



## 2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like **Educating Youth (Religious Education)**

Along with the usual bedtime ritual—a warm bath, teeth brushing and a story read aloud—one of the most important lessons parents or guardians can give their children at bedtime is the gift of prayer.

### A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.

The beginning of our Catholic faith is received in baptism and prayer is the beginning of a child's first image of God. Parents are the first to communicate faith to their children and are the primary educators reinforced by formal Catholic instruction available at parishes throughout the Diocese.

Educating youth about their faith is an important pillar of our Catholic mission. For public school students, religious education begins in kindergarten and continues through 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This year, more than 6,500 children and teens will receive age-appropriate lessons in faith, worship, morality, prayer and service from 913 catechists (teachers), most of whom are volunteers.

"The parish's role through the pastor and catechist is to assist parents in fostering more of the Christian faith in their children," said Francine Swope, Director of Religious Education. "We hope what a child learns in the classroom will be reinforced at home, by going to Mass, and participating in service projects that bring our faith to life. Parents, especially, play an important part in helping their child receive the Sacraments."

For many families today, the frantic pace of living sometimes outruns the importance of simply walking with Jesus. However, when faith is interwoven into kids' lives through family and community support and strengthened by additional parish supported education, lifelong Christian seeds are planted allowing them to enjoy the beauty of Christ, and hopefully become evangelizers of their own family.

*Your support today of **Educating Youth (Religious Education)** will assist in the ongoing Catholic formation of children and teens as they continue their journey of seeking and trusting God into adulthood.*

Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org). The Catholic Ministries Drive continues through Dec. 31, 2018 and all donations are tax deductible.

