



# St. Andrew Catholic Church

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Dear Parents of Prospective St. Andrew Catholic School Students,

## COME TO CLASS

We applaud you parents for choosing to have your sons and daughters educated in a Catholic School. An education is incomplete if it does not include God, just as our lives are empty without Him. God is our origin and our end. God created us and He redeemed us. At every moment, God holds us in His heart and He sustains us in our very existence. All of our teachers are striving to provide your children with an education focused on God. We are very proud of their work. We delight in what they will accomplish even yet for you and for your children.

Our teachers, although paid, are teaching in our Catholic school as a labor of love. Their efforts are built on the foundation of their students' regular attendance at their classes, and their being ready, willing and able to learn while in class. To receive all the benefits of their teachers' loving, hard work, our students need to attend school as scheduled, without absences and tardiness, and to come always prepared to learn. We will be most happy to ask our teachers to continue to work so hard and so lovingly in favor of your children's education so long as their students always come prepared to learn from their efforts.

Many of our students have perfect or nearly perfect records of school attendance. Sadly, some do not. Good class attendance is, of course, its own reward. Those students who have built up records of tardiness or absenteeism, or of lack of preparation for their classes, need their parents' help in bringing them to school on time, and always ready to learn, bringing with them their books and their completed homework. **Please make it their motto, "Come to Class and come to Mass."**

## COME TO MASS

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is announced - first and foremost - in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Just as any education is incomplete without God, any Catholic education is incomplete without worship of God, in and through Jesus Christ, in the midst of His people gathered at the Sunday Mass each week. For a Catholic child genuinely to experience a Catholic education, especially in preparation for receiving Christ's sacraments of Penance, Communion and Confirmation, that student must participate in weekly Sunday Mass. Parents seeking a Catholic education for their children are responsible for their children's Sunday Mass attendance every week.

Some parents strive to provide their children with a truly Catholic education, including weekly Sunday Mass attendance. We thank those parents; and we commend you for taking advantage of the very rich blessings that Jesus Christ has in store for your family. The value that your children will reap from their experience of weekly Sunday Mass will far exceed all of our expectations and, even, our understanding.

Sadly, some parents have not fulfilled their responsibility to bring their children to Sunday Mass weekly. To those parents, we make this plea that you prayerfully consider this issue. Through the Mass, we receive Jesus' graces as He directs our hearts to God our Father. He brings true happiness into our lives. To be truly Catholic is to attend Mass every Sunday, worshiping our Lord and God in His Eucharist. Without Sunday Mass, we are ill equipped to handle the challenges and the difficulties of the coming week. **Please make it your family resolution, "Come to Class and come to Mass."**

## THE BENEFITS OF ACTIVE PARISH MEMBERSHIP

In the Catholic Church, we are members not only of the Mystical Body of Christ but also parishioners of a specific parish church, for example, St. Andrew Catholic Church. We become members of the Body of Christ through Baptism. We maintain our spiritual unity with the Body of Christ by our continued participation in the Sacraments, by our resisting sin and by our growth in virtue. We become and remain active parishioners of a parish by being registered in that parish, by our continued support of that parish, and by our participation in the life of that parish. Membership in the Body of Christ and membership in our parish church are both very important.

Active membership in our parish church is required in order to enjoy “active parishioner” status in our Catholic School. Our school students and their families must be Active Members of our parish church - which means Registered, Attending and Contributing Members of St. Andrew’s, determined as follows:

1. By your being Registered in the Parish for a sufficient period of time, having filled out a Registration Form.
2. By your faithfully Attending Mass on all Sundays and all Holy Days of Obligation; and
3. By your Contributing to the support of our Parish, through our envelope system, or by your checks, given into our Offertory Collection.

If you are members of another Catholic parish church - other than St. Andrew - and your child attends St. Andrew Catholic School, then you should be Active Members, as defined above, in your own parish church.

**If you are not now an Active Member in your own parish church, as above, please take steps to become Active now. Get registered; attend weekly Sunday and Holy Day Mass; contribute your support to the parish.** Enjoy the benefits that active participation brings. Failure of our school students and their families to attend Sunday Mass weekly suggests that such persons might be more interested in a subsidized private education (which is not the mission of our Catholic Schools) than in a truly Catholic education. Certainly, it means that such persons are missing out on the very greatest benefit our Church and your parish have to offer.

If you and your family are now enjoying the benefits of active parish membership, simple honesty requires that you become Active in your parish membership. Justice, as between you and the other Active members of your parish, demands that you continue to be Active, that you give your support to your parish, as you call upon your parish to give its support to you in carrying out your obligation to provide a Catholic religious education for your children. If you are to enjoy the reduced rates of tuition at our Catholic School, in the school year 2012-2013 and in the future, which rates are meant to be available to our active parishioners, then you yourself must be Active in your parish membership. Use of our offertory envelope system has the intended additional effect of providing a record of your attendance at weekly Sunday and Holy Day Mass. **So, please, make it your constant practice, “Come to Class and come to Mass.”**

## FOR THE FUTURE

In the future, as a matter of simple justice, also plain common sense, families not meeting the requirements of Active Membership in their parish, as above, will not be accorded active parishioner status and the parish membership benefits that come from such status. No one, least of all your pastor and principal, wants to see any of our members falling away from active membership in their parish church. Might we all, rather, work together more and more as active members of the one Body of Christ, and also of our home parish churches, rooting ourselves ever more firmly in our faith so that we may experience the complete joy that Our Lord desires for all of us (John 15:10-11).

Very sincerely yours,

*James L. LeBlanc*

Rev. James L. LeBlanc  
Pastor

*Mary M. Halasz*

Mrs. Mary M. Halasz  
Principal