

# ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE PARISH

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## K-6 FAITH FORMATION PARENT HANDBOOK 2016-2017



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Jude the Apostle Parish FAITH FORMATION is to offer our young Catholics opportunities to mature in their Catholic Christian faith as a living reality.

Our goal is to challenge, affirm, and encourage youth in their journey toward maturity in their faith. We have two tasks to help us achieve this goal:

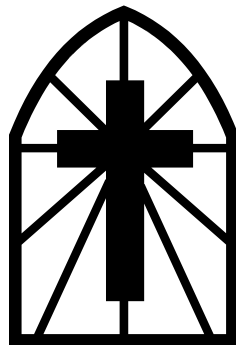
- to foster in youth a communal identity as Catholic Christians
- and to help them develop their own personal faith identity.

To accomplish the first task, we will present the faith convictions and values of the Catholic Christian tradition and invite our children to adopt and own these values and convictions at age appropriate levels.

To effect the second, we will encourage our children to respond to God in faith, prayer, values and behavior. The sense of belonging, experienced by youth in an active Christian community, supports these two tasks of catechesis. Therefore, participation in our faith formation program must always be supported by weekly attendance at Mass and reception of the Eucharist with the rest of the faith community.

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Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world. Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unifying and fruitful love. Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the Sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor. In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of His Body, in Jesus’ mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus’ name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR – GRADES K-6**

Patti Mugrace

Home: 283-7358 Email: [mugrap@gmail.com](mailto:mugrap@gmail.com)

Cell: 281-7728

*Parish Office: 283-1162*

### **SESSION TIME SCHEDULE**

Grades K-4 meet on Sunday mornings from 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM (50 minute sessions).

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**AT MASS:** All Catholics should be attending Sunday Mass every week. Attendance at Mass is a church precept for every Catholic on each weekend and on Holy days.

**IN THE CLASSROOM:** Attendance is expected at all scheduled classes. If a child is absent on a given week, they will receive a make-up assignment from the catechist which must be completed and returned at the next session.

**ABSENCE & MISSED CLASS TIME:** Parents are requested to call 283-2163 one hour before the start of class if their child will not be present (leave a message).

**CANCELLATIONS:** Whenever possible, cancellations will be announced at all Masses and in the Church Bulletin.

**SNOW DAYS/SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** For cancellations due to inclement weather, please tune to: Capital News 9 • The Times Union • WFLY — FLY 92 • WGY — 810 WGY • WNYT TV • WRGB TV • WRVE — The River • WTEN TV • WYJB — B-95.5 • WXXA TV • The Post-Star.

### **BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE**

Each child is expected to behave in a respectful manner with an attitude of openness to the faith experience. Our teaching staff comes to us as volunteers sharing their own life experiences and richness of the Catholic faith and tradition. Our young people will have the opportunity to learn about our faith and make their own faith journey with a better understanding and appreciation of what this means.

The family is the principle learning center for any child. Our role is to assist the parents in this responsibility. Catechesis, the sharing of faith, takes place every moment of every day, wherever we are and in whatever we do. The Catechists are limited in what they can accomplish in the very short time they have your children during the year. Time spent on discipline issues is time taken away from religious education. We depend upon your support and assistance to maintain a proper learning environment for all.

## **SAFETY PROCEDURES**

**GATEKEEPERS:** Gatekeepers assist the Coordinators in many ways. Some of their duties include: supervising the hall, escorting late students to class, supervising young children needing to use the bathroom, assisting parents who may be in the building, calling home to verify absences, helping to supervise group dismissal, and other duties as needed.

**FIRE DRILLS:** At least one evacuation drill for fire emergency will be practiced during the school year.

All Faith Formation access doors will be locked once classes begin.

## **CURRICULUM**

Grades K-6 in our Faith Formation program use a comprehensive curriculum entitled “Blest Are We” which is published by Silver Burdett Ginn. The books in this series focus on sacraments, our liturgical year, feasts, seasons, saints, what Catholics believe as well as prayers we say and much more. Each year provides a foundation for the subsequent years; therefore, attendance at each grade level is strongly recommended.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **REGISTRATION**

St. Jude Religious Education program must be provided with the following items prior to admission of a child:

1. Registration form with Emergency contact information
2. The family must be registered in the parish (or provide written permission from parish pastor/administrator acknowledging child in our program)

### **REGISTRATION FEE**

A registration fee is required at enrollment.

\$45 – One Child      \$75 – Two or more Children

**Notes:** *Fees are subsidized by the parish, and these fees are for families registered at St. Jude parish and supporting the parish financially. St. Jude Parish is committed to ensuring that all families who wish to send their children to our program are able to do so. Therefore, if for any reason a family has a financial concern as to the registration fee, please speak to me or Father Anthony Ligato.*

# FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR FOR GRADES K-4

== No Session ==

2016-2017

SEPTEMBER		11	18	25	
OCTOBER	2	==9==	16	23	30
NOVEMBER	6	13	20	==27==	
DECEMBER	4	11	18	==25==	
JANUARY	==1==	8	==15==	==22==	==29==
FEBRUARY	5	==12==	==19==	26	
MARCH	5	12	19	26	
APRIL	2	9 (Last Class)			

\*10:00-10:50a.m. - Grade K-6 meet in St. Jude's School on Sundays indicated above.

\*\* First session: September 11 at 10:00a.m., all K-6 children and their parents will meet in Church before being dismissed to classrooms.

\*\*Family Liturgy Schedule Held @ 11:00a.m. Mass: September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup>; December 18<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup>, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, February 26<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, & April 2<sup>nd</sup>. All families are encouraged to attend these Liturgies with their children. Please mark your calendars.