

Dear Friends,

“Who do you say that I am?” This is the question Jesus poses to Peter in today’s Gospel. Of course, Peter affirms that Jesus is the Christ. But who do you say Jesus is?

As a child, every Saturday morning my mom would wake me up early so we would have enough time to catch the city bus and get to CCD. I would have preferred to stay home watching Saturday morning cartoons. However, I realize now that my mom sacrificed a lot too. There are a lot of other things she could have been doing with her Saturday mornings, but she was committed to passing the faith to me. My mom didn’t just drop me off and go on her way. She stayed in the church and prayed. Through her words and actions, I knew who Jesus was to my mom. And over time, I came to realize more and more the great treasure of faith that she was passing on to me.

The Catholic Church rightfully acknowledges the role of parents to be the primary educators of their children. This is not because they necessarily know more about a given topic, but rather because they possess a natural closeness to their children. With this in mind, it is our sacred duty as Catholics to pass along the faith to our children. The parish religious education program for children in K-8 public school or homeschool, Equip Family Faith Formation, begins next month. In addition to directly forming children in the faith, the program equips parents to form their children. We are excited to introduce an extra monthly family gathering this year. In addition to the children receiving more classroom time with catechists, parents will have the opportunity for discussion, reflection, and encouragement focused on faith, parenting, and everyday life.

In bringing our faith into the everyday conversations and situations of life, our children will see that God is not someone to be relegated to an hour on Sunday, but rather that the profound encounter we are privileged to have with the Christ at Mass and in the sacraments should impact every part of our lives. Each of my parents, in their unique way, did that for me. I am honored to work with a catechetical team at Sacred Heart that is here to help you do the same for your children.

If you haven’t registered your family for Equip, there is still time! In addition to Equip, there are many other ways to continue to form your faith regardless of your age or stage in life. Feel free to reach out to me at familyformation@sacredheart-fremont.org or call me at the parish office. I am happy to help!

In Christ,
Eddie