

Dear Parent(s),

I realize that raising a young family is becoming increasingly demanding, with jobs, homework, sports, and family activities competing for our “free time”. I recognize that bringing your child(ren) to Religious Education sessions weekly can be a struggle at times. I commend you for fulfilling this parental responsibility and applaud your efforts.

I also encourage you to make it part of this weekly commitment to attend Mass with your child(ren).

As parents, we need to model our faith to our children – we need to live our faith. The Religious Education sessions should not be a substitute for attending Mass. Some of the ways we model our faith are by family prayer, living our Christian values, and most especially, through weekly attendance at Mass. With this year’s catechetical theme of “Open the Door of Faith”, we have the great opportunity to profess our faith in our homes and among our families and to be true instruments of Christ’s love.

The core of our Catholic faith is the Eucharist. It is what separates us from all other churches. Weekly Mass attendance is a requirement of the church that brings us to a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. The Mass is our chance to connect as community, to worship together as family and to celebrate Christ’s presence. More than in any other way, we believe, that at Mass, Jesus is in our midst. We need the Mass as nourishment, for growth and energy to fuel our busy lives. What an awesome gift and opportunity to grow!

As Pastor of this faith community, I am asking you to make a family commitment, this year to begin to “Open the Door of Faith”, by attending Mass weekly. I ask you to spend this time with us and with the Lord. It’s a time to be nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, it’s an opportunity to spend meaningful time with your family, it’s a time that gives comfort to you as parents, it’s a time to experience a deep, loving relationship with Jesus. It’s a time that will help make you feel good about yourself. It may be the best time of your week and of your child’s week!

I hope that you will accept this invitation and I look forward to your presence at our weekly celebration of the Mass.

Your Friend and your Pastor,

*Father Kevin Shanahan, M.S.C.*