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You are about to begin on an amazing spiritual journey with your child and we are so blessed that you have reached out to us for this guidance. As a result, we would like for you to know that we will be here to support you and your family. The Catholic Church believes that parents educate and form their children in the ways of the faith by action and relationships. Here are a few documents from the church that outlines the parents' role:

- The Second Vatican Council addressed the role of parents in documents such as, ***the Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People #11*** where we read that parents “are the first to pass on the faith to their children and to educate them in it. By word and example, they form them.”
- Another Council document, ***The Declaration on Christian Education # 3***, which states, “Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators.”
- The ***Code of Canon Law # 226*** we read, “Because they have given life to their children, parents have a most serious obligation and enjoy the right to educate them; therefore, Christian parents are especially to care for the Christian education of their children according to the teaching handed on by the Church.” And in ***Canon # 774.2*** we read, “Parents above others are obliged to form their children in the faith and practice of the Christian life by word and example.”

When you presented your child for baptism, the celebrant read from the ***Rite of Baptism***, “you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us.” When the priest asked if you understood this, you answered that you were accepting this duty as parents in the Catholic faith. Simply put, children first learn the practice of the Catholic faith at home by the example of their parents.

We are here for you! The Church also teaches that the parish, at the appropriate time, should assist the parents by providing a more formal catechetical program that helps to educate and form their children in the Catholic Faith. In providing this formation program, the parish community, the priest, and catechists enter into a covenant relationship with the family and the student seeking sacraments. A covenant relationship is a sacred agreement between God and man that binds us to Him in a sacred family bond made as an oath before God.

In this covenant relationship, the Church shall provide:

- Regular liturgy (Mass) with a homily that will provide insight and guidance of ways to live the Christian life
- An age-appropriate educational program of the Catholic faith
 - Wednesday evenings – see Faith Formation Calendar

- A specialized sacramental preparation program for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. – see First Sacraments Calendar
- Resources that help families teach the faith at home – visit www.Formed.org
- Opportunities to practice the faith through hands-on experiences such as touring the church, learning how to use the Bible, how to participate in Mass, classroom role play to practice living their faith, etc.
- A solemn sacramental celebration with sacramental notification to the church of baptism
- Adult faith formation opportunities to help enrich and deepen the faith of the parents – see parish Calendar and visit www.Formed.org

As a parent, your role in this covenant relationship shall be to:

- Guarantee that you and your child attend Mass every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation; check-in at the parish office or during *dispensation* comment on the Facebook “live” stream
- Parent(s) will attend ALL parent sessions for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
 - September 13 (2 pm – Bilingual – in church) and October 18 (9 am –Spanish, 12 pm noon - English) for First Reconciliation
 - January 10 (2 pm – Bilingual – in church) and March 21 (9 am –Spanish, 12 pm noon - English) for First Holy Communion
- Parent(s) will attend the First Reconciliation retreat (November 14) and First Holy Communion retreat (April 24) and join their child for two meetings – see First Sacraments Calendar
- Provide a baptismal certificate to the parish office by December 1, 2020 (if the student was not baptized at Sacred Heart Church, Danville).
- Parent(s) will work with the student to help them memorize their required prayers (Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition and Glory Be).
- Parent(s) will review the material covered in the Wednesday night Faith Formation classes and Sunday afternoon First Sacraments’ classes with the student(s).
- Provide opportunities for the student to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
- Regularly participate in the sacraments and make every effort to be able to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist at Mass for First Holy Communion.
- Padrinos or godparents for First Holy Communion: Parent(s) will ensure that they comply with the universal expectations for godparents in the Catholic Church. This should include their ability to participate in reception of Holy Communion at the Mass for First Eucharist with their godchild. (If they are unable to receive the Eucharist for any reason, they may not be suitable godparents for First Holy Communion.)

Name of Student

Grade 2020-2021

Signature of Parent

Date

Signature of Pastor

Date