pl.org) FAITH FORMATION/Elementary.

**Speaking of our dear CATECHISTS** ... “A little appreciation goes a long way”. Our Catechists are VOLUNTEERS, and give a lot of their time and talent on behalf of God’s children. Please help to keep their enthusiasm alive, by expressing your gratitude and appreciation for the gifts that they share ... now, and throughout the year! **Thank you, kindly!**

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation children use curriculum entitled, We+BeLLeVe Catholic Identity. Looking for valuable resources for weekly home faith sharing and enrichment to the lesson taken in class? Go to:

[SadlierConnect.com](http://SadlierConnect.com) -> Sadlier Religion Resources -> We+BeLLeVe Catholic Identity ->Your child’s GRADE level

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade children use curriculum entitled, Together in Jesus FIRST RECONCILIATION, as they begin formal preparation to receive First Penance (Reconciliation).

Parents/families should have *already* received an informational letter (particular to this sacrament) via “snail mail”!

ANY SPECIAL MEDICAL/HEALTH/LEARNING CONCERNS, such as allergies, seizures, special needs, etc ... should have been indicated on the registration form. **Please stop in the Faith Formation Office (the *first night* of class) to fill out a HEALTH CARE/EMERGENCY form.**

**\*Due to the number of children with food specific allergies, please do not send treats/food items with your child; Faith Formation will provide SAFE treats and snacks for all! Thank You!**

**\*Faith Formation Cancellation Information:**

Any decision to close the building will be made by the Pastor and Director of Faith Formation. If the church/school is closed during the daytime, it will not re-open for evening events. Evening program/meeting decisions will be made by 2:00 P.M. The church website will be updated, as well as, an e-mail communication blast (if possible).

... In closing, with gratitude, we say,

**“Thank you for choosing St. Michael Catholic Church as your parish home!”**

**We+BeLLeVe!**

Janel Boegeman

1<sup>st</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation Coordinator

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