



St. Andrew's Church
631 N. Jefferson St.
Roanoke, VA 24016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another year of Christian Formation at St. Andrew's. Thank you for taking the time to share your child with us. As parents, you are your child's first teacher and are responsible for instilling your beliefs and your faith in them. We invite you to actively participate in your child's faith journey. Involve yourself in their education and let them share what they are learning in Christian Formation class with you. Classes begin on September 23.

ORIENTATION - All parents are asked to attend a Parent Orientation session. We have scheduled two, and ask you to choose one that best fits your schedule. **Choose from either Sunday, September 16 from 10:30-11:00 am** (in Classrooms 2/3 – lower level of Parish Center), **or Tuesday, September 18 from 7:00-7:30 pm** (in the Social Hall). Your child's faith formation is a partnership with the parish, and we want to share ways to empower parents in this responsibility. This year we will feature our catechetical curriculum, and online resources that support it. We will also distribute the grade appropriate parent pages, and discuss ways that families can help children in their life-long journey of faith. This is an excellent opportunity to get information regarding the coming year. Christian Formation calendars for the entire year will be available, and any questions that you may have will be addressed.

LOCATION - All Christian Formation classes grades K-8 meet in Roanoke Catholic School classrooms. Please enter and exit using the white doors of the lower school (brick building on the right). Class lists and room locations will be posted in the entrance on September 23.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP - Our class time is from 10:15 to 11:15 AM on Sunday mornings. *We would like to stress the importance of being on time for class, since class times are between two busy masses.* Young children are to be walked in to Roanoke Catholic School by an adult and taken directly to their classroom. Per a request from Roanoke Catholic School, children are not to be left unattended in a classroom. At dismissal time, children in grades K-3 are to be picked up at their classroom door by their parent or the designated guardian. Children in grades 4-8 will be dismissed by their catechist at the front door of the lower school. ***We ask that children do not cross between the school and the Church alone.*** Please review these procedures with your child prior to the first class. It is important that they know who is picking them up and where. Please have your child adhere to this policy to ensure that all of our students can be safe and accounted for.

TEXTBOOKS AND CURRICULUM – We use *Alive in Christ*, published by Our Sunday Visitor. These textbooks and materials conform to the catechetical principles and guidelines of our Diocese. Please contact the office with questions about the curriculum.

ADULT EDUCATION - This year we are offering Adult Faith Formation during Christian Formation class time, as well as several other formation opportunities. More information will be available at the Orientation meetings. We are sure you will want to attend these great sessions while your child is learning too!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION & WAIVER - Enclosed you will find a permission form indicating who is allowed to pick up your child after class, as well as emergency contact information. It is important that we know where you are between 10:15 and 11:15 AM. Please complete this information so that in an emergency situation, we will be able to reach you quickly. Return it to either your child's teacher at the first class, or to the Christian Formation office. This is necessary to ensure the safety of all of the children in the program. On the reverse side of the emergency form is a "Student Press Release Waiver", which gives St. Andrew's permission to use photographs on things such as bulletin board displays, the church website, and parish newsletters. Please read through the waiver, indicate your preference, and sign.

VOLUNTEERING - We believe strongly in parents involving themselves in the faith lives of their children. Our catechists are parents, grandparents, young adults, and high school students, who give of their time and talent each Sunday. Please keep an open mind and heart when considering how you can serve. *New this year – a great volunteer opportunity on Sunday mornings for parents looking for an option other than teaching. More information about this will be given out at the Parent Orientation meetings.*

Thank you for your dedication to your faith and your child's. We look forward to an inspiring, faith filled, and fun year with them.

Yours in Christ,
Kathy Boyer
Director of Children's
Faith Formation