

## **Be My Disciple**

The catechetical program at St. Cecilia has your child at the center of catholic faith formation. As such, your child is being asked to share what they are learning with you, their family. As parent / guardian you are asked to review your child's class assignments, have them be prepared for class, arrive at the appropriate time, assist and encourage them to grow in their Catholic faith. While at class, students are required to respect each other and staff as being creations of the Father.

As the catechetical program Invites, Teaches and Challenges, it is you, the parent / guardian that has a strong influence on your child. As children follow adult examples your examples are mimicked. You should lead with good, moral and Catholic behavior. This positive Catholic life style goes a long way in their faith formation.

As a parent / guardian you have the responsibility to see that your child attends weekly Mass. This is paramount in their faith formation. Classroom and Mass attendance completes an integral part of their faith foundation.

### SAFETY NOTE

Parents / guardians are responsible for walking their child from the parking lot to the church and at the end of class escorting them from the church to the parking lot. Children are not permitted to cross the roadway in front of the church alone. Parents/guardians are required to collect their child at the end of class in a timely manner. Not having your child picked up in a timely is a burden for the staff.

### CLASSROOM CATECHATICAL TRAINING

The current schedule of classroom instruction will be twice per month. A class schedule has been posted to the web and is available from the catechist or religious education office. This will help in your scheduling needs. All reasonable accommodations will be made for your child who may be classified, but, will need to be worked out in advance with the DRE, DRE assistant and the grade catechist.

#### Grades 1 - 5

These grades will be using the "Be My Disciple" faith instructional formation program. This requires regular classroom attendance, completion of homework assignments and be an active participate in classroom activity.

#### Grade 2

The second grade is the grade year your child will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The Be My Disciple program is used and is supplement with additional materials necessary for Sacrament preparation.

#### Grade 6

Students will be taking part in a Sacred Scripture course of study entitled "Encounter". This program is intended to provide a basic understanding of the Bible as it relates to Salvation History. The course of study is specific to middle school aged children. The students will be provided a bible for this

program. Having completed this course of study they may apply to other parish bible study programs. Starting in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students are encouraged to start working on parish service hours.

## Grade 7 and 8

The course of study for these grade groups is entitled "CHOSEN". This is an interactive DVD based program with workbook assignments. This course is given over a two year period and provides a practical application of the Catholic faith. Grade 7 being part one and grade 8 (Confirmation year) being part two. In grade 8 there is a retreat usually held in January or February.

## SERVICE HOURS

20 service hours are required to be completed to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Service hours need to be completed over a three year period. Students in grade 6 can start and are encouraged to start working on their service hours.

20 service hours over three years should not be burdensome requirement. If there are limitations that may prevent the student from completing this requirement, other accommodations will be made.

Service hours should be completed within a parish ministry or a parish sponsored ministry or event. Questions specific to this requirement needs to be addressed by the DRE or the DRE assistant. The Religious Education contact information is found in the weekly parish bulletin or on line at the parish website.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- Registration in St Cecilia Religious Education program presupposes that the family DOES / WILL attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in keeping with the precepts of the Catholic Church.
- Parents / Guardian agree to raise their child / children according to the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- Parents / Guardian will assure the student is prepared for class with any assigned homework or project being completed.
- Students are to attend all sessions at their grade level in a timely and respectful manner and have assigned work completed when due.
- If students miss two consecutive classes, the child with assistance from parent / guardian must make arrangements to complete missed work and associated assignments.
- No unruly classroom behavior will be tolerated. There is "zero tolerance" for disruptive behavior. All students and staff will respect each other as a creation of the Father.
- Students MUST be collected in a timely manner at the conclusion of their class. Delay in collecting your child is disruptive to staff.

## CHATECHISTS AND VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers who come in contact with students at St. Cecelia Religious Ed program adhere to the required components of the Diocese of Metuchen regarding: Catechist Screening, Child Safety, Food and Medical Guidelines.

## CANCELLATION OF SESSIONS

St. Cecilia follows South Brunswick Township for inclement weather cancellations. When classes and / or after school activities are cancelled in the township, Religious Education classes will also be cancelled.

## CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices, such as iPods, Ipads, cell phones and gaming devices are not permitted to be used during class time. Students may have them but must be turned off during class. Student will use their cell phones to contact parent / guardian being late collecting their child.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Lori Donlin - Religious Education Administrative Assistant. Telephone: 732-329-1141. Email: [reledsect@stceciliaparish.net](mailto:reledsect@stceciliaparish.net)

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