

# **ST. PATRICK FAITH FORMATION** (Religious Education) *Program Handbook*

**Pastor: Msgr. Steven Camp**

**Faith Formation Director: Mrs. Mary Calabrese**, dre@stpathunt.org, 631-385-3311, ext. 350

**Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Christine Petti**, reeducation@stpathunt.org, 631-385-3311, ext. 351

## **CLASS**

- Formal Religion Classes begin in Grade One and continue to Grade Eight. Children are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- Classes are held in the School Building. Grades Three through Eight will have the opportunity for special visits to the Church.
- **Please drop your child off on time**, dressed appropriately, and prepared for class.
- **Please have your child use the bathroom before class.** Bathroom use during class will be discouraged. If your child has a medical need, please let the Faith Formation Office know.
- Diocesan policy: **No food or drink in the school building.** No medication can be distributed.
- **Cell phones must be turned off during class.**
- If your child has any physical or medical condition that can affect their ability to learn, please let the Faith Formation Office know so we can best help your child.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

- **Your child should bring their textbook and a pen or pencil to class every week.**
- Please be sure your child's first and last name is in their textbook.
- Textbooks contain sacred concepts and should be treated with respect.
- **A fee (\$20) will be charged to replace a lost book.**
- Parents are the primary educators of the faith for their children. Please take the time to look over the textbook with your child before or after class.



## **INCLEMENT WEATHER/EMERGENCY CLOSING**

- There will be no Faith Formation classes when the Huntington School District closes and/or cancels after school activities.
- Emergency closing information will also be emailed home.

## **BEHAVIOR**

- **Please remind your child to be respectful** to our staff, dedicated volunteers, to each other, and to the belongings of others. The Director, in consultation with the Pastor, reserves the right to dismiss from the program any student who, after correction, continues to be disruptive or disrespectful.

## **ATTENDANCE**

- **Attendance is required weekly.** (Sports is not an excuse for being absent.)
- Please call or email the Faith Formation Office if your child will be absent and let us know the reason your child is not able to attend class.
- **Your child must complete any work he or she missed if enrolled late or when absent.** You child should show their completed work to the catechist. Please check that your child has completed the work neatly, and in a timely matter.

## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

- **Students enter and exit using the Main School Entrance.**
- **Dismissal:** Grades One through Grade Six will be brought out of the building. For the safety of your child, please park your car and go to the entrance to pick up your child. Let the catechist know when you are taking your child.
- Grades Seven and Eight will be allowed to leave the building. If you do not want your child leaving the building, please notify the Faith Formation Office.
- Parents must be present for children to use playground equipment.
- Please be respectful and patient in the parking lot. Follow the signs for entering and exiting. Do not park in the handicapped spots unless permitted to do so. **The safety of the children should be EVERYONE'S first priority.**

## EARLY DISMISSAL FROM CLASS

- **Early dismissal is allowed for emergencies. Please come to the School Lobby Main Entrance to sign out your child.** Please do not text your child to leave the building. A staff person will get your child from the classroom and bring them to the lobby entrance.

## COMMUNICATION

- **Please read your emails.** The Faith Formation Office sends out information such as notices of calendar changes, upcoming events and reminders via email. Please check frequently for such information and ensure that the office has your updated email address.
- Please check the Parish Website under **Faith Formation** for pertinent information such as the Calendar, Prayers, Mass Homework Sheets, Confirmation Packet, Grade Seven Service Form, etc.



## GRADE LEVEL PRAYERS AND TEACHINGS

- **Grade One:** *Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, and Grace*
- **Grades Two and Three:** *Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Grace, Act of Contrition, Rosary, Seven Sacraments*
- **Grade Four:** *Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Grace, Act of Contrition, Rosary, Seven Sacraments, Great Commandment, Ten Commandments*
- **Grades Five and Six:** *Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Grace, Act of Contrition, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Seven Sacraments, Great Commandment, Ten Commandments, Nicene Creed*
- **Grade Seven:** *Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Grace, Act of Contrition, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Seven Sacraments, Great Commandment, New Commandment, Ten Commandments, Nicene Creed, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching*
- **Grade Eight:** *Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Lord's Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Grace, Act of Contrition, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Seven Sacraments, Great Commandment, New Commandment, Ten Commandments, Nicene Creed, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, Beatitudes, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Holy Spirit, Prayer to the Holy Spirit*



## MASS

*Please celebrate the Sacraments with your child. As Catholics we are obligated to attend Mass every week and on Holy Days of Obligation.*

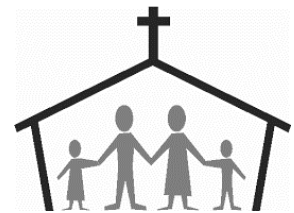
- There are **two Grade Level Masses for each grade** and they are listed on the calendar. Students attend with their family. Grade Level Masses are a part of the Faith Formation Program and your families' attendance is expected. **In order for your child to proceed to the next grade level, two Mass Homework Sheets must be handed in at two different Masses.**
- **Homework Sheets serve as attendance and will be emailed home.** They are also available on the parish website.
- If your child cannot attend their Grade Level Mass, have your child hand in the Homework sheet at the next Mass they attend and give it to the priest at the end of the Mass. (If it is another grade level Mass, your child can bring the sheet up during Mass with the other students.) Grade Level Masses are listed on the calendar.
- In addition to the two Grade Level Masses, Grade Eight students attend one Life Teen Mass and Meeting.
- St. Patrick Mass Schedule: Saturday: 5:00 PM, Sunday: 7:30 AM, 8:45 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 5:30 PM

## REQUIRED PARENT MEETINGS

- Grade One: Parent and Child Orientation
- Grade Two: First Reconciliation Parent Meeting and First Communion Parent Meeting
- Grade Seven: Confirmation Program Parent Meeting
- Grade Eight: Confirmation Parent Meeting

## PARENT/CHILD LARGE GROUP CLASSES IN CHURCH – GRADES ONE & TWO

- These classes are for both parent and child.
- There are two large group classes for Grade One and Grade Two. Students go directly to the Church with their parent.
- In addition, there is a First Reconciliation Preparation Class and First Communion Rehearsal for Grade Two for both parent and child.
- Check the calendar for dates.



## SACRAMENTS

- A valid Baptism certificate is required to receive the Sacraments.
- Sacrament preparation is a two-year process.
- The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are received in Grade Two.
- Confessions are scheduled for Grades Three through Grade Eight. Check the calendar for dates. If your child cannot attend their grade level Confession date, call the office.
- Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is in Grade Eight.

## CONFIRMATION

- Grade Seven students are asked to hand in a "Commitment Covenant" at Mass.
- A Confirmation Packet for Grade Eight is handed out at the Parent Confirmation Meeting.
- Grade Eight students hand in a letter to the pastor requesting Confirmation (instructions are in the Confirmation packet).
- Confirmation Students must attend a Retreat as part of their Confirmation Preparation.
- Grades Seven and Eight are required to do community service. The Service Form for Grade Seven (10 hours) will be emailed home. The Grade Eight (20 hours) information is in the Confirmation Packet. Check the parish website for service ideas.

## FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

- **Monday-Thursday**, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM or by appointment
- Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions you may have.

## REGISTRATION

- Re-registration for Faith Formation classes is required every year. Registration is on the parish website. Register early to receive your desired day. Class placement is on a first-come, first serve basis.

## PHOTOS

- Sometimes photos are taken for the Parish bulletin, Website, or the Parish Instagram. **If you do not want your child to be photographed, please email the Faith Formation Office.**

## SAFE ENVIROMENT PROGRAM

- All volunteers and staff are required by the Diocese to complete a background check, sign a Code of Conduct, participate both in the *Virtus* workshop and the ongoing program regarding best practices to safeguarding our children from all kinds of abuse.

## CHILD LURES PREVENTION

- As per the Charter for the Protection of God's Children, all Faith Formation Programs are required to offer *Safeguarding God's Children* to the participants of the program. Information will be sent home.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Youth Ministry-Teen Life: Mr. Michael Clauberg, [youthministry@stpathunt.org](mailto:youthministry@stpathunt.org)
- Choir: Mr. Matthew Koraus, [musicdirector@stpathunt.org](mailto:musicdirector@stpathunt.org)



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

- Catechists (teachers), Substitute Catechists, Classroom Aides, and Hall Monitors are always needed. Please prayerfully consider giving your time to support the program.