



August 10, 2017

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the Junior High level of the Religious Education program here at St. Catharine's.

As you may or may not know, the Junior High level brings many new, exciting and challenging adventures. Your child is changing rapidly, and the way he/she sees the world is changing as well. At this age level, they are starting to become abstract thinkers. It is a time when role models are extremely important to them and what their peers think is crucial.

Believe it or not, the way your child views God is also changing. Since your child is learning to be an abstract thinker, he/she needs explanations of faith to be concrete and practical. They understand values when they see them lived. They also need to feel that they are a part of something. This is why it is so important for all of us to be involved in their spiritual growth. We want your child to know that he/she belongs to our community, and that we are blessed to have him/her be a part of our faith family.

Your child will be learning a great deal about the New Testament, the life of Jesus, and what it means to be a disciple. It is also a time when your child starts preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It takes a full two years for this preparation, and your help and support is essential. If your child knows that you are actively supporting him/her, then this will be a rewarding and exciting experience.

It is also a time for them to test boundaries. With that said, we do have certain expectations of all of our students. We expect their behavior to be respectful at all times. It is very important that they show their teachers, as well as each other the respect and courtesy that everyone deserves. All who attend St. Catharine's must know that they are welcome here and that this is a nurturing environment. Please be certain that your child arrives on time, is prepared for class, dressed appropriately, and is aware of our policy about behavior and cell phones. All cell phones will be collected by the teacher before class begins and will be returned to the student at dismissal time. We truly appreciate your support in this matter.

We have a very exciting program planned for your child and we look forward to seeing you both!

Blessings and Peace,

*Dominica Vullo*

Dominica Vullo  
Coordinator of Religious Education