

## Celebrating Catechetical Sunday 2017

This year, Our Lady of the Fields celebrates Catechetical Sunday, September 10, and our Faith Formation classes for the children begin September 17. Our year's theme, ***Living as Missionary Disciples***, appreciates how our lives witness the Lord's "Great Commission" to tell everyone about God's love and graciousness to us and to the world.



On Sunday September 10th, our catechists will be commissioned for their ministry at the 11:00 Mass and at the end of each Mass we will pray for and share a special blessing for all parents, the first teachers of their children. Our Evangelization and Faith Formation staff invites our **677+** parents and families to stop by the parish hall between 8 AM and 2 PM to pick up materials and information prepared for your use during the coming months.

Catechetical Sunday invites us to reflect on our Baptismal duty to hand on the faith; bear witness to the Gospel and rededicate ourselves to our catechetical mission as a community of faith. Since 1935, we have celebrated Catechetical Sunday to acknowledge the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve as catechists. The word "catechetical" hints at what we celebrate. Many of us are familiar with the word "catechism," the compilation of the Church's teachings we studied as youths. The root word "catechesis" is from the Greek verb "to echo, or resound." So, "Catechesis" is a re-sounding, telling again the Church's teachings and a "Catechist" is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

On Catechetical Sunday, we acknowledge our Baptismal responsibility to hand on the faith by our living witness to the Gospel. And we highlight the importance of this ministry by the commissioning of Catechists and considering our shared responsibility to share our faith with others.

Sunday we especially recognize parents, the first and primary catechists of their children, who prepare the soil and plant and nurture the first seeds of faith. On Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in our parish and schools, we also commend the guiding ministry of parents and encourage them as they make their households a place where faith is sown and passed forward to generations to come.

In the spirit of this Catechetical Sunday, let us rededicate ourselves to Christ's call to be His missionary disciples this Sunday and every day.

May God bless us and keep us and give us peace!

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