



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Priorities, are defined as, “rights to precede others in order, rank or privilege; things given special attention.” Our priorities send a message to the whole world: “This is important! I choose this because it is worthy of my time and respect.”

Congratulations to the many parents who have made religious education a priority in their lives and the lives of their children. The overscheduling of children says a lot about priorities. One parent said her child couldn't possibly attend Religious Education classes because he had martial arts lessons on Monday, guitar lessons on Tuesday, Scouts on Wednesday and soccer on Thursday. There was just no time for Religious Education classes. Every one of us has 168 hours available to us every week, so it isn't a matter of time: It is a matter of priorities. Parents who prioritize Religious Education, and the regular practice of the Faith in their lives, deserve our admiration and applause. And, here is some very good news to consider.

In studying the effects of consistent attendance and involvement in weekly church services, “A wide array of psychological well-being, character strengths, physical health, mental health, and health behavioral outcomes were assessed,” in a Harvard University study that was published in 2018. The results of the study stated, “Compared with never attendance, at least weekly service attendance was subsequently associated with greater life satisfaction and positive affect, greater volunteering, greater sense of mission, more forgiveness, and lower probabilities of drug use and early sexual initiation.” This outcome was based on weekly attendance at church services. There was little difference in outcomes, in virtually every category, between those who went to church less than weekly and those who never attended at all. So, the bottom line is this: Going to church every week is an activity that leads to more consistently positive mental health outcomes for adolescents and young adults. And it costs so much less than soccer leagues or gym memberships! Does that news change anyone's Sunday morning plans? Let's hope so.

Our Religious Education Registration period for 2021-2022 is coming to an end. As of today, we have 227 CTK children enrolled in classes. We always want to keep our door open to those who enroll late, but late enrollments complicate the process of ordering books, reserving classrooms and getting and training catechists. So, if you have not registered your children for Religious Education yet, please do so now.

Thank you to those who stepped forward to serve as catechists for the coming year. You are saints in training! We are also blessed this year to have many who have volunteered to serve as substitute teachers. Our First Reconciliation and First Eucharist catechists were trained a couple weeks ago. The balance of the catechists teaching grades 1 through 6, are meeting for training this week, and we'll have a follow up meeting soon to train the substitutes.

Thank you to one and all for your prayers, your volunteer help and your financial support of our Religious Education program at Christ the King. We couldn't do any of it without you!