

Family Mass Reporting for 2016-2017

As we begin another year of Religious Formation with our young people, we wanted to take this opportunity to outline for all families the correct and updated information regarding Mass reporting. You will notice some changes and updates to the forms.

It is critical that we (parish and parents) help our young people connect their personal experience with the Mass so they will learn more about their God (Jesus) that they encounter in the Eucharist (Communion). Participating at Mass is the MOST IMPORTANT experience Catholics must remain connected too throughout life. Attending classes, though fulfilling and helpful, is not the "only" experience young people need to be formed in the Faith. Thus the reason for adding the "Mass reports" to the program. Even though we should attend Mass each weekend, we are only requiring a very small number of reports per student during the academic year. Thank you to the families who last year continued the Mass project throughout the year with their children. They witnessed a fine example of living their Catholic Faith.

Here are a few suggestions/recommendations to assist you this year:

1. Purchase a small pad (from the Dollar store) to enter info BEFORE MASS begins. Students can write in the scripture passage (usually the Gospel) for the day; the season and color being displayed on altar can be noted also. For Scripture always look in the Missalette by date. For older children, have them read the Gospel before Mass to get a few ideas of what it is about.
2. Do not take notes during Mass---as Priest or Deacon is giving the homily, write a word or a few words but nothing more.
3. Discuss in the car AFTER Mass, what you heard with your family. Finish writing your thoughts at home and then transfer information to the Mass form.
4. Be sure your child prints clearly their name and grade on the form. When you come to Mass or their weekly class, deposit form in the large blue MASS REPORTS box which will be in the lobby every week.

5. Special needs students are asked to participate as best they can with the help of an older sibling or parent.

6. Based on observations from the past year, we ask that you please NOT deposit the Mass form in the box on your way out of Mass. You should not have been able to complete the form of the day during that Mass. Mass is a time for us to give praise through prayer/song and thanks to our loving God, not complete a written assignment. Please be respectful of how we all should participate at Mass.

7. Altar servers and members of the Youth choir also should participate. Please contact Mrs. Hahn for more directions.

8. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to spend a short time talking to one another about their beliefs. Both children and adults can benefit from this experience of COMMUNICATING through words spoken to one another. TRY IT!!

8. Additional forms will be available on the web site at www.steas.org - on the Religious Formation page.

REPORT SCHEDULE BY GRADE

Level 1 - minimum of 1 a month: Offertory coupons placed in the collection basket.

Levels 2 & 3 - minimum of 4 reports between October and April.

Levels 4 & 5 - minimum of 5 reports: Ordinary time, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons.

Levels 6 & 7 - minimum of 6 reports: Ordinary time (Fall); Advent, Christmas, Ordinary time (Winter); Lent and Easter.