

Expectations-

- Please bring your children to weekly Mass – the lessons are based on the Sunday readings. Mass is more important than the lessons, but they go hand in hand.
- Expect to put some time into preparing to teach. Take some time to read through the Gospel Weekly for each child, all grades are based on the same readings so you can have a conversation with the children together. Read the Mass readings ahead of time. (www.usccb.org).
You can subscribe to have the daily readings delivered right to your email too. Go to <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/100814.cfm> and scroll to the bottom of the page. The parish website also has a link to the daily readings along with a new feature *Pope Francis Reflections*. www.stjosephcathedralnh.org
- Please give this as much priority as other activities! Children learn and model more from you than from anyone else. Making this a priority shows them that faith is of great value.

Teaching Tips-

- Schedule time to teach- make it a priority. Look at your life, your family schedule and mark it down, just like you schedule in sports and dance lessons and other events. Maybe Sunday after Mass works, or in the afternoon, or a weekday that there are not a lot of other activities. Whatever works for you; **make it part of your schedule**.
- Take your children to Mass and explain the parts of the Mass to them- it can be compared to a family gathering—we gather together, share stories, prepare and share a meal, go forth nourished from our time together. You can find an overview of the Mass at: <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/mass-and-liturgy/an-overview-of-the-mass>
- Add your own stories and examples to complement the lessons. Share how prayer made a difference in your life during a certain time, or what prayers you liked to say before you took a difficult test at school!
- Involve grandparents or other close family members. They can be a good resource and enjoy the time with your child/ren.

- Let meal times or even times in the car be time for conversations about faith. Over breakfast at lunch on Saturdays, etc.
- Go through the basic prayers, line by line so they know what they are saying.
- Make a gratitude list or a list of people to pray for- hang it on the fridge.
- Use the Pflaum website for families- http://pflaumweeklies.com/new_page/parent_guide.php
- Pray before you plan- I promise it helps!
- Do not become overwhelmed by the material. Read through the readings for the week, then the children's readings- that may be all you need to do.
- Read the material a few days before you teach- you might be surprised how things might come up in conversation, on TV etc. that you can use in your conversation about the lesson.
- Meet up with other families after the morning Masses in the Church Hall to share some teaching. Bring your materials to Sunday morning Mass, go to the Church Hall for coffee & donut time and go over the lesson with your child/ren at that time.

Remember that you are the first and best teacher for your child/ren. Let me know how the parish can support you as you go through the year.

God bless!

Colleen Lang