

“RENEWING OUR BLESSINGS”

Strengthening our faith and our family values

We are pleased to offer weekly classes through our Faith Formation Program 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. ***Families of these students should be registered parishioners of the Roman Catholic Church of Saint Christopher and Saint Patrick.***

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 is a must and 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 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.

The CCD Calendar can be found on the church’s website www.chrispatparish.com under the ‘Faith Formation’ tab.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: This program emphasizes quiet contemplation and "the enjoyment of God." The children hear Bible stories and watch them acted out with simple materials; they learn songs and prayers, and are encouraged to play quietly with simple and meaningful objects. The children will also learn The Sign of the Cross, The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary and they will be introduced to the Act of Contrition.

Grade: *Grade 1*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) or Monday afternoons 4:30 pm - 5:45 pm*

Preparation for Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion: This 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: *Grade 2*

Theme: *Jesus nourishes us, and strengthens God's life, grade, within us*

Objective: *To present Jesus as the model for Christian living, and to introduce the sacraments of Baptism, Penance and Eucharist*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am or Monday afternoons 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm*

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*

Theme: *Jesus continues his life and work through his Church.*

Objective: *To deepen the child's understanding of the Church and to help the child experience the Church as Christian community.*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am or Monday afternoons 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm*

Grade: Grades 4 and 5

Theme: *As God's people, we are called to live as Jesus did, choosing a life of love, characterized by obedience to God and service to others.*

Objective: *To help the children form their consciences according to the teachings of the Catholic Church and to understand and be active participants in the Church's sacramental life.*

Day & Time: *Sunday mornings 9:45 am – 11:00 am or Monday afternoons 4:30 pm –5:45 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

Theme: *God's saving actions are found throughout history. The Bible, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, records God's plan of salvation.*

Objective: *To understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God in the history of a people, a revelation fulfilled in the New Testament.*

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

Grade: Grade 7

Theme: *Salvation through faith in Christ*

Objective: *United in One Spirit and One body as the Church, the bride of Christ, we get to experience new purpose and new life as we play our own unique roles within the Kingdom of God on Earth. All of this, and much more, is included in the good news. The gospel (which means "good news") is that Jesus, the Messiah (the Christ), the Son of God came into the world, God entering His own creation as a man, and took on the sins of all mankind by willfully dying for us on a cross.*

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

Grade: Grades 8

Day & Time: 2 times a month Monday evenings 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Students have completed their Bible studies and are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. 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.

8th graders will attend WIRED meetings once a month. In addition to attending 2 family events which are held during Advent and Lent, Students in 8th grade that attend the twice a month program will have to ALSO attend REQUIRED workshops that are on the CCD Calendar. **These workshops help the students meet the required class time as specified by the Archdiocese of NY.**

7th and 8th graders are required to complete 20 hours of service before May 1st of 8th grade. A minimum of 10 hours MUST be church events. Confirmation Folders will be collected and reviewed during the student's last day of CCD. **For events completed in the church, students must sign in at the event.** Students that do not sign in will NOT be given credit for the service event (there will be no exceptions). **For community (such as school, town, etc.) events completed, students must submit a Service Reflection Sheet for each event.** Students can access the Service Reflection Sheet on our website www.chrispatparish.com under the Faith Formation Tab and store in safe place until 8th grade distribution of the Confirmation Folders.

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 11:15 am – 12:00 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.**

ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES: Please note: Due to the importance of every class **no more than four absences** will be allowed per year **for grades 1-6 students** that attend every week and **no more than two absences** will be allowed per year **for grade 8 that meets 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. If a student cannot make their assigned class, they can attend the alternate day in which the class is offered in order to minimize absences. **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 may be scheduled for May, 2020. **We follow the Hendrick Hudson School Calendar and Inclement Weather Policy.**

MASS PARTICIPATION

All students should be attending weekly Mass. Mass participation cards are in the black box at the entrance of the Buchanan Church. If you attend Mass in Verplanck, or if you attend Mass at a different church, the child must obtain a copy of that church's bulletin and have the celebrating Priest or Deacon sign the bulletin. Please include the first and last name of your child and his/her grade and the date on the front of the bulletin where the Priest has signed. Please hand in the bulletin in the baskets at the Buchanan church during Communion or hand the bulletin to Father George or Deacon Rob the next time you attend Mass at our church.

Families are encouraged to attend Mass together.

Students should **also** attend the "monthly grade Masses" where **all of the students** will participate in the Mass. This will take place at the 8:45 a.m. Mass. Please check the CCD Calendar for the dates.

Students will receive a prize for every 10 Masses they attend throughout the year (including the Summer!).

SNACKS AND SUPPLIES

Students may bring one peanut-free snack to class (no candy or gum or popcorn please! Students may also bring water.

We are in great need of supplies for our program and are requesting some assistance. As you are shopping for back to school items, please keep in mind that our students need the following:

- Mechanical Pencils
- Pens
- Erasers
- Chalk Board Erasers
- Tissues

MINISTRY PARTICIPATION

All students in grades 2-8 should be participating in a parish ministry.

There are several options to choose from. All of our student ministries take place in the Buchanan Church at the 8:45 a.m.

- **Altar Servers** – students in grades 4 and up are encouraged to be an altar server. An Altar Server Society is being established for the 2019-20 academic year. Altar Servers are needed for ALL Masses in both the Buchanan and Verplanck locations.
- **Gift Presenters** – students in grades 2 and up are encouraged to participate in Mass with the presentation of the gifts. Students will be assigned a Mass. Parents will be responsible for ensuring that the student is present at the assigned Mass (the assigned Mass will not be on the same day as when the student is attending the class Mass). Students will collect the gifts and bring up the bread and the wine. We are also looking for students to hand out the church bulletins at the end of the Mass. Lastly, we would like the students to arrange the Missalettes properly in the pews and pick up any other materials left in the pews.
- **Lectors** – students in grades 6 and up are encouraged to be lectors. Younger students will be considered. Students will read the first and second reading as well as the prayers of the faithful at Mass. Readings can be found at www.usccb.org by clicking on the Sunday on the calendar on the site. Students can practice the readings by visiting this site to better prepare them for reading.
- **Children's Choir** – students in grades 2 and up are encouraged to sing in the choir. We have been working at building our children's choir and hope to incorporate youthful music into the 8:45 a.m. Mass but needs students to make this possible.

STUDENT BOOKS

Books will remain in the classrooms. Students are not to bring their books home unless instructed to do so by their teacher. 6th graders will receive their bible in September. Students in grades 6-8 should bring their bible to class every time. There will be student missalettes in the church for the children to follow along with the mass. These student missalettes must remain in the church and cannot be taken home.

DISCIPLINE

As our young people grow and mature they develop in many different ways. Their faith development is an integral part of their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and moral development. Parents are the primary educators of their children. We are here to assist you in your child's education. It is therefore essential that we work together in developing in your child, good behavior habits and positive attitudes toward religious education. We offer the following suggestions:

- Remind your child of the proper way to act, and that while certain settings such as church, classrooms, etc., call for our best behavior.
- Recognize that the teacher has the special privilege of representing you during class time and should be treated with respect. Affirm that with your child.
- Try to project a positive attitude about attending Religious Education classes. Just by the presence of your child, we know that their participation in the program is important to you.
- We hope to instill in your child a pride and respect for themselves as Catholics and Christians in today's society and as part of our parish family.
- Help your child recognize rules as necessary to protect and to respect all people, which includes respecting public and private property.

A friendly reminder will be offered to students who continue to be disruptive in class. If a student fails to cooperate, parents will be notified and will have to attend the next class with their child. If disruptions continue, students will be asked to leave the class and will need to return to the program in the Fall. Tuition fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable.