

Dear St. Mark's Families,

Thank you for choosing Catholic education and **thank you for making St. Mark's your home.** As you know, for over 50 years, our parish school has "fostered academic excellence rooted in the Catholic faith and Christian values."

In addition to the formation of our young disciples, we believe in the Christian development of the entire family. In our domestic churches (the home), our children grow in their faith most profoundly; therefore, part of our responsibility as Catholic educators is the catechesis of the entire family.

As you know, active participation in the parish is required to receive the in-parish tuition rate (a substantial discount from the actual cost to educate a student). I greatly appreciate all the ministry work already being done. In an effort to make this participation connected to your child's faith formation at school, please note the following pairing of classes and parish ministerial focuses **for your oldest child's grade level at St. Mark's School. It is my expectation your family will become actively engaged in one of the corresponding ministries listed at St. Mark's Church.**

For example: our 5<sup>th</sup> grade disciples deeply explore the source and summit of our faith, the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass), so their participation as an Altar Server and your service as a Sacristan or Outreach Eucharistic Minister (OEM) would enrich their educational opportunities and faith lives, by combining hands on experience with their studies. *If you would like to further explore the religious education curriculum for each of our classes, the link can be found on our website, stmarksboise.com.*

Every registered Catholic family obviously attends all Sunday Masses and Holy Days of Obligation, receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, participates in ministry, and tithes regularly. The following are focused ministries to best help you grow in our parish community, with your child, in faith and virtue.

**Ways families, as well as parents individually, can engage:**

- **Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>:** Greeter, Usher (at Sunday Mass);
- **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM), Outreach Extraordinary Minister (OEM), Committed Weekly Adorer;
- **3<sup>rd</sup>:** Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM), Outreach Extraordinary Minister (OEM), scheduled Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation usher, Church Arts and Environment assistance for seasons;
- **4<sup>th</sup>:** Legion of Mary, Respect Life, Lector, attend a 2021 Evangelization Retreat, regularly attend Small Faith Community (SFC) meetings (minimum twice monthly);
- **5<sup>th</sup>:** Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM), Outreach Extraordinary Minister (OEM), Committed Adorer, attend a 2021 Evangelization Retreat, St. Vincent de Paul parish conference, attend all Holy Week services, Legion of Mary;
- **6<sup>th</sup>:** Mercy Night volunteer, Outreach Extraordinary Minister (OEM), St. Vincent de Paul parish conference, Legion of Mary;

- **7th-8th:** Actively engage in the corporal or spiritual works of mercy that the Knights of Columbus (K of C), Council of Catholic Women (CCW) and the Legion of Mary provide; Outreach Eucharistic Ministry, Manna Ministry, Interfaith Sanctuary meal prep, help as a core team member with youth group or teach Elementary Faith Formation.

Please contact the ministry leader (information enclosed) or Juliet Jones at 208-375-6651 or [jjones@stmarksboise.org](mailto:jjones@stmarksboise.org) to begin participation as an entire family.

If you or your child are missing sacraments, such as Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, Confirmation (High School and older) the Sacrament of Marriage, or an annulment, please let me know. I look forward to assisting you on your faith journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ben Uhlenkott, Pastor