

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET, 2019-2020

[Parents, please keep this sheet as a reference throughout the coming year.]

****Class Times, Drop Off/Pick Up:**

Grades 1-5, 5:45-7pm:

Drop children off under the canopy in front of church or at the sidewalk leading to the north hall door. (The west hall door remains locked.) You can also walk your children into the hall if you prefer. **Please do not drop off children before 5:30, as adult supervision may not be available until that time.**

For pick up, most cars line up and stop under the canopy one at a time for the children. We know picking them up this way takes extra time. However, it is much safer than having the children run through the parking lot in between cars. You can also park your vehicle in the big parking lot and walk to the church entrance to pick your child up, if you prefer.

Grades 6-11, 7:00-8:10pm:

Drop off and pick up for Grades 6-11 can be along the front (north) side of the church or in the bigger parking lot area. (Reminder: West hall door is locked.) Parents, please be watchful of students walking and running, especially when it is dark or slippery.

****Prerequisites:**

For Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist: Completion of Gr. 1 and 2 materials are required prior to reception of the Sacraments.

For Confirmation: Students must satisfactorily complete all the earlier grades, participate in the Confirmation program, and be attending Mass regularly (weekly). Call the parish office with questions you may have about this.

****Inclement Weather:**

If a class is cancelled:

1. Catechists will be notified and asked to call each of their students.
2. If school is cancelled for bad weather that day, class will be automatically cancelled that evening.
3. Cancellation will be announced in school if done while school is still in session that day.
4. Cancellation notice can be heard on WKEB/WIGM radio station in Medford (99.3 FM).
5. You can call the Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE), Hannah Schmidtfranz, (715-965-4943) to find out if class is cancelled or if you have concerns about your travel.

****Absences:**

Call the catechist or CRE (715-965-4943) if your child will be gone from class.

Absences should be minimal: Only if sick or a family emergency.

Attendance is taken. Too many absences could require a class year to be repeated.

Students are not “excused” for going to other faith denomination events or other non-emergency events.

****Safe Environment Training:**

Annual Safe Environment training is done in fall for students. This training is required by our diocese. Parents can refuse the training for their children, but know that it is a program designed to help keep your children safe in different situations, and often when you are not with them. The program called *Circle of Grace* will be used this year. Grade 7 students will continue to have the training regarding the dangers of Human Trafficking. Parents are encouraged to attend that session with their students, as this is a growing danger for our youth. See the schedule for that date.

****Youth Image and Likeness Release Form:**

Please complete the **back** side of the Registration Form, which includes this Release Form.

Complete **ONLY** the entire YES section, OR the entire NO section of the form and sign only once in the section you want completed.

Note: If you check NO, your child will not be able to have pictures taken, including for First Communion and Confirmation. A new form can be completed during the year at any time if you change your mind.

****Reconciliation:**

Students of Grades 3-11 have two opportunities for this Sacrament during Faith Formation—during Advent and Lent.

****Masses During Faith Formation:**

There is one Mass scheduled during this Faith Formation year. Parents as well as students are expected to attend the mass, in place of the regular class time that evening. The Mass will be on Ash Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30pm.

****Grades 1-5 Christmas Pageant:**

Each year Grades 1-5 youth are involved in a short Christmas Pageant. Generally it is held at the end of the Christmas Season, on the Epiphany of the Lord. This school year the pageant will be Sun., Jan. 5, 2020, following the 9am Mass in the church. Any parents who know their children will *not* be in the pageant, please let the catechist or CRE know by early November. It is easier to know before we assign play parts. Be sure to invite grandparents and friends to that Mass! Thank you.

****Grade 2 Retreat for First Reconciliation:**

Held Wed., February 5, during regular class time in church. Students and parents will witness catechists role-playing the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will provide you with the steps to the Sacrament and allow you time to practice the steps with your children.

****Grade 2 First Reconciliation:**

The date of First Reconciliation will be Wednesday, February 19, during their regular class time. The first half of class will include a quick review of the steps to Reconciliation, and the sacrament will be administered following that time. Parents are encouraged to also go to confession, if possible, that same evening. This shows the children how important the sacrament is to your families.

****Grade 2 Retreat for Holy Communion:**

Held Wednesday, April 1, during regular class time in the parish hall. Students and parents will learn the history of the Mass and why we celebrate together today. Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass attendance each week is an obligation and it is important that you attend regularly with your child(ren). Missing Mass for *unnecessary* reasons is a sin, and sends our youth a mixed message. The date for First Communion will be determined in Spring, 2020, but is expected to be late April or early May.

****IMPORTANT NOTE (Youth Rally):**

The annual youth rally scheduled for our diocese has been cancelled this year, however, the youth rally has been replaced by another, very exciting, event that will take place in November. As the logistics of this event are discussed and worked through by the parish catechetical committee, more information will be shared with students and family. Stay tuned!!!

Call Hannah Schmidtfranz, Coordinator of the Faith Formation program with questions or concerns about anything regarding your children and the Faith Formation program. (715-427-5259).