

**St Michael the Archangel
Parish Religious Education Office
215-547-2518**

www.stmichaellvt.com

2019 – 2020

**P.R.E.P. Parent Guide
(Parish Religious Education Program)**



**A Parent's
Prayer**

Loving God,
You are the
giver of all we
possess, the
source of all our
blessings. We
thank and
praise you.
Thank you for

the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear your voice; May their eyes see your presence in all things; May their lips proclaim your word; May their hearts be your dwelling place; May their hands do works of charity; May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your son and our Lord, Amen.

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15 PM

School Messenger is how we communicate:

***Please make sure we have accurate contact information;
(e-mail and/or cell phone for text messages) so that you are notified of school closing, emergency situations, and pertinent information.

The Parish Religious Education Program's Role

(PREP) **assists** parents with the faith formation of their children. Our vocation is to compliment the Catholic faith lived at home. Together and with the grace of God we will endeavor to help the children recognize how special they are to God and what it means to accept his gifts and love. We will help educate the children on, the various ways to pray while directing them in their moral formation.

FAMILIES ROLE

The Catholic faith is not a school subject that can be taught in a classroom setting. **It's a community of faith that is lived each day within the family.** It is an example of love.

Wherever you and your family are on your faith journey, know that you are exactly where you're supposed to be.

Embrace who you are and where you're at and begin your **"Family Faith Journey"** today...

Communication between the PREP staff and the parents is essential. Our four forms of communication are your child's folder, church bulletin, e-mail, and **School Messenger**. Please check the folder and empty it weekly. Ensure that we have your current e-mail address and phone numbers.

Attendance -

1. If more than 4 classes are missed in a school year, a summer packet of work may need to be completed. Failure to complete the summer packet could result in a delay in advancing to the next level.
2. If there are extenuating circumstances surrounding your child's absence, please contact the office at the time of the absence so that it can be noted.

Homework – Homework may be given by your child’s teacher. You are asked to work with your child to complete the assignment before the next class. Complete missed class work and homework promptly. If there is no written homework, please review with your child the week’s lesson.

*****DOORS OPEN AT 6:15 PM*****

PROCEDURES

Arrival – When dropping off your child outside of the gym please pull all the way up to the stop sign. Please have your child disembark anywhere along the sidewalk. (You do not need to drop them off at the front of the line.)

Gym doors will be locked at 6:29 PM (for your child’s safety)

If your child arrives at or after 6:30 PM you will have to walk them into the PREP office. (Side door “B”) They will need to be signed in and escorted by an aid to their classroom.

Dismissal – All cars are to park in the designated spots in the Church / school parking lot. *Doors to the school/gym will be opened promptly at 8:00PM.*

The children will be standing in line with their classmates where you can pick them up.

NO CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT AN ADULT. Please be careful when leaving the parking lot as there will be a lot of movement during dismissal.

(If your child is to be picked up by someone other than the parent, please send a note to your child’s teacher.)

Early Dismissal – Our time with your child(ren) is limited to one hour and 30 minutes a week. The Catechists have planned lessons for all but 15 minutes of this time. We, as a community, will be using the remaining 15 minutes in prayerful reflection. Therefore, early pick-up is discouraged. However, if an emergency arises, **please contact the office by phone.** You will be required to sign your child out from the PREP office. (Door “B” Rm. 10)

Emergency Closing - If the Religious Education Program needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be announced via the School Messenger system and will be posted on the St Michael website. Keep in mind that if the day school is closed or has an early dismissal due to inclement weather, then PREP will be cancelled as well.

Emergency Dismissal – In an emergency, **School Messenger** will be used.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Our goal is to provide a loving learning environment of order, structure, and discipline for our children. The environment reflects honesty, respect, and consideration for both self and others, which is necessary for learning and faith sharing.

Student responsibilities include:

- Cooperate with the catechist in order to maintain a Christian atmosphere of mutual respect.
- Participate fully and appropriately in group activities.
- Treat others and the property of others with respect.
- When challenging situations arises, ask what would Jesus do?

Please note: The following are considered unacceptable:

- Disrespect for any adult or student by word or action.
- Leaving the premises without permission from the office.
- Disruptive or inappropriate behavior.
- Defacing books, desks, walls, bathroom, or any property.
- Removing items from day student's desk.

To remedy inappropriate behavior by a student...

1. The catechist and director will review possible classroom management techniques to address the situation.
2. The parent will be notified about the specifics of the inappropriate behavior displayed, if it persists.
3. If a student continues to fail to respond to a catechist's request for appropriate behavior and is uncooperative on a specific night, the Director will keep him/her in the office or call the parent to pick him/her up early. The student must make up the missed class work and decide to improve his/her behavior before being allowed to return to class.

Curriculum Guidelines for Religious Education **in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.**

Below is a synopsis of the core content guidelines that should be mastered for each grade level. Each year students review the traditional prayers and add new prayers.

Level One: Creation, God the Father and Son, Mary, Mother of God, Sacrament of Baptism, Liturgical Seasons and Colors.

Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be

Level Two: God, the Holy Spirit, Trinity, Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation, Sunday (The Lord's Day), Liturgy of the Word, Preparation to receive Reconciliation.

Prayers: Hail Mary and Act of Contrition

Level Three: The Trinity, Mass (Liturgy of the Eucharist and Elements of the Mass), Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), Preparation to receive First Eucharist.

Prayers: Apostle's Creed

Level Four: Ten Commandments, Great Commandment, The Beatitudes (Living a happy life), Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Prayers: The Rosary

Level Five: Seven Sacraments (Healing, Service, and Initiation) Mass (Parts, Vessels, Vestments), Holy Days of Obligation, Liturgical Seasons

Prayers: The Rosary, Nicene Creed

Level Six: The Old Testament, Christ fulfills Old Testament, Types of Prayer

Prayers: Come Holy Spirit, The Rosary

Level Seven: Preparation for the sacrament of CONFIRMATION. The liturgy of the Mass and the gifts of our faith.

Prayers: Hail Mary, Our Father, Apostles Creed, Act of Contrition, Rosary, Silence, Etc...

The Archdiocesan approved textbook series is Loyola Press' Finding God. The same publisher is used for sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Evaluations of Student Progress:

Student progress reports will be sent home in January. Assessments will be given periodically. Assessments will reflect knowledge of the Faith Concepts given to each grade level. An Archdiocesan assessment will be given at the end of the year for everyone except first grade. Please notify the Religious Education Office of learning needs your child may have in regards to assessments. Accommodations are made for children with special needs.



Materials:

Every child is provided with a folder and textbook. It is essential that everyone brings their materials to class every week. If a book is lost, a new book to replace it will cost \$25.00. If your child's folder is lost or destroyed, please replace it with the same or close to the color of the original folder.

SACRAMENTS

First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
Though immediate preparations are given to children before receiving these sacraments, children are expected to receive a Catholic upbringing in their family, which includes **regular Mass attendance** and consistent formal religious education classes. Moreover, attendance at weekend Mass is a duty, necessity, and a **GIFT for every Catholic**.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Children in the second level of religious education prepare for this healing sacrament. Parents will need to review work at home. Forgiveness and contrition should be exemplified at home. Parents **MUST** attend the Parent Reconciliation class. (*Nov. 6th in the church hall @ 6:45 PM*).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Children in the third level of religious education prepare to receive First Holy Communion. Liturgy appreciation grows as children better understand what they are celebrating in the Breaking of the Bread. Attendance at weekend Mass truly helps a child have a greater understanding of the Eucharist. Parents **MUST** attend the Parent Eucharist class (*Nov. 13th in the church hall @ 6:45 PM*).

CONFIRMATION

Candidates prepare for Confirmation during the seventh level of study and receive in the fall of eighth grade.

Your child's preparation will include prayer, study, retreat, experiencing the Faith and service.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer to join your child as a chaperone during the many "Experience's of the Faith" (More information on experiences will be shared separately)

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

All adults are invited to grow in faith. RCIA classes meet every Tuesday evenings from September to May. If you are not Catholic and are helping your Catholic spouse raise your children Catholic, these classes may help. If you never finished all your sacraments, you might consider these classes. No strings, just information. Contact the Rectory at 215-945-1166.

Class begins promptly at 6:30. Please arrive at 6:15 pm

2019 – 2020 P.R.E.P. PROGRAM SCHEDULE

* Means something other than just class is taking place.

** Means parental interaction is required.

September

- 4 Opening Meeting (teenage helpers 6:15 pm in Room 7)
(adult staff 6:45 pm in Room 7)
- 11 ***First day of class** all students
Parent meeting for families NEW to PREP @ 6:40 pm in Rm 7
- 15 7th Grade Mass 10 AM- (meet in back of the church following Mass. till 11:30)
- 18 Class
- 21 *Abby Fest music festival (7th grade opportunity – tbd)*
- 25 Class

October

- 2 *Class Opening Mass – (Children will be dropped off in gym / normal drop-off dismissed from the church hall following Mass.)
- 9 Class
- 13 7th Grade Mass 10 AM- (meet in Parish center following Mass till 11:30)
- 16 *Staff development day – **NO STUDENTS**
- 19 *Pilgrimage to shrine in Washington DC (7th grade experience – tbd)*
- 23 Class
- 30 Class

November

- 6 **Class First Reconciliation Parent Meeting Church Hall 6:45 to 7:45PM
- 10 7th Grade Mass 10 AM- (meet in Parish center following Mass till 11:30)
- 13 **Class First Communion Parent Meeting - Church Hall 6:45 to 7:45 PM
- 16 *Pilgrimage to Saint Rita's (7th grade experience – tbd)*
- 20 Class
- 27 **Happy Thanksgiving** No Class

December

- 4 Class
- 8 7th Grade Mass 10 AM- (meeting to follow)
- 14 *Nativity / Service (7th grade experience – tbd)*
- 11 Class
- 18 Class
- 25 **Merry Christmas** No Class

January

- 1 **Happy New Year** No Class
- 8 Class Staff meeting following class (Safe Environment)
- 12 7th Grade Mass 10 AM (meeting to follow)
- 15 Class Safe Environment lesson
- 22 Class Safe Environment Lesson (make-up)
- 24 *March for Life in Washington DC (7th grade experience ALL DAY)*
- 29 Class

February

- 5 Class
- 8 **First Reconciliation and First Communion “Parent Make-Up meeting”
9:45-12:00Noon - Chapel or Church Hall tbd
- 9 7th Grade Mass 10 AM (meeting to follow)
- 12 *Staff development day - **NO STUDENTS**
- 15 *Reconciliation (Experience / opportunity for 7th graders)*
- 19 Class
- 22 *Reconciliation (Experience / opportunity for 7th graders)*
- 26 *Class Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Mass (Children will attend Mass with their
Class and be dismissed from the church hall following Mass.)

March

- 4 Class
- 8 7th Grade Mass 10 AM (meeting to follow)
- 11 **Class - **First Reconciliation Practice** 6:45-7:45 Church **PREP and School**
- 14 *Pilgrimage to St. John Newman (7th grade experience of the faith)*
- 18 Class
- 19 **Thursday - First Reconciliation Service** – 7:00PM Church
- 25 Class

April

- 1 Class
- 4 *Pilgrimage to St. Peter and Paul Basilica (7th grade experience of the faith)*
- 8 **Holy Week** No Class
- 12 **Easter Sunday**
- 15 Class
- 18 *Baptism (7th grade experience / 11:45 AM @ QU- Deacon John Murray)*
- 19 *Baptism (7th grade experience / 1:00 PM @ SMA- Deacon Harry)*
- 22 Class
- 25 **First Holy Communion Practice** 9:00AM – 12:00Noon Church Hall
- 26 *Baptism (7th grade experience / 1:00 PM @ SMA- Deacon Harry)*
- 29 *Class Final Review

May

- 2 **First Holy Communion Mass 10:00AM – Saturday**
- 3 7th Grade Mass 10 AM (meeting to follow)
- 6 *Class Mass at 6:45 pm / Awards & Report Cards / dismissal at 7:45

2019 – 2020 REGISTRATION FEES

The registration fee covers the cost of workbooks, activity books, student supplies, office supplies, parent newsletters, Catechist courses, workshops, and clearances.

No child will be denied religious instruction due to an inability to pay.

Please contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Registration Fee:

1 Child - \$125.00

2 Children or more - \$175.00

PARENTS HELP is always needed in the Religious Education Program. All parents are encouraged to volunteer their services to give our children the best experience for their faith. All of our volunteers have completed Archdiocesan Safe Child Training and have criminal and child abuse clearances.

Please let us know if you are able to fill any of these positions:

CATECHIST: Anyone willing to work (with children) to bring Jesus' love and compassion into young lives. Training and guidance are provided. You will not walk alone.

SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST: Someone who would be interested in sharing their time with children. Lesson plans and materials are provided.

CLASSROOM AIDE: Someone to assist the teacher with various tasks, i.e. Attendance, paperwork, and classroom management. Great way to try "teaching".

HALLWAY HELPERS: Responsible person to supervise, direct, and redirect movement of children before, during, and after classes.

SECURITY: Adult who can help with an orderly arrival and dismissal in the parking lot and monitor the building during classes.

CHAPERONE: Adult who accompanies children and class on field trips/pilgrimages.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Child(ren) names: _____

Position: _____

Please return bottom portion to Room 10. Thank you.