

Dear Friends,

Today is Catechetical Sunday, a national day to celebrate the ministry of passing on the faith. This year's theme is: **"Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed"**. We are familiar with these words, which we pray at Mass before receiving holy Communion. The sentence is taken from the Gospel story in which a Roman Centurion expresses his faith that Jesus can heal his servant: **"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed"** (Mt 8:8). Jesus is amazed at this simple, sincere faith. The role of the Catechist is, first of all, to be a person of faith, a disciple of Jesus and then to be a witness to others, a companion on the journey of faith. May all catechists have such a sincere faith that the Lord will say to us too, **"You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you."**

Today we recognize and say thank you to catechists in the Parish School of Religion, the administrators and teachers in our Catholic School, youth ministers and those who are involved in the ministry of RCIA. Teaching religion is not an easy task. The ministry of a catechist requires study, patience, prayer, preparation, witness and a serious commitment of time and talent. The primary goal of this ministry is to lead others to encounter Jesus. They form the hearts and souls of students in Christ and pass on knowledge about the Catholic faith. Catechetical Sunday gives an opportunity to recognize the importance of catechesis. These women and men generously give of their time and their talent to the Church.

Catechetical Sunday also reminds us that parents are the primary catechesis for their children. Parents are the first teachers for their children in the ways of faith. This is the vocation of a Christian parent. Parents provide all that a child needs to grow and mature physically, intellectually and emotionally, but Christian parents must also see to the spiritual growth of the child. It is essential that parents believe in Christ and His Church. They should give evidence that they are His followers by the way they live. Parents, children need you and your example of faith. You are a powerful witness to your child. In the case of a child whose parents are not connected to Jesus Christ and His Church, it is extremely difficult for catechists to form children in faith. Only by working together with parents can we form the next generation of Christians. Faith formation is not just for the young or for preparation for Sacraments. We continually grow in our faith until the day we die. I would like encourage parents to participate in our Positive Parenting Gatherings, which will be offered on a few Sundays during PSR classes.

Please know of my deep appreciation and prayer to all of you who share in this important ministry of forming disciples of Christ.

May God bless our Catechists,
Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis



PSR Positive Parenting Gatherings

Would you like to grow in your faith, be equipped in Christian parenting, and share in fellowship with other parents?

Join us in the Church narthex for coffee & snacks, a video, and discussion while waiting for your child at PSR (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM).

- No registration required -
- Come to one or all sessions -

September 26
October 10
October 17

For more information, contact our parish office (419) 332-7339

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

The flyer features a silhouette of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) standing on a grassy field against a sunset background. The man is on the left, the child in the middle, and the woman on the right with her arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The Sacred Heart Catholic Church logo is in the top right corner.