



Dear Religious Education Families,

My name is Sister Alina Marie and I am absolutely delighted to join Our Lady of Fatima Parish as the new coordinator of the Religious Education Program! I expect this to be a fantastic year, despite the unusual circumstances, and will do my best to make sure the children are given an in-depth understanding of the faith in an engaging and fun way, within the limits of safe social distance and the necessary sanitation requirements. With the impact of your faith-filled family life and the religious education program of the parish, it is my great hope that one day each of your children will be named great saints of the Church!

To share a little about myself, I am a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate and I love to share the faith! I grew up in Georgia with phenomenal parents who brought us to Mass on Sundays and Confession each month, which taught me the importance of God in our lives and how necessary it is to give great care for our souls. They also brought us together to pray the rosary often, and had lots of saint books and movies all over the place! I remember that as a kid I was simply doing it because “I had to,” but at some point in my young life, I become curiously aware of my mom’s joy and peace after her time spent in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each Thursday. One day I decided to seriously “try out” praying the rosary from my heart. It was in that experience that I realized I had accidentally tapped into an extraordinary treasure that my parents wanted for me all along! It was in that moment that I felt so loved by God and desired to know Him more and more. The more I prayed and studied my faith, the more I wanted nothing else and was willing to center my entire life on this newfound love. To put a long story short, this love led me to give my whole life to Jesus as a Sister and to serve you!

So this year, my great hope is to help your children develop a real relationship with the One who made them, knows them, heals them, and ultimately leads them to the Source of all joy. I hope to show them the path God has given us to union with Him in the sacramental life of the Church, which puts them in direct contact with the Heart of Jesus. I pray that this year, they will gain the impactful knowledge that will enable them to live the closest possible union with God, now and for eternity! I look forward to meeting and working with each of you in this great responsibility of raising *saints*!

God bless you,

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