

Introductory Parents Meeting

A Prayer Ritual for Catechists, Parents and Children

Reader 1: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader 1: As we gather today we are beginning the new Faith Development year. As families and as members of the St. Thomas More Catholic community, we pray for God's blessing.

We begin by speaking to our children.

Catechist addresses children.

Reader 2: Children, is it your desire to follow in the way of Jesus?

Children: Yes.

Reader 2: Will you do your best to live as a child of God, loving God with all your heart and loving others as God has loved you?

Children: Yes.

Reader 2: Will you commit yourself to learn more about your faith and how to live it out?

Children: Yes.

Catechist addresses parents.

Reader 1: Parents, will you celebrate your faith as a family by participating in the Sunday Eucharist with your children every week?

Parents: We will.

Reader 1: Will you support your children by helping them to learn and grow in their faith?

Parents: We will.

Catechist: Recognizing our communal responsibility for raising these children in the faith, will you be examples for all of these children of forgiving love, of faithfulness, and of living out our call as members of the Body of Christ?

Parents: We will.

Reader 2: Children, if your parents are here, please go to them now; if not, please stay with your catechists.

Catechist invites parents to turn toward their children and sign them as directed.

Catechist: Joined as one in mind and heart, we sign these children in the name of Jesus Christ.

Reader 1: Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.
May your mind be open to the knowledge of your faith.

Reader 1: Receive the sign of the cross on your ears.
May you hear the Word of God.

Reader 1: Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes.
May you see with the light of Christ.

Reader 1: Receive the sign of the cross on your lips.
May you speak with the wisdom of God.

Reader 2: Receive the sign of the cross on your heart.
May God fill you with love and goodness.

Reader 2: Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders.
May you bear with courage the hardships that come with living a life of faith.

Reader 2: Receive the sign of the cross on your hands.
May the work you do be a loving service to others.

Reader 2: Receive the sign of the cross on your feet.
Happy are those whose feet bring the Good News.

Catechist invites the parents and catechists to raise their hands in blessing over the children.

Reader 1: Lord our God, your Son Jesus welcomed children and blessed them.

Look with favor on these, the children of this parish community.
Bless them and grant that they may grow into deeper faith and devotion to you.
May our example, teaching, and support help bring them to a new and powerful experience of you in their lives.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Reader 2: As we close our celebration, let us offer each other a sign of peace.