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“Let the little children come to Me.”

Matthew 19:14

**Family Of Faith**

CHURCH RELIGION PROGRAM

Family Catechesis

PARENT AND STUDENT

HANDBOOK

2022-2023

August 11, 2022

Dear Families of St. Bernadette Church,

We are preparing for a more family oriented and communal Church Religion Program for the 2022-2023 season, A Family of Faith Whole Family approach to Catechesis. Please note Required Meting Dates for the 2022-23 Year: Third Sundays: Sep 18, 2022; Oct 16, 2022; Nov 20, 2022; Dec 18, 2022; Jan 15, 2023; Feb 19, 2023; Mar 19, 2023; Apr 16, 2023 and May 21, 2023.  Each month, we will meet by 8:55am in Church to attend 9:00am Mass together, followed by a Family meeting in the Cafeteria for all (with some food) from 10:15am-11:00am, division to small group instruction (parents will continue meeting, participants go with their Catechists for monthly meeting) from 11:05am-11:55pm regrouping in Cafeteria for dismissal prayer to leave by 12:00pm. The Family Meeting will be in the Cafeteria.  At 11:05 break, Groups K-1; Group 2; Group 3-4-5; and Group 6-7 will go with Catechists for individual lessons.  Group 8 and any HS will have a gathering as well, or any Confirmed students Grade 8 or above may choose to volunteer to remain in Cafeteria with any pre K members, or work as aides for any of the Catechetical Groups.  The volunteers choosing to work with pre K children will do so while Parents learn about how to do the lesson in the home.  Group 2 will be concentrating on First Reconciliation Prep in group with Catechist on campus in Sept, Oct, Nov and on First Communion Prep in Feb Mar and April with Catechist on campus, other months will be lessons from Family of Faith.  For group 6-7 THIS YEAR, we will do Chapters 1 through 12 of Chosen (Confirmation Prep Year 1) and lessons from Family of Faith when Chosen is finished. The registration fee is $100 per family regardless of size, and we have eliminated the sacramental prep fee.  Financial assistance will be available, please contact me if you should desire assistance.

Family Catechesis only works when we come together as families – something for everyone from pre-school through late life. This is our way to grow as effective Evangelists, and demonstrating for our families how to grow a solid foundation of faith in order to grow our Faith Family as strong Catholics.

**Each year we experience a need for Catechists and Assistants to serve the growing needs of our growing Parish Family. Please prayerfully consider answering God’s call to share your gifts of Faith if you may safely do so.** Thank You in advance for considering our Saint Bernadette Family of Faith Family Catechesis. We ask your prayers for a powerful growth experience for participants in Our Family Catechetical Program. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

May God Continue to Bless, Protect and Keep Your Family,

**Mike Kleshock**

Mike Kleshock, Director of Faith Formation, St Bernadette Parish

[faithformation@stbameliaparish.org](mailto:faithformation@stbameliaparish.org)

(Office) 513-753-5566 extension 105 (mobile/text) 513-379-0378

**INTRODUCTION**

**Welcome to the Church Religion Program (CRP) for faith formation of the Families of St. Bernadette Church. It is our hope that this handbook will serve as a guide and reference regarding various aspects of our new Family of Faith program, a pilot model for our entire new Faith Family.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

***St. Bernadette is a welcoming Catholic community, worshipping God and serving our neighbor.***

**FAITH FORMATION MISSION STATEMENT**

**The family of St. Bernadette believes that lifelong faith formation is essential to grow in love and service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage all families; children, teens and adults to grow in knowledge of Jesus and the holy, Catholic Church by participation in a wide variety of programs designed to deepen our faith. With lives centered on the Mass and sacraments, we find unity when we recognize Christ alive in the hearts and minds of all who are called to witness.**

**PROGRAM GOAL**

**Our goal is to provide an opportunity for nurturing and forming our families in the teachings of Christ our Lord, through the study of Scripture, the Catholic Catechism, traditions of the church and specifically selected programs designed for religious education of entire families.**

**PROGRAM CONTACTS**

Director of Faith Formation

Mike Kleshock (Office) 513 753-5566 ext 105

(Mobile/Text) 513-379-0378

(email)  [faithformation@stbameliaparish.org](mailto:%20%20faithformation@stbameliaparish.org)

Parish Office

Kayla Kroger 753-5566 ext 101 [admin@stbameliaparish.org](mailto:admin@stbameliaparish.org)

ST. BERNADETTE ADDRESS ST. BERNADETTE WEBSITE

1479 LOCUST LAKE ROAD [www.stbameliaparish.org](http://www.stbameliaparish.org) AMELIA. OHIO 45102

ST. BERNADETTE FACEBOOK PAGE

St. Bernadette, Amelia Ohio 

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **GROUPS K-1; 3-4; 5-6** | **GROUP 2** | **GROUP**  **7-8** |  |
| **SEPTEMBER 18, 2022** | | | | |
| **OCTOBER 16, 2022** | | | | |
| **NOVEMBER 20, 2022** | | | | |
| **DECEMBER 18, 2022** | | | | |
| **JANUARY 15, 2023** | | | | |
| **FEBRUARY 19, 2023** | | | | |
| **MARCH 19, 2023** | | | | |
| **APRIL 16, 2023** | | | | |
| **MAY 21, 2023** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| Families Meet by 9:00am in Church for Mass each month.  Families meet in Cafeteria by 10:15am until 11:00 for food and Group (Family) Session for the entire family.  From 11:05 am until 11:55 am -  Parents and pre-school children remain in Cafeteria for Instruction on doing the Home Lesson. Pre-school children will have supervised activities in the back section of the Cafeteria.  Students will go with Catechists to their group for student group instruction. Note that divisions have changes as we will be doing Sacramental Preparation with Grade 2 and  First Year of two year Confirmation Preparation for Grades 6 and 7.  Grade 8 and High School will have either group instruction or may assist with pre-school activities in Cafeteria.  Some Grade 8 or Above Confirmed Students may choose to assist with student group instructional activities.  At 11:55 am we all meet back in Cafeteria for Closing Prayer and dismissal at Noon. | | | | |

2022-2023 FAMILY OF FAITH FAMILY CATECHESIS

SESSION SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 9:00 am Mass – 12:00 NOON

SYLLABUS NOTES AND GROUP TEXTBOOKS

Group K-1 Home and Class: Family of Faith Parent and Activity Book

Group 2 Home: Family of Faith Parent and Activity Book;

**Class: Believe Celebrate Live First Reconciliation; Believe Celebrate Live First Eucharist**

Group 3-4-5 Home and Class: Family of Faith Parent and Activity Book

Group 6-7 **Class:** Chosen: Your Journey Towards Confirmation

Home: Family of Faith Parent and Activity Book

Group 8 / HS Family of Faith Parent and Activity Book

total of 9 Sunday sessions per group

* Need 1 or 2 Catechists per group X 6 groups = 6 – 12 Catechists
* Possible Event (INTRO/REGISTRATION) on Sunday Sept 11, 2022
* First Reconciliation Retreat and First Reconciliation to be scheduled shortly.
* First Eucharist Retreat, First Communion Practice/Pictures and First Communion to be scheduled shortly.
* Planning a year end event for May 21, 2023
* Please Note: Families must plan on attending all 9 Monthly events which begin with family at 9:00am Mass. In certain exceptional circumstances, Individual Families may have to schedule a make up session, usually scheduled on the Thursday evening following the Sunday session.

**REGISTRATION**

* **Registration for all Faith Formation programs is ongoing for new families joining our parish or entering religious education for the first time. New students should provide Baptismal Certificate at the time of registration. All new and returning Families must have completed family CRP registrations forms.**
* **Registration forms can be found online at our website** [**www.stbameliaparish.org**](http://www.stbameliaparish.org) **or may be obtained at the Parish Office. All completed registration forms and appropriate fees should be returned to Director of Faith Formation, St Bernadette Parish, 1479 Locust Lake Road, Amelia OH 45102 by mail or in person drop off or may be submitted electronically to** [**faithformation@stbameliaparish.org**](mailto:faithformation@stbameliaparish.org) **.**

**TUITION**

* **Tuition will be $100 PER FAMILY. The Sacramental Preparation fee is discontinued for this year.**
* **Please make checks payable to St. Bernadette Church**
* **Financial assistance is available; please contact Director of Faith Formation.**
* **Tuition is waived for all Volunteer Catechists’ families in our CRP Program.**

CURRICULUM REVIEW

**We will utilize the “Family of Faith; Catechesis for the Whole Family” Church Program Books from by Sophia Press. All families will receive one parent guide, one Bible, one Catechism of the Catholic and one activity book for each child enrolled**

**Grade 2 will use “Believe, Celebrate, Live” Parish Program Textbooks from Sadlier for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Preparation (also used in St. Bernadette School Classroom Sacramental Prep)for classwork and the Family of Faith for Home lessons.**

**Group 6/7 will use “Chosen; Your Journey Towards Confirmation” Parish Program Textbooks from Ascension for Confirmation Preparation (also used in St. Bernadette School Classroom Sacramental Prep). This is the first part of a 2 year preparation for Confirmation. The first 12 Chapters of Chosen will be used in Classroom work, in conjunction with “Family of Faith.” Group Grade 8 to High School will use the “Family of Faith Activity Book.**

**The Family of Faith model is designed in such a way as to facilitate entire family participation in one Home session per month facilitated by parents in the home. Parents will discuss these presentation and receive “presentation pointers” during the Parent Session monthly as the children attend the appropriate Group session. Pre-schoolers will remain in room with Parents for Parent Instruction session, but they will have instruction and activities facilitated by High School volunteers and overseen by a Catechist.**

**We will continue to combine grades levels this year. Group K/1 consists of students entering Kindergarten and First grade in the 2022-2023 academic year. Group 2 consists of students entering Second grade in the 2022-2023 academic year. This group is only Grade 2 to facilitate thorough sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Group 5/4/3 consists of students entering Third, Fourth and Fifth grades in the 2022-2023 academic year. Group 7/6 consists of students entering Sixth and Seventh grades in the 2022-2023 academic year. They will begin a 2 Year Confirmation Preparation Program. Group High School /8 consists of Confirmed students entering Eighth grade through twelfth grades in the 2022-2023 academic year.**

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Our sacramental programs are based on these principles:**

* **Parents are the primary teachers of their children.**
* **Sacraments are gifts of grace.**
* **Sacramental catechesis can help invigorate the faith participation of families.**
* **All learning of faith seeks to draw persons into deeper communion with Christ and his Church.**
* **Sacramental Preparation is included in the Parish Religion Program classes with additional mandatory meetings, retreats and projects outside the classroom for students and parents.As such, we partner with parents and families to prepare for the celebration of the sacraments.**

**Typically Baptism is celebrated as an infant, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are celebrated when the child is in 2nd grade and Confirmation is celebrated when the student is in 8th grade. However for many reasons a child may not have celebrated these sacraments at the typical age. We welcome all children under any circumstances and will work to provide instruction necessary to celebrate these sacraments. Please contact the Director of Faith Formation for assistance.**

**HOMESCHOOL OPTION**

**Because of the nature of Family Catechesis and the involvement in Our St. Bernadette Church Faith Life, Home Schooling is not a viable option for this new direction in Family Catechesis. Please feel free to discuss options with the Director of Faith Formation.**

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**NONDISCRIMINATION**

**The policy for admissions at St. Bernadette PRP entails no discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin or intellectual / physical disabilities. The Faith Formation Office will work directly with families to ensure that no student who has an intellectual or physical disability is excluded or discouraged.**

**DISCIPLINE**

**Due to the nature of this Family Catechesis Program, Parents will be available for immediate contact for all On-Campus Sessions. Therefore, if a Catechist determines that it is appropriate to correct a student's behavior, speech or attitude more than once per class, then that student may be referred to the Faith Formation Director who will contact the parent(s) for disciplinary collaboration. Repeated and significant student disciplinary measures may result in a student's expulsion from the program. Such circumstances are rare and parents can be assured that all steps will be taken to work with a family and to allow a student's continued participation in CRP.**

**It is important in a learning community that all students have access to an environment free from distraction. *Bullying is not tolerated at CRP.* St. Bernadette's CRP strictly follows the Decree on Child Protection, which includes the mandate by the Decree on Child Protection as well as the Ohio Revised Code to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.**

**NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS**

**At the time of Family registration, the Faith Formation Office needs to be informed by the custodial parent of the rights of the non-custodial parent.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**In the event of an absence, will be expected to please inform the Director of Faith Formation by email or text that their family will be absent for monthly session. The families will be expected to attend a make-up family session from 6:00pm to 8:30pm on the Thursday immediately following the missed Sunday monthly session.**

**It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the Family make up session is completed in a timely manner.**

**RECORDS**

**Performance and attendance records will be kept on file in the Faith Formation Office. Parents may contact the Faith Formation office in order to access their student's records. Catechists do not keep such records, all attendance and performance accounts are kept on file in the Faith Formation Office.**

**SHARING SPACE**

**It is important that all Participants in our CRP program respect the property of others. The Parish Religion Program shares classroom space with St. Bernadette School. Everyone who uses the space must respect it and the other persons who use it during the week. While the PRP students are in the classrooms they will be using the desks of the St Bernadette School children. Nothing in the desk should be touched. PRP Participants are supplied with pencils, crayons, etc, so there is no need to use or borrow anything that is not provided to them by the CRP. Any items damaged, destroyed, or missing will be repaired or replaced at the participant’s expense.**

**SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

**ARRIVAL**

**Families should arrive no earlier than 8:55am for Mass. Families will remain together from Mass until the break to Individual Group instruction at 11:00am. Families should make every reasonable effort to be present for the every one of the 9 monthly sessions.**

**DISMISSAL**

**All Participants will gather in the Cafeteria by 11:55am for closing prayer and dismissal. All participant Families will free to leave at Noon.**

**NOTE: Please avoid driving in the coned areas. Please park in the parking spaces and walk with your family to and from the Cafeteria.**

**COVID -19 RESTRICTIONS**

**Please DO NOT SEND your child if they are exhibiting symptoms as defined by CDC. The Parish Religion Program will adhere strictly to the protective/preventative measures in accordance with CDC, State and Archdiocesan Mandates or recommendations. Masks may be required (except as exempted), social distancing may be utilized, hand sanitation will be practiced and proper disinfection protocols remain in place to ensure health and safety of all participants in CRP.**

**ILLNESS OR INJURY**

**If a student should become sick or injured during CRP, parents/guardians will be summoned and appropriate medical protocol followed. If a student has a minor injury (e.g. requiring a band-aid), an incident report will be provided to the parents of the student.**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION**

**Students may not attend CRP unless the Emergency Medical Authorization Form is on file. See registration forms.**

**ADMINSTRATION OF MEDICINE**

**No medicine or personal prescriptions will be administered at CRP. Epi-pens and inhalers are the exception. Please contact the Faith Formation Director to coordinate the necessary medical awareness for your child.**

**CANCELLATIONS**

**In the event that a session is cancelled for weather or facility related occurrences, Families will be contacted by email and/or text by 8:00 in the morning of the cancelled session. In the event of a cancellation, all participants should expect to have the monthly session to be rescheduled for the following Sunday. You may contact the Director of Faith Formation with questions or concerns.**

**FOOD AND DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM**

**A light meal is provided for all attendees in the Cafeteria following Mass. Families may wish to provide a bit of appropriate foods for this meal. We ask that any and all food and beverages remain in the Cafeteria and do not travel with students to the group Catechetical sessions. Please include any specific food allergies in the family registration document.**

**POLICY CHANGES**

**In the event that policies and procedures are added or amended, parents will be notified by email and/or in writing. This is the first year of a two year pilot program for Family Catechesis in the Family of Faith Model. We are the model for our family as we move forward in Beacons of Light. God Bless Us, every one!**