



August 1, AD 2021

Dear Parents,

Greetings in Christ! We will be back in the classroom this fall, praise God. We are always in need of catechists – please consider helping this year. We lost quite a few of our helpers over the last year; some moved, some got a year older, some just can't help this year.

The needs are varied: main teachers, co-teachers, teacher's aides, occasional help for crafts or special event (such as going on a church tour) are some. Two specific comments: 1. we especially appreciate older helpers (grandparent-age); kids often find the older helpers very approachable. When my children were in CCD, almost every classroom has an older helper, and my kids loved them. 2. If you don't think you know enough about the faith to teach, you can still help! Being an aid is a good way to help and learn along with the students. Some of the jobs helpers do are taking attendance, walking children to the bathroom, helping with crafts, helping students finding the right page, and such.

We believe that you, the parents, are the primary teachers of your children, and the Christian Formation classes should complement what is taught in the home. Parents should review with their children the material that is covered each week. Your children's faith will be strengthened by conversations about the faith and about how the Lord is working in your lives. Parent resources and ideas for sharing the faith in the home will be sent home with your children throughout the year. The parish offers faith events throughout the year, especially around the Advent and Lent liturgical seasons; please read the bulletin weekly to keep abreast of these enjoyable and faith-enriching events; many are family events. In order to help you feel competent to teach your children, the parish offers a variety of classes including in-home small groups. Most particularly, FORMED is a great resource to available to all parishioners. Sign up at www.formed.org/signup, enter Aiken,SC, then choose St. Mary Help of Christians. Contact me for more information about anything! You are also always welcome to come to class with your child.

Most importantly, it is vital that you take your children **to Mass weekly and to confession regularly**. Even if they have not yet received first confession, seeing you go to confession is a wonderful example for young children.

Reminder of St. Mary's Sacramental Policy: In order to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation, children must attend, at the very minimum, two full years of Christian Formation classes. This policy is intended to ensure that your child has the best sacramental formation possible.

Please complete the registration form and submit it to the parish office, put it in a clearly marked envelope and place it in the Sunday basket, or mail it to St. Mary Help of Christians, 203 Park Ave. SE, Aiken, SC 29801. After I receive your form, I will contact you about meeting.

Contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
God bless,

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Catechism of the Catholic Church 2223
Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.