

September 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

My name is Laura Hensley, and I will be your child's catechist for this very important year. Last year was my fourth year teaching and I learned so much. It was a lot of hard work, but well worth the outcome. I have four girls, Taylor, 8, who is in 3rd grade, Sara, 6, who is in 1st grade, Amanda, 3 1/2, and finally Maria, who is 15 months old. I also work from home as a web designer, and am in my 7th year in an 8 year Bible study. Dave and I have been married for 11 years, and have been members of the church since then. Actually, Dave has been a member of the parish with his family since the church's opening.

I am very excited to be teaching your second graders. What a wonderful year this will be for them, receiving two sacraments. First they will learn how to be sorry for their wrongdoings and asking God for forgiveness through Reconciliation. And finally, they will be able to go up with the rest of us adults and fully receive Christ during their First Communion. It's going to be a very full year and I'm excited to get started.

Each week, I will be sending out an e-mail with an outline of what we have covered in class. I will also have a copy of the outline on my website, www.hensleyfamily.name/reled.aspx. I am also planning on having the kids do some journal writing, trivia questions, and maybe online games and quizzes that go along with our lesson (www.faithfirst.com – legacy edition). Don't worry; none of these activities will take more than a few minutes of your children's time each week. I do understand that we all are very busy. But also understand that you should not put God on the back burner. I would also encourage you to go over these things too, and maybe you'll even learn something new about Our Lord and our Church.

Each week, I will pick up the kids in the commons area, but I encourage you to walk with your child to our classroom and stay for the first few minutes. We will be opening with a prayer and we would love you to join in. Please also feel free to stay to help with our class. If you are planning on staying, please let me know ahead of time so I can use you better in any activities that we may be doing that day.

Here is a list of supplies for your children to bring for class (please label them):

- Box of 24 crayons
- Sharpened Pencils
- Scissors
- Spiral Notebook for journal writing and trivia answers
- School box or bag to hold supplies

We are using the Faith First books again this year. The children will be able to write in their books, and bring home some take home papers out of them, but will not be bringing the workbook home each week. Please have them remember to bring back their folder and journal notebook each week with any homework, for us to go over in class. Also, you can check out the Faith First website for fun activities for the kids to supplement what they will be learning throughout the year. <http://FaithFirst.com>.

Please make sure your child doesn't bring any gum or candy to class, that has not been brought for the class. They will be charged a \$.25 fine for each offence (to be donated to the food pantry). Also, please don't have your children bring cell phones, iPods, or other electronic devices, Webkinz or any other distracting objects. They will be put on the teacher's desk and returned after class.

If your child is going to be absent from class, please email, call me at home or call the Religious Formation office at 493-1642. I ask that if your child has had a fever or gotten sick in the last 24 hours, that you please keep them home.

Please drop off and pick up your children on time. The children are to meet me in the upper commons area, and then as a class we are to walk down to our room, 2A33. It is very important that all of the children are ready to be walked down to the class room when the bell rings at 4:15, so we can begin right away. You will need to come inside to pick up your child each week at 5:30. Please come up to me to get your child and don't have them running through the crowds to you. Our goal is to keep your children safe.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. We need to work together to get your children ready for these two beautiful sacraments, and I am looking forward to every moment this year.

God Bless,

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