

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16



For the past several years, the preschool has tried to adopt a theme to use during the school year. The themes are meant to emphasize the goodness that Christ calls us to have for others in words and deeds. Closely related to being a faithful member of God's family, these themes are also intended to reflect the social and emotional teachings that we continually highlight at preschool. Some of these include learning how to be kind, how to serve, and how to have respect for everything that God has created.

This year we have chosen the theme: “Be a Light”. It seems particularly fitting during this time of COVID when we all could use an extra smile from those around us. I also think, however, that the broader interpretation is important to keep in mind. As Catholics, we believe that we are called by God to be daily

examples of His message. That is, we are to offer a helping hand, care for others, and love our neighbors. We are to be mindful of all that has been given to us from Him and all that we should share with those who are less fortunate. In this way, we are ‘lights’ for others.

With our students being back this week, I feel like they have brought their own special brightness to us as well. Not only is our preschool again filled with joyous noise and laughter, but we are privileged to the sights of big smiles, curious faces, and enthusiastic learning everywhere! Despite what is going on in the world around them, our students have an inner radiance that has not dimmed. They still reflect the light and beauty of God's creation. Surely God has meant for them to offer brightness to us to help us continue

to see His goodness! How blessed we are to have His light continue to shine through them!

Finally, although we are saying goodbye to Fr. Steve Patti and Fr. Steve Kluge this weekend, we should not look at this as a light being extinguished, but rather as an opportunity to carry on the light that they and the other Franciscan friars who have served amongst us have brought. Let us take an example from our preschool children and pass the joy of this light on to the new pastoral leadership. May we be reminded of how to keep spreading the light to all, both new and familiar, within our community and beyond.

To learn more about the wonderful opportunities that we provide, please visit our website at [www.preschoolatstfrancis.com](http://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com) or contact Shelley Freeman at: [shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org)