

**St. Ann Roman Catholic Church  
Faith Formation Handbook  
and  
Calendar 2017/2018**



**Grades 1-8**

**704 Jefferson Street  
Hoboken, NJ 07030**





## **CATECHETICAL SUNDAY**

### **2017/2018**

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17<sup>th</sup> and will focus on the theme “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

### ***ABOUT CATECHETICAL SUNDAY***

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God “The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life” (*National Directory of Catechesis* [NDC] [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005], no. 17).

### ***Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?***

In 1935, the Vatican published *On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education*, a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church’s teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. For the first few years after Catechetical Sunday was established, national catechetical congresses were held in conjunction with the celebration. Beginning in 1971, the USCCB’s Department of Education began producing materials to help parishes celebrate the event at the local level. When the Committee of Catechesis, now named the Committee of Evangelization and Catechesis, was named by the Conference as a standing Committee, it continued to publish Catechetical Sunday materials each year. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday.

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Dear Parent(s):

Deanery 9 of the Archdiocese of Newark of made up of five parishes: St. Francis, St. Ann, Sts. Peter and Paul, Our Lady of Grace/St. Joseph all located in Hoboken and St. Lawrence in Weehawken. In our concern over the faith development in our parish communities we have come to a common policy for all our parish religious education/faith formation programs.

A Parish is a community of faith to which we choose to belong by registering as a member. It is where we come to celebrate Mass, receive sacraments, be formed in faith and share our time, talents and treasure.

Parents are the first teachers of their children in faith. By their love and care they imagine a God who loves them and is always there for them in times of joy and sorrow. Our parish religious education/faith formation programs are the Church's way of helping parents in the awesome responsibility of raising their child in the faith in which they were baptized.

We have some expectations about where and how children are enrolled, so we have developed a policy to define what is expected and required in all our parishes.

- A. Families must be actively registered in a specific parish community
- B. Children are to be registered in the religious education/faith formation program of the parish in which you are registered. The only exception to this rule will be in rare cases of necessity. This exception will be granted with a written letter from the pastor of the parish in which you are registered.
- C. The parish religious education/faith formation program is not just a way to receive sacraments, but an on-going formation in faith for both children and their parents. It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Newark and of this deanery that your child is expected to continue in the faith development process from at least Grades 1 to 8.
- D. Children are expected to have sufficient faith formation to be accepted into a sacramental preparation program. Participation may be expected for make-up instruction.

The parish that you choose should be the place where you feel most "at home". Participation in community of faith enables us to grow and be strengthened as both individuals as well as a community. The booklet that follows is how and when we are formed in Faith Formation at Saint Ann Catholic Church.

Sincerely,  
The Pastors of Deanery 9 of the Archdiocese of Newark

## **Parish Mission**

We, the Catholic community of Saint Ann Catholic Church, are guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that each person may be able to experience love, forgiveness, unity and spiritual peace and bring this experience to those most in need.

## **Faith Formation Mission**

Religious Education at Saint Ann is rooted in Sacred Scriptures. It is faithful to the Tradition of the Catholic Church and guided by the Holy Spirit. Our program is centered on the Person of Jesus Christ, inviting relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This program encourages a living faith within the Domestic and Universal Church.

Built and grounded on the four pillars of the Catholic Faith; Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Commandments and Prayer.

Our program uses the six tasks of catechesis, which are to promote:

- ❖ Knowledge of the faith
- ❖ Liturgy of Sacraments
- ❖ Morality
- ❖ Prayer
- ❖ Community/Mission of the Church
- ❖ To be active Christian members of society to teach the children their Catholic Faith.

## Goals

- ❖ To instill the parents with the knowledge that faith begins at home which is the Domestic Church.
- ❖ To encourage the parents to participate more fully in their child's faith formation so that they, too, may grow in faith.
- ❖ To develop a strong sense of belonging to a parish family, by participation in Sunday Mass and other parish celebrations.
- ❖ To prepare children and their families for reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- ❖ To work with our youth in preparing them for the Sacrament of Confirmation both spiritually and doctrinally, developing a habit of service to others and commitment to worship and community.

## **Registration**

Saint Ann does follow the Archdiocese of Newark policy that families are to be registered in the parish as a requisite to register for the Religious Education Program. If your family is not a member of our parish and would like to enroll in our program, please contact Fr. Remo, our pastor or Barbara Migliori, Director of Faith Formation, so we can make the necessary arrangements. A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate along with other sacramental certificates that your child has received must be submitted to complete the registration process.

## **Tuition**

**If paid by July 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**For One (1) Child:**

**\$ 60.00**

**After July 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**\$ 75.00**

**For Two (2) Children:**

**\$120.00**

**\$135.00**

**For Three (3) or more Children:**

**\$130.00**

**\$145.00**

## **Religious Education Class Schedule**

All students meet at 8:50am in HCA Gym. Prayer Assembly begins at 9:00am. Children will go to class at 9:10am and at 10:20am, children will be chaperoned to Church for the 10:30am Mass. Mass and class are to be attended as a requisite for attendance. Parents must give written approval for the Catechists to walk their child/ren to the Church.

## **2017-2018 Class Schedule**

### **2017**

September	17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>
October	1 <sup>st</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
November	5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>
December	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>
January	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
February	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
March	4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
April	8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
May	6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>

### **Special Celebrations**

First Communion	May 12 <sup>th</sup>
May Crowning	May 13 <sup>th</sup>
First Reconciliation	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Confirmation	TBD
Step/Up Celebration	May 20 <sup>th</sup>

## **Attendance**

Each course of study at each grade level is done sequentially.

**Only 3 absences per semester will be allowed.** Frequent absences makes it impossible for your child to grasp concepts.

Developing a sense of community and an identity with the parish are important aspects of our overall program. We live and grow in the parish family. **Attendance at Sunday Masses is highly recommended whether class is in session or not.**

If your child is going to be absent, please call Barbara Migliori at (201) 207-2328 before class begins so she can inform your catechist or you can contact the catechist directly.

## **Tardiness**

Students arriving to class after 9:00am need to be escorted to their classroom by a parent/guardian so that the Faith Formation catechist is aware of their arrival.

## **Pick Up/Drop/Off Policy**

We are concerned about the safety of your children, so for that reason, for grades 3-8 please escort your child inside the HCA Gym, no later than 9:00am. All children should be picked up outside the Church no later than 11:30am unless otherwise noted. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be picked up in the church at their seats.

Important Safety Directive: No child may be dropped off or picked up unaccompanied by a parent by any delivery service such as UBER or any taxi. Until a child is dropped off or picked up in accordance with the policy found in the handbook, Saint Ann Catholic Church is not liable for his/her safety.

Without a written notice prior to class, we cannot release your child to another person.

If you permit your child to walk home, please indicate it by sending a letter to the Parish Office to the attention of Barbara Migliori.

## **Inclement Weather**

In case of inclement weather, you will receive an email to notify you of the cancellation of class.

## **Fire Drill**

A Fire Drills will be conducted during the year to insure the safety of our students. September 24, 2017 & March 11, 2018.

## **Student Conduct of Discipline**

Students are required to be polite and respectful to the Faith Formation staff, catechists, their peers, and school/Church property.

- Students are expected to show respect for all persons and their feelings in words and actions.
- Students are expected to comply with the classroom rules set out by the catechist in the interest of providing a good learning environment.
- Students are not allowed to bring gum or candy to class.
- Hats are not to be worn in the building.
- Toys and electronics are not to be brought to class.
- Cell phones are to be shut off and put away during class.

## **Custody**

In cases where the custody of our students has been restricted by the courts, a copy of the court document must be on file in our office. This information will be forwarded to your child's catechist.

## **Child Abuse Policy**

New Jersey State Statutes requires that the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) be notified immediately if a catechist and/or Parish Catechetical Leader of Religious Education suspects that a child has been abused or neglected.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark website is: [www.RCAN.ORG](http://www.RCAN.ORG)

## **Drugs**

Drugs are not allowed on school/Church property. If a student is found to be in possession, the student will be detained until the police are notified.

Parents(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified.

## **Student records**

Every effort will be made to keep detailed records of each child. These records contain sacrament information. If a family transfers to another parish, a copy of the record will be forwarded upon written request to the new parish. Any child entering the program from another parish is required to present a copy of his/her record from that parish.

## **Change of Address**

Please notify the Parish office of any change of address, phone number or e-mail address. It is important to keep the Religious Education data base current so you may be better served.

## **Monthly Family Sundays**

On the third Sunday of each month, designated as Family Sunday, parents and their children will sit together to celebrate the Eucharist at the 10:30am Mass. Prior to the Family Sunday Mass, parents are asked to meet with Fr. Remo in the HCA Gym to discuss and learn matters of our faith.

The Family Sundays are as follows:

- September 24<sup>th</sup>
- October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- November 19<sup>th</sup>
- December 17<sup>th</sup>
- January 21<sup>th</sup>
- February 25<sup>th</sup>
- March 18<sup>th</sup>
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>

## **Textbooks**

Grades 1-6 will use the New Evangelization Edition - “Christ Our Life” by Loyola Press. Candidates for Confirmation will use “Chosen” by Ascension Press. Lost books are to be replaced at a cost of \$20.00 each.

## **ACRE Exam**

The Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) is an integrated, multi-level survey instrument developed by the National Catholic Educational Association. It is designed to provide parish and diocesan religious education educators with valuable information on the students’ religious knowledge, religious beliefs, attitudes and practices; and perceptions of themselves, their parish community and their parish religious education program. This exam is administered to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during the spring.

## Catechists

St. Ann is grateful to the faithfulness and dedication of these catechists to our parish family.

<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Carolina Vera/ Arlene Ricciardi</i>	<i>Room 101</i>
<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Staci Zegler/ Antoinette Gadaleta</i>	<i>Module 2</i>
<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Carmela Ehret/Ashley Rada</i>	<i>Room 103</i>
<i>Grade 4</i>	<i>Joanne Redmond/Cathy Tennaro</i>	<i>Room 108</i>
<i>Grade 5</i>	<i>Annmarie Rizzo, Amalia Terraciano</i>	<i>Room 106</i>
<i>Grade 6</i>	<i>Kathleen Ferman</i>	<i>Room 104</i>
<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Barbara Migliori</i>	<i>Gym</i>
<i>Grade 8</i>	<i>Lisa DelValle/ Rosemarie Truglio</i>	<i>Module 1</i>

*Substitute: Sandy Trapp and Joyce Heyer*

*Greeter: Louis Sirio*

Catechists are all trained in Protecting God's Children and background checks are in compliance with RCAN Catechetical Office.

## **Amendments to Handbook**

This handbook is subject to change at any time when determined to be necessary by the Pastor and/or Director of Faith Formation. If changes are made to the handbook, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified in a timely manner.

Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

### **What does the Word “Catechetical” Mean?**

The word might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word “catechism” for years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church’s teachings. The root word, “catechesis,” is from a Greek word meaning “to echo, or resound.” Catechesis, is the act of resounding or bringing the Church’s teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

### **Why do we have a special day set aside to commission catechists?**

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, “Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church’s life...her inner growth and correspondence with God’s plan depend essentially on catechesis” (no.7). This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

### **How are parents, the primary catechists of their children, recognized on Catechetical Sunday?**

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. This is why the rite of blessing of catechists used on Catechetical Sunday includes an optional blessing of parents and guardians.

## Parent(s)Guardian(s)Notes

