

Trust in the Lord... With all Your Heart

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

September 2017

Welcome! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Stephanie Paul, and I am just thrilled to be serving as a religious education teacher this year for the Athens Catholic Communities of St. Paul and Christ the King. I have lived in Athens for six years and am very excited to embark on this new journey with our second grade students *and each of you* as these children experience Christ's love through the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation. And, what an amazing opportunity (might I add) for each of us as adults to be so closely involved in these momentous occasions in the lives of these young people!

During the week, I teach full-time at Trimble Middle School; I serve students there through 7th and 8th grade writing class, and I also adjunct in the Patton College at OU. I believe God truly knew what he was doing when he gave me the gift of being an educator. Each day I smile, laugh, and feel very fortunate to do what I do. Needless to say, I love teaching; this Fall I have students from seven years old to twenty-somethings! I wouldn't trade my time with students for anything.

The theme of our classroom here at church this year is, "*Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart;*" I know that last year in first grade the children of our parish came to know and understand the miracles and incredible deeds and teachings that Christ lived out in his time on Earth. This year, I will be building on that as we work together to help these children understand that it is through faith and ultimately trust in the Lord that we experience His presence in the Sacraments; because as we know, even when we cannot "see" with our eyes everything that goes on, it is through *trust* in our faith and persistence in prayer that Christ will reveal himself to us through these beautiful Sacraments *in our hearts*. Take a few moments to discuss this depiction (at right) with your child. Here are some questions to pose:



What do you know about Jesus? What do you notice about the painting?

What do you see here that Jesus has that each of us has too inside of our bodies?

Why would Miss Paul pick this picture if our theme for the year is "Trust in the Lord with all Your Heart?" What does it mean to trust in your heart even when you are uncertain?

I want to personally invite each of you into our classroom this year. Each family will take a turn reading a story together with the adult(s) reading the pages and your child sitting with you to show the pictures and turn the pages; on the attached sheet, please note your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of a month you would like to read a biblical story book in the classroom. Please return the attached sheet with your child next week or complete it today if you have the time. I will be in touch to line up the books to coincide with our topics for a given week, and finalize your date to read in the coming weeks. That way you have the book in advance to practice with your little one.

I want to sincerely thank you in advance for your involvement as story readers, for your support, and help this year! I am here to serve the children of the parish in 2nd grade this year, but I know that you are your child's first teachers, so I truly look forward to working alongside you throughout this year to make it special for your families.

Most sincerely,

Stephanie Paul

PS by Miss Paul:

Interested in the art further? It is a modern depiction by Stephen B. Whatley. Check out this insightful reflection/ read, parents and guardians, if you find some time this week:

<http://dioscrg.org/index.php/heart-of-christ-give-us-your-heart/>

2nd Grade Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

I want to personally invite each of you into our classroom this year. We will have activities, hands-on activities, prayers and stories. I would like for each family to take a turn reading a story together with the adult reading the pages and your child sitting with you to show the pictures and turn the pages; on the attached sheet, please note your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices of a month you would like to read a biblical story book in the classroom. Please return this with your child next week or today.

Who will come in to read the story (mom, dad, grandma, etc.)? _____

Indicate your Reading Choice Below

Month of 1st Choice:

(Circle One) Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March April

Month of 2nd Choice:

(Circle One) Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March April

Month of 3rd Choice:

(Circle One) Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. March April

Other Gifts/Talents I Can Share with the 2nd Grade Classroom:

(Could be crafts, sewing, building things, music, art, etc. This helps me brainstorm 😊)

Anything else you want to share about your child?... Or in general— I am all ears: