



August 1, AD 2019

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in our Sunday morning Christian Formation program for the 2019-20 school year. Classes **start September 8<sup>th</sup>**, and classes meet in **the St. Mary's School buildings from 9:45-10:45 AM**.

We believe that you, the parents, are the primary teachers of your children, and the Christian Formation classes should complement what is taught in the home. Parents should review with their children the material that is covered each week. Your children's faith will be strengthened by conversations about the faith and about how the Lord is working in your lives. Parent resources and ideas for sharing the faith in the home will be sent home with your children throughout the year. The parish offers faith events throughout the year, especially around the Advent and Lent liturgical seasons; please read the bulletin weekly to keep abreast of these enjoyable and faith-enriching events; many are family events. In order to help you feel competent to teach your children, the parish offers a variety of classes including in-home small groups. Contact me if you have questions about that.

**Monthly parent classes** will be held during the regular class time on: **October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup>, January 5<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. In the school library (in English) and in the school cafeteria (in Spanish). On other Sundays, parents are invited to join the Sunday Café which meets at the same time in Mother Teresa Hall.

Most importantly, it is vital that you take your children **to Mass weekly and to confession regularly**. Even if they have not yet received first confession, seeing you go to confession is a wonderful example for young children.

**St. Mary's Sacramental Policy:** In order to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation, children must attend, at the very minimum, TWO FULL YEARS of Christian Formation classes. Students who miss classes regularly will not be considered to have attended a full year and may have the sacrament reception delayed. You child should not miss more than 3 classes. This policy is intended to ensure that your child has the best sacramental formation possible.

Registration forms can be returned to the parish office, put it in a clearly marked envelope and placed in the Sunday basket, or mailed to St. Mary Help of Christians, PO Box 438, Aiken, SC 29802.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

God bless you,

*Mary Ellen Jackson*

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Catechism of the Catholic Church 2223

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.

Please put these 2019-2020 fun family activities on your calendar!  
(check the bulletin for more details)

Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Angela Hall  
**Saintly Trunk or Treat**

Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Angela Hall  
**Trunk or Treat**

Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Angela Hall  
**St. Valentine's Day Event**

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in the Church Courtyard and/or garden  
**Easter Egg Hunt after Mass**