

Lifelong Disciples of Jesus  
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Faith formation is ongoing. The Cathedral's Children's Religious Education (CRE) program's mission is to provide faith formation for Cathedral children, in collaboration with their parents, to help them become lifelong disciples of Jesus. We accomplish this mission in a safe and inspiring environment with catechists who provide age specific religious education. We have children enrolled in our program in 5 different sections; kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade, Eucharist preparation, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade and Confirmation preparation.

A major part of CRE is to build on the Catholic foundation provided by the parents and grandparents in the home. We keep each parent involved in their child's religious education through various means. Specifically, during weekly contacts with the catechists and the semi-annual reports that identify the Catholic faith traditions discussed during the past few months. Each month the students in one of the classrooms presents a prayer assembly attended by all the children. Parents are also encouraged to attend these prayer assemblies. We also conduct an annual celebration for the parents at the end of the year to share what was presented during the school year.

Shortly after the school year begins, we celebrate a Children's Mass during the Cathedral's 10:00 Sunday mass. A majority of the children and their families attend and sit together in the first few rows. The children preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time take up the gifts and children who are interested assist by acting as altar servers.

The CRE program is grateful for the support we receive from our rector during his visits to our Sunday classroom sessions and the financial support we receive to purchase educational materials and supplies. We also thank the parents who have enrolled their children and entrust us with Catholic education of their children. We are honored by their ongoing support of the CRE program and their support of their children who are on the path of becoming disciples of Jesus.

It is never too late to enroll your child in our religious education program. If you are a member of the Cathedral parish and have children who are not enrolled in Catholic school, please call the church office at 912-233-4709 to enroll your child. We are confident that if a child is enrolled in religious education throughout childhood they will become active members in their catholic community throughout adulthood.