

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND SAINT PATRICK
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

3094 Albany Post Road, Buchanan, NY 10511

Phone: (914) 737-1046

Email: ffmprogram2@yahoo.com

www.chrispatpatrick.com

May, 2017

Dear Families,

We are pleased to offer weekly classes in the Faith Formation Center to our students, in a variety of programs from 1st grade through 8th grade Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Program. Our programs and materials are presented by our volunteer catechists, who so generously share their time, talents, faith, gifts and their love of Church, with the youth.

Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.

The coordinators support the catechists with ongoing training, materials and suggestions of how to best present the materials and meet the learning styles of all our students. Therefore, it is important that parents share with us any special learning, medical and/ behavioral concerns or disability issues that their child may have so that we can do our best to accommodate their child's needs. All student and family records are held in strictest confidence at all times.

Parental commitment is essential.

It is our expectation that all enrolled children attend the scheduled classes, including special programs and grade level retreats, if applicable. Participating regularly in the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Mass) and the parish Faith Formation Program instills the Catholic faith in a child. It is important for the child to make connections between what they learn at home, in class and at Mass. Parents are expected to attend program level meetings, especially for Sacramental Preparation Programs.

Parents are expected to sign the "[We are Faithfully Committed](#)" agreement at registration and then we will have the students sign the agreement during their first class in September.

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ABSENCES: Please note: Due to the importance of every class no more than four absences will be allowed per year for grades 1-7 students that attend every week and no more than two absences will be allowed per year for grades 7 and 8 that meet twice a month. This will prevent delaying progression through the program and/or meeting the requirements of the Archdiocese of New York. In case of absence due to an emergency or illness that prevents a student from attending one of the scheduled classes, an assignment will be required so that the flow of the material will not interrupt the learning. **In no way is this a punitive measure. It is for the benefit of the student and would allow some credit to be given while maintaining a balance of accountability of all students and ensuring that your child meets the requirements of the program as defined by the Archdiocese of NY.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Please check emails in the case of inclement weather. If class is cancelled due to the weather, a make-up date will be scheduled for May 2018. We follow the Hendrick Hudson School Calendar and Inclement Weather Policy.

2017 – 2018 Youth Formation Classes

Registration for 2017-18 will take place beginning May 15, 2017 for all new and currently enrolled students in the Faith Formation Program. **All new students must present their Baptismal certificate at the time of registration and Holy Eucharist certificate if applicable. *If your child has not been baptized, please contact the Pastor prior to registering your child.* ALL Students must be re-enrolled yearly during May.**

We welcome all children into the Faith Formation Program. All enrolled children are expected to attend class, including special programs and grade level retreats, if applicable. Parents are expected to attend program level meetings, especially for Sacramental Preparation Programs. In addition, regular Mass attendance is expected. Not only is this part of being a practicing Catholic, it only makes sense in the ongoing formation of your child's faith. Participating regularly in the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Faith Formation program defines a child in their Catholic faith.

**OUTSTANDING BALANCES FROM PREVIOUS YEAR(S)
MUST BE FULFILLED BEFORE ENROLLING FOR 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR
or you will have to speak to Fr. George Oonnoony.**

For special payment schedule arrangements, please contact Fr. George Oonnoony.

50% MINIMUM IS DUE AT REGISTRATION AND THE REMAINING 50% WILL BE DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2017.

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Youth Sacramental Programs: The Archdiocese of New York Guidelines requires that a student must attend a full year of Roman Catholic Religious Education, prior to enrolling in an Immediate Sacramental Preparation Program. Preparation of First Penance (Reconciliation) and Preparation of Holy Communion is a two year preparation process. Both the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion is held in Grade 2, students must have completed Grade 1. The Confirmation Program is a two year preparation process that begins in 7th grade and is completed the fall of the student's 9th grade year. 8th graders will follow *Chosen*, a 24-week lesson plan that provides an exciting, comprehensive, and interactive journey through the Catholic faith and offers a complete system of evangelization—progressively calling young people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of each class, Catechists will distribute prayer cards for ALL students to begin the class with prayers – Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Prayer, Act of Contrition, and the Nicene Creed to profess our faith (grades 6-8 will practice the creed). Each class will also end with the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Prayer and Act of Contrition.

Special recognition will also be given to students with perfect attendance AND full mass participation.

Program Requirements: 45 hours in total per the Archdiocese of New York

Grades 1-6 Sunday and Tuesday (weekly), 26 classes, 9 required liturgies*, 2 Family Events = 45 hours

Grade 7 Tuesday (weekly), 26 classes, 9 required liturgies*, 2 Family Events = 45 hours

Grade 7 Sunday (2x a month), 17 classes, 9 required liturgies*, 8 minimum events, 1 Family Event = 45 hours

Grade 8 Tuesday (2x a month), 14 classes, 9 required liturgies*, 8 minimum events = 45 hours

- * Students will be required to have their mass participation cards stamped to confirm their attendance at the required liturgies.

PROGRAMS AND TIMES:

Grades 1-5: Sunday 9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. or Tuesday 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm

Grade 6: Sunday 9:45 a.m. -11:00 a.m. or Tuesday 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Grade 7: 2 Sundays a Month 9:45 am - 11:15 am (*See Description Requirements Document*)

Grade 7: Tuesday (weekly) 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Grade 8: 2 Tuesdays a Month 6:30 - 8:15 pm or 2 Sundays a Month 9:45 am - 11:30 am
(*See Description Requirements Document*)

Please note that students in grades 7 (Sunday program) and 8 meet 30 minutes longer than the younger students since they only meet twice a month.

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Children in grades 2-8 are **required** and **encouraged** to participate in a Ministry (see attached Ministry Participation Form). Students will complete these forms during the first class in September 17, 2017.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

Preparation for Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion: This two-year program will prepare children for both sacraments which they will receive in 2nd grade. The focus will be on the four prayers: The Glory Be, The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary, and The Act of Contrition. In addition, the children will hear Bible stories of God's forgiveness, learn the Ten Commandments and basics of the Beatitudes, and discover the difference between sins and mistakes. The children will also spend a great amount of time learning about the Mass.

Grade: *Grades 1 and 2*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am (grades 1 and 2 are combined) or
Tuesday afternoons 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm (grades 1 and 2 are taught separately)*

Continuing our Sacramental Journey: The gift of faith received at baptism must be nourished throughout the entire life of each Christian. Our parish Religious Education program assists parents, who are the first educators of Catholic faith, in helping their children learn, and learn to live, the mystery of Jesus Christ. The curriculum will focus on all aspects of the church from creation to salvation.

Grade: *Grade 3*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am or Tuesday afternoons 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm*

Grade: *Grades 4 and 5*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am or Tuesday afternoons 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm*

Our Faith Journey Continues: Students journey deep into the Bible, exploring the Old Testament, meeting the earliest believers and followers of God, who remained faithful awaiting the coming of the promised Messiah. Through trials and tribulation, famine, slavery, wars, ruled by unjust governmental leaders, they remained steadfast in the faith. Many of whom they will meet and hear stories about are today's Saints, and are Christian role models for them. The curriculum will also focus on building communities of missionary disciples with an emphasis on the prayers, the sacraments, justice and peace, and family values.

Grade: *Grade 6*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am or Tuesday afternoons 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm*

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Preparation for Sacraments of Confirmation: This two-year program will prepare children for the Sacrament of Confirmation which they will receive in the fall of 9th grade. Students explore and enrich their growing faith by using an interactive thematic approach. Interwoven in their curriculum are Church feasts and seasonal activities, as well as the playing of faith-knowledge games. **8th graders WIRED meetings will take place during class time. In addition to attending 2 family events which are held during Advent and Lent, Students in 7th and 8th grade that attend the twice a month program will have to ALSO attend a minimum of 8 out of 10 REQUIRED events (see below). These events will be identified as REQUIRED. If the event is also a service event, it will be identified as REQUIRED/SERVICE. 7th and 8th graders must have 20 hours of service completed before June 1st of 8th grade.**

Grade: Grades 7

Day & Time: *Tuesday afternoons 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm (every week)
Or 2 Sunday Mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am (twice a month)*

Grade: Grades 8

Day & Time: *2 times a month Tuesday evenings 6:30 pm – 8:15 pm
Or 2 Sunday Mornings 9:45 am – 11:30 am*

Note to Families who have missed any time of their Faith Formation:

Any student with a gap in their faith formation classes, will be REQUIRED to make-up the year(s) missed. It is under the discretion of the clergy of the Parish whether or not a student has fulfilled the sacramental requirements. A special workshop in addition to regular CCD class time may also be required. There will be \$25 fee for the workshop. Baptism/First Communion Workshop is in addition to attending normal CCD Class. This workshop is offered on Sunday mornings from 11:30 am – 12:15 pm. “Catch-up classes” for students in grades 6, 7, or 8 will attend an evening workshop once a week in addition to their normal CCD class.

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Grade 7 (twice a month program) & Grade 8 must complete REQUIRED EVENTS (must attend at minimum 8): If it is only a REQUIRED event, the email subject will state "REQUIRED". If it is required and provides service to others, the email subject will state "REQUIRED/SERVICE". The Service Reflection sheets which are found in the Confirmation Binders which are distributed to 8th graders in September, must be filled out the ALL service events. Forms are not needed for REQUIRED events. Please see the service document for more information regarding Confirmation Service.

1. Multicultural Festival (October)
2. Thanksgiving Family Dinner (November)
3. Thanksgiving Baskets for the Needy (November)
4. Tom Bertoline Toy Drive
5. Reconciliation (Advent)
6. Advent Wreath Making (November)
7. Family Events (November/December)
8. Reconciliation (Lent)
9. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper/Fat Tuesday Dinner following Mass
10. Stations of the Cross (offered every Friday throughout Lent)
11. St. Patrick's Dinner (March at OLMC)
12. Family Events (March)
13. Solider Run (March)
14. Easter Egg Hunt (Palm Sunday)
15. Holy Thursday Mass
16. Good Friday Mass
17. Easter Flower Planting & Earth Day Cleanup (April)
18. Crowning of Mary (May)
- 19. Others? Will be announced in emails, church bulletin, and on the parish community board.**

FAMILY EVENTS (grades 1-7 weekly student must attend 2, grade 7 (twice a month students must attend at minimum 1) (check emails as we offer Family Event Dates)

1. Advent Event
2. Lent Event
3. Other Events TBA (to be announced – check bulletins, emails, community board)