

St. Joseph Catholic Church Our Parish Covenant June, 2011

Expectations of Ourselves

- I will be kind and welcoming to all.
- I will participate in the celebration of Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days.
- I will seek out opportunities to grow in my faith.
- I will bring my God-given talents, gifts and strengths to the service of others.
- I will maintain an open heart and spirit by embracing the unique challenges and needs of others.

We celebrate the covenant God chose

to make with us in baptism! Through his Son, Jesus the Christ, we are bound to God and to one another in love. God has given us this extraordinary gift of grace! This enables us to be God's sons and daughters, brothers and sisters in Jesus. We are therefore covenantated to one another; together in the grace of God, sharing our lives of faith. As the author of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah:

“This is the covenant I will establish with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their minds and

I will write them upon their hearts.

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
(Hebrews 8:10)

In living out this covenant then, I promise to welcome you as I have been welcomed by Christ; embracing you no matter where you are on life's journey, no matter how different you may be from me. To give voice to this covenant and to celebrate our common faith, I commit to participating with you at the table of the Lord on all Sundays and Holy Days.

In order to continue growing in the covenant God has made with us, I commit to growing in my faith with you, my brothers and sisters, understanding that this growing in faith includes a life-long journey of study, learning, prayer and service.

As a steward, I will develop and share **the talents and strengths God has given me.** Through Confirmation and Eucharist I am called to serve you, my brothers and sisters, to the glory of God. I will extend and deepen my heart by embracing others in their unique challenges and needs, whether in the parish, the community, or the world. I know that I am incapable of living out this covenant on my own, but only with the grace of God can I be faithful. I pray that I will respond in faithfulness to **God's grace.** In the words of Saint Paul:

“Our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; **for the Spirit gives life.**”
(2 Corinthians 3:6)

As a community of believers we together will nurture, celebrate and teach one another about the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Among our promises we will collectively focus on our youth and our young families. We also commit ourselves to life-long faith formation and development by supporting religious education of children, youth, young adults and adults of all ages. With an open heart, we look out for one another, no matter what the challenges or needs. We will honor and respect each other's unique journeys of faith and embrace our diversity.

We will engage our mission, vision and resources in accordance with these promises, aware that none can be accomplished without God's grace and favor. We remember the words from Deuteronomy:

Understand, then, that the LORD, your God, is God indeed, **the faithful God** who keeps his merciful covenant down to the thousandth generation toward those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Expectations of Our Parish

- We will demonstrate respect for all parishioners and their unique journeys of faith.
- We will continue to use Religious Education and St. Joseph School to facilitate spiritual growth in children and families.
- We will focus on youth, young adults and young families of our parish to build for the future.
- We will maintain an open heart and spirit to embracing the unique challenges and needs of one another.
- We will grow the community and friendship dimensions of our life together as a parish.