

**September, 2018**

**Dear Parents,**

**Thanks for enrolling your child in our Parish Religious Education Program! As you know, the religious education of our young people is one of the Church's most serious responsibilities. Just before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus told His followers to "teach all nations" the Good News about Him. Our Parish Religious Education Program is one of the most important ways in which we can do this.**

**As Catholics, we believe that parents are the primary religious teachers of their children. When God blessed you with a child, He also entrusted you with the awesome responsibility of teaching your child about our Catholic Faith. In addition to enrolling your child in CCD and ensuring that he/she attends all the classes, you fulfill this responsibility in several ways. These include bringing your child to Holy Mass every Sunday or Saturday evening, teaching them to pray, and showing them – by example – what it means to follow Jesus as a Catholic in our modern world. Know that Mrs. Scott, our program director, your child's religious education teacher, and I are always ready to support and help you in any way we can. Never hesitate to give us a call.**

**I look forward to being very involved with the teachers and children in our Religious Education Program. Sharing our faith with the children of our Parish, and helping them and their families grow in their friendship with Jesus, is both an honor and a pleasure for me!**

**God Bless You,**

**Fr. John Barbella**

## **GOAL**

It is the goal of the St. Philip & St. James Parish Religious Education Program to provide the best possible religious education for the children of the Parish who do not attend Catholic School. Realizing that parents are the primary educators of their children, our aim is to involve you as much as possible with the religious education of your children. Families new to the Parish may register by completing a form available at the Church Office.

## **REGISTRATION AND FEES**

Registration is held each spring for the following school year's CCD Program. First grade students and any child new to the Parish must provide a copy of a BAPTISM CERTIFICATE. New students are also asked to provide dates of all Sacraments received and certification of the last religious education grade completed.

The Religious Education fee is \$ 50.00 per student, with a maximum of \$100 per family. If you are unable to make this payment or are in need of special consideration, please contact Father John at the Church Office.

## **PROGRAM OPTIONS**

### **TRADITIONAL: GRADES 1-7**

Held weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5pm at Saints Philip & James School on Roseberry Street.

### **FAMILY: GRADES 1-7**

Held once monthly on a Monday evening from 6-7:45pm at Saints Philip & James School on Roseberry Street. This is a program for both parents and children: Parents meet while the children have class. The children complete two chapters in class, and it is the responsibility of the parents to instruct their children during the month, completing the following two chapters.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER**

Please notify the Religious Education Office if you should have a change in your address or phone number. It is very important that we have this information updated in the event that we would need to reach you in an emergency. If you move out of the Parish or your child transfers to our Parish school, please call. We would like to keep our files accurate and would be glad to provide you with a letter for your child's new school or religious education program.

## **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

If your child has any unusual or life-threatening medical condition, please notify us immediately so we can be prepared. **ALL PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE REGISTRATION FORM WHICH IS KEPT ON FILE IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.**

## **CLASS CANCELLATIONS**

Any advance cancellations will be announced at Sunday Mass in Church and, if possible, in the Church bulletin. There is a general rule for emergency closings due to weather: if children are not in regular school, then there is no CCD. (This rule applies only to closing due to weather.) In the case of regular school early dismissal due to weather, the cancellation will be televised on the WFMZ StormCenter Update, under Saints Philip & James School, and on-line at [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com).

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES/CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students should behave in a respectful manner while they are in class and complete all assignments given. There is absolutely no cell phone use during class. Students are also expected to attend Mass regularly.

## **SAFETY**

### **WEEKLY PROGRAM**

Students should arrive no earlier than 3:45pm and sit quietly at the table designated for their class. At dismissal, the children will be brought back to the same table and will wait there for a parent or other authorized person to come into the building to pick them up. Please note: If someone other than the parent is picking up the child, a note must be sent to the CCD teacher that day.

### **FAMILY PROGRAM**

Families should arrive no earlier than 5:45pm. Parents will remain in the cafeteria for a program while students are taken up to a classroom for their class. Students will return to the cafeteria at dismissal time.

### **FIRE DRILL**

A fire drill will be conducted once a year and a record kept of the date, time, and observations.

## **CURRICULUM**

This year, we are continuing to use the “Faith & Life” series by Ignatius Press. This spiral series provides Catechesis corresponding to the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Doctrine, Morality, Sacraments, and Prayer.

### **Grade 1: Our Heavenly Father**

First grade is an introduction to the Trinity, with emphasis on the life of Jesus, the plan of salvation, and the child's part in the plan. The children are acquainted with Mary, the angels and Saints, and the student learns basic prayers.

### **Grade 2: Jesus Our Life**

Second grade stresses preparation for the first reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lessons emphasize God's mercy and love, and covers Commandments, Creation and Redemption.

### **Grade 3: Our Life with Jesus**

The third grade theme is God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. There is special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion, and the Mass.

### **Grade 4: Jesus Our Guide**

The fourth grade theme is God's plan to save His people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through His word, His law, and His Church.

### **Grade 5: Credo – I Believe**

Fifth grade lessons provide a thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

### **Grade 6: Following Christ**

The sixth grade curriculum is a blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and His gifts of Grace will help us fulfill His law.

### **Grade 7: The Life of Grace**

The seventh grade theme presents Grace as our link with God, His gift to us to bring us to Himself and His eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of Grace through the seven Sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of Himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of Grace is discovered in developing the virtues.

## **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS**

Children in our CCD, as well as those in Catholic School, are registered separately for our Sacramental Programs. In the Diocese of Metuchen, a student must have had two consecutive years of either religious education classes and/or attended a Catholic School in order to be eligible for Sacramental programs.

Students with special situations (already in high school, never attended CCD, or those who have not yet been Baptized or received First Holy Communion) should call Fr. John for assistance in preparing to receive the Sacraments.

### **ABSENCES**

If your child is absent from any religious education class, we ask that you take the time to cover the material missed so that your child will be ready to comprehend the material presented in the next class.

### **WEEKLY PROGRAM**

Any child absent more than FIVE times will be required to pass a test at the end of the year. This is done to be sure that the child understands the doctrine taught and will be ready for the material presented the following year. Those who miss more than EIGHT classes must repeat the grade. We believe that if parents and CCD staff work together in this effort, your children will get the best religious education possible outside of Catholic School.

### **FAMILY PROGRAM**

Since sessions are only held once a month, it is expected that families will attend every session. Dates for make-up classes have been built into the calendar, but will only be used in the event of the cancellation of the regular class session.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress reports will be sent home once during the year. These reports indicate class preparation and class participation, as well as behavior.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

As Stewardship Projects, all grades donate food for local needy families in November, and donate to the Missions during Lent. All of the money collected is donated to the Missionary Childhood Association.

### **DIOCESE OF METUCHEN COMPLIANCE**

All policies for the Religious Education Program at St. Philip & St. James are in compliance with the Policies of the Diocese of Metuchen. This includes Child Abuse and Safety, Controlled Dangerous Substances, Alcohol or Weapons Policies, and all other policies pertaining to Religious Education. These policies are available for review at the Church Office.

**Church of Saint Philip and Saint James**

**430 South Main Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

**Fr. John J. Barbella, Pastor**

**(908) 454-0112      Fax: (908) 454-0125**

**Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8am-4pm  
(Closed for lunch from 12-1:15pm)**

**Monday – 5-8pm**

**[www.spsj.org](http://www.spsj.org)**

**Religious Education Office (Roseberry Street)**

**(908) 859-1244 (dial option 9)**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00pm**

**E-mail: [religiouseducation@spsj.org](mailto:religiouseducation@spsj.org)**

**Mrs. Jo-Ann Scott, Director of Religious Education**

**Saints Philip & James School**

**137 Roseberry Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

**Mrs. Donna Kucinski, Principal**

**(908) 859-1244 School Office**

**HOLY MASS**

***Saturday Evening: 4:30pm (fulfills Sunday obligation)***

***Sunday: 7am, 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), 5:30pm***

***Daily Mass: Monday-Friday 6:45am, 8am, 12:10pm in the Church***

***Tuesday 7pm (Spanish) in the Church (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of each month)***

***Wednesday 7pm in the Church***

***Saturday 7am, 8am in the Church***

**CONFESSIO**

***Saturday 9-9:30am and 3:15-4:15pm or by appointment***