

September 2023

Hello, Level 5 Students!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 PREP year!

I hope that you are feeling refreshed after summer vacation and school is going well, if you have started! If not, I hope that you are looking forward to going back to school, seeing your teachers and friends, meeting new people, learning new things and striving to do your best in all that you do!

In the Level 5 PREP classroom, we will focus on the sacraments, the Mass and the church calendar. This curriculum will include discussion on how we worship as Catholics, celebrating Mass with *the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist*, God's healing love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, vocations of Marriage & Holy Orders and carrying out God's mission by living a life of love. We will be using the workbook series, "Christ Our Life" by Loyola Press. If you are interested in previewing the materials or want to see what we are teaching in class, you can check it out online at [loyolapress.com](http://loyolapress.com) (Faith Formation Programs/Families).

In class, we will pray a decade of the rosary each week for special intentions such as world peace as well as the students' intentions. We'll read and discuss the Sunday Gospel as part of our opening prayer. God's Word has so much to teach us! The bulk of our class time will be spent reviewing the topic for that week's chapter, including activities from the book or other activities, including videos of the saints' lives, coloring pages, crossword puzzles and sometimes games or crafts. As a class, we will go to Confession, participate in a daily Mass (at church) and attend a special Divine Mercy Benediction/Adoration (also at the church). There is so many ways to pray and worship God and I hope to allow the children to engage in many different ways that I can!

We (students, parents, teachers, priests & religious) are all in this journey of faith together! Most importantly, as Catholics, we have God to help us, walking with us, holding us up, giving us hope, throughout these struggles. Jesus tells us: "Do not be afraid." And, my favorite quote from the Bible: (Mt 19:26) "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible." So let us ask God to give us the grace to not be afraid, to realize that He is in charge and to keep close to Him in this life so that by imitating Him, loving each other, we may ultimately reap the Eternal Reward of Heaven.

I hope that you are excited about getting back to PREP and learning more about Jesus and your Catholic faith with possibly some old friends from last year and maybe some new friends this year! I am excited to be on this faith journey with you and look forward to meeting you on September 13th!

God bless!

*Alison Thomas-Steele*

aka "Mrs Steele" 😊