



# ST. PHILIP

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Friends,

It is a true joy and blessing to welcome you in to and back to the St. Philip religious education program for the 2016-17 school year! It is going to be a great year and I am looking forward to serving you throughout the year.

With that being said, I would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself, as I am new to the program this year. My name is Kathy Williams and I will be the Director of Faith Formation, RCIA Coordinator, Youth Ministry Delegate, and Liturgy Coordinator. The Kalamazoo Diocese is my home diocese, but I grew up in Paw Paw, Michigan. I recently graduated from Notre Dame with my Master of Arts in Theology and am coming to you from three years in Vicksburg, Michigan serving St. Martin of Tours as the DRE and Coordinator of Youth Ministry. I love serving God and His Church and I am very excited about being at St. Philip and the new opportunities and experiences that await me here.

One of my goals for our religious education program is that it involves both the head and the heart. My hope is that students learn well all that the Catholic Church teaches and that they grow into smart Catholics who know their faith well. That is the head. I also hope that in this program they encounter the person of God and form a relationship with Him knowing that before anything else they are loved by God and that He desires to be in an intimate friendship with them. That is the heart. We will strive to do this in an authentically Catholic way in a dynamic manner.

I want to pose a few questions to you and your family: What do you hope for your family in terms of how your family lives and grows in the Catholic faith? How is it a part of your family life? What areas may need growth and what are some small steps you can take to work on those areas as a family? It is so important that education of the faith begins in the home. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says in Paragraph 2226:

*“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.”*

My plan is not to make any huge changes this year, but to spend time getting to know the people here at St. Philip and building on the good things that are already here. I am eager to serve you and your family and to build on the education in the Catholic faith that is being done in the home. Please know that if you ever have any questions or concerns you are always welcome to contact me. Most importantly though, let us strive to love God as a community, to serve one another, and to always keep each other in prayer.

God bless,

Kathy Williams

“COME & SEE”  
-Jn 1:45-51