

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

2011-2012

Parent Handbook and Calendar

Faith Formation Lifelong and Ongoing

Pastor-Father John Croghan

Coordinator-Mary Lou Lauchert

Office Phone 853-6196 ext 3 Home Phone 853-7631

IMPORTANT DATES

Grade 2

Parent Reconciliation Workshop-Wed. October 26 6:30-7:30

Parent 1st Eucharist Workshop -Wed. March 21 6:30-7:30

These workshops are required for all parents and will be held in church with Father Croghan. *All* 2nd grade students will report to the gym at 6:30PM on these two dates.

First Reconciliation-Saturday, December 3 10:30AM

1st Communion Practice-Students Only-Wed, May 2 6:30PM

1st Communion Rehearsal with Parents-Wed, May 9 6:30 PM

First Communion-Saturday, May 12, 2012 10:30AM

Grade 9

Required Parent Workshop-Sunday, October 2 6:30-8PM

School Auditorium

Grade 10

Confirmation Retreat-Sunday, September 25 10:30-5

This is a required event for all 10th Grade confirmation students.

The day will begin at the 10:30 Liturgy, followed by lunch at the school. Retreat facilitator is Dave Barocsi.

Individual interviews with Father Croghan will be scheduled during the last week of September and the first week of October.

Confirmation Rehearsal-Monday, October 10 6:30-7:30

Required for all students and sponsors

Confirmation-Thursday, October 13 2011 at 7PM

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes begin the week of September 26 and go through April 25th. There will be no class on school holidays or snow days.

Grades 1-5

Monday 7:45–8:45AM **OR** 6:30-7:30PM

OR

Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM

Busing provided to Clinton Elementary School for the morning session.

All second grade students will meet during the parent meetings on Wednesday, October 26th and Wednesday March 21st. 6:30-7:30 PM in the school gym.

Grades 6-8

Monday 6:30-7:30 PM **OR**

Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM

Grades 9 Sunday 6:30-8:00 PM

Oct 2nd & 16th

Nov 6th & 20th

Dec 4th & 18th

Jan 8th & 22nd

Feb 12th & 26th

Mar 11th & 25th

April 1st

Grades 10, 11 & 12 Will meet these Sundays with Mr. Hunt.

The Role of Parents in Faith Formation of their Children

When you had your child baptized, you demonstrated great love for your child. The baptism of your child was a sign of your discipleship and commitment to God and the Church. It also expressed your desire and wish that your child be able to experience a relationship with God and the people of God.

During your child's Baptism, the priest asked you "What do you ask of God's Church?" and you answered, "Baptism".* The priest then spoke to you about your responsibility to teach your child about the love of God and neighbor and the Catholic faith.

Your responsibility includes attending weekly Mass and Mass on Holy Days, supporting the faith community through prayer and sharing your gifts and talents given to you by God.

*The Rite of Baptism for Children #37

The Role of the Church in Faith Formation

As Church, we have a responsibility to those we baptize. We have a responsibility to assist them and their family on their journey of faith and to support them through our prayers and guidance.

Even though the faith community works with the family by offering Faith Formation classes and guidance, parents have the primary role when it comes to teaching the faith to their children.

CURRICULUM

In January 1998 the Diocese of Syracuse outlined learned outcomes for children in Grades 1-8 who attend Parish Faith Formation classes. This outline is based on a “Scope and Sequence” approach, whereby concepts are introduced and gradually added onto in depth and breadth. A summary of each grade is listed below.

Grade 1: Trinity

God loves me. God created all things. In Baptism we become a part of God’s family.

Parents-Encourage your child to share what they learned in class. Make sure regular Mass attendance is a priority.

Grade 2: Jesus

I belong to God’s Christian family. God calls us to be followers of Jesus. The Eucharist is a sacrament of thanksgiving, unity and justice.

Parents-Pray every day with your child. Explain the prayers said during Mass and help them follow along.

Grade 3: The Church

Church is a community of people who believe in Jesus Christ and are baptized. The Ten Commandments show us ways of loving God and others and help us to live good lives.

Parents-Help your child see that we are all an important part of St. Mary’s and the Universal Church

Grade 4: Morality

God, our creator, is merciful and forgiving. God calls us to love and respect ourselves and others. Jesus teaches us to live according to the commandments and the beatitudes.

Parents-As a family, talk about the rules you live by.

Grade 5: Sacraments

The church celebrates the presence and actions of Jesus in the seven sacraments. Sacraments are symbolic actions that make God's grace present to us.

Parents-Talk about and use pictures to remember your family celebrations of the Sacraments. Make Eucharist a priority in your family's spiritual life.

Grade 6: Hebrew Scripture

God established a covenant with his chosen people. The Old Testament reveals that God has always been present and active in the lives of his people.

Parents-Ask what Bible story your child learned in class. As a family, read and discuss it. What does it have to do with us today?

Grade 7: Jesus Christ and His Disciples

The focus is Jesus in history and who he is for us today. As Catholics we follow the teachings of Jesus in our studies and our lives.

Parents-Discuss with your child how Jesus is a role model for you.

Grade 8: Relationship, Prayer and Church

What does it mean to be Catholic. Who are our ancestors in faith and how can our heritage give us hope. As we begin to discuss the sacrament of confirmation we also talk about how do nourish God's gift of faith.

Parents-Continue to show interest in your child's class discussion as well as sharing your own personal faith story with them.

Grade 9 & 10: Sacrament of Confirmation

During these two years the topics of Faith and Revelation will be explored through scripture, tradition and our creation in God's image. The Holy Spirit, sent to guide us in all things, and the Church, the people of God, will also be discussed. What does it mean to be Catholic? How does one live a Christian life? What are the teachings of Jesus?

Parents-Ongoing discussion with yours teens about the above topics will strengthen and reinforce their beliefs.

Attendance

The Diocese of Syracuse requires that we keep attendance records for each student in our program. If your child will be absent, please contact us at 853-6196 ext 3. Please make sure your child arrives on time. It is disruptive to the class to have children arriving late. For the evening classes, parents of students in Grades 1-4 are asked to come into the building to pickup their children at dismissal. They may leave the building with an older sibling provided we have signed permission. This is for their safety due to the number of students attending and traffic on the street and parking lots.

Behavior and Discipline Code

Expectations from our students:

1. Arrive on time
2. Treat each other and teachers with respect
3. Use only acceptable language
4. Be good listeners
5. Participate fully in class
6. Respect the property of others
7. Cell phones are to be placed in basket before class starts

If your child is consistently disruptive, you will be notified. If the behavior continues, you will be called again and a time will be arranged when student, parents, teacher and Mrs. Lauchert can meet to discuss the situation. If behavior continues after that, parents will be asked to attend class with student or home school them for the remainder of the year.

Sign, detach and return with student at first class:

I, _____
(student name)

have read the above behavior code and agree to act in accordance with the stated expectations.

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____