



The Flame

St. Jude Catechist and Volunteer Newsletter

September 2023

Dear Catechists and Volunteers,

Thank you for a good first month of sessions! You and your students are in our prayers. Berni and I are always available to help however we can so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Don't forget to check Unit 1 reviews when you begin your October Sessions!

In this edition of *The Flame*, you will find:

- October session dates
- Link to the Dropbox - visit this page for sample lesson plans, activity ideas, tips for prayers, and your Catechist handbook
- Suggestions for teaching Chapter 4
- Upcoming events at St. Jude Parish
- Liturgically colored-coded newsletter: This month is still **Green**.

***Remember to submit your Materials Requests
3-5 days before your session.***

[Click Here to Submit Your Materials Request](#)

[Click Here to Submit Your Today at a Glance newsletter](#)

[Click Here for full Faith Formation Schedule](#)

PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 20 MINUTES EARLY.

Students begin entering the building 10 minutes before session starts.

It is very important that you arrive early to session. We cannot let children in the classroom if there is not an adult in the classroom.

Lastly, my wife Claire is due with our first child around October 25th. In the circumstance that the baby decides to make his exit on or right before a session day, if any of you might be willing to be on call, even if only on specific days (like only Sunday A or Tuesday B), please let me know so we could call you and ask you to come in and assist Berni. Thank you so much! - Nicholas

You are always in our prayers. We look forward to serving with and we thank you for all that you do for God's families! Please reach out anytime if we can help in any way.

Peace,

SEPTEMBER SESSION DATES

Sunday A
October 1st
10:15 - 11:45 am

Tuesday A
October 3rd
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Wednesday A
October 4th
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Sunday B
October 15th
10:15 - 11:45 am

Tuesday B
October 17th
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday B
October 18th
6:00 - 7:30 pm

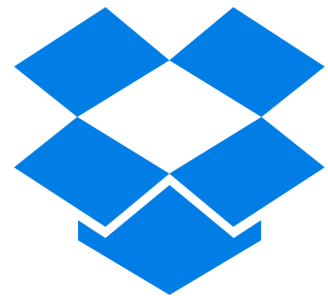
If you are in need of a sub, please let us know right away!

LINK TO THE DROPBOX

The Dropbox is a shared platform where we will share resources for you. Click the link below to explore catechist lesson plans, activity ideas, the classroom media guide, and much, much more!

In the media guide, you will find links to great online resources from YouTube channels to classroom blogs!

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/pcs7mnwowdby9h1ef5hcx/h?rlkey=nh6s3fsrkq8q4l847cn5e1jf9&dl=0>



Dropbox

TODAY AT A GLANCE

The *Today at a Glance* summary is a way for catechists to share what you did in class with the families of those in your class.

Your *Today at a Glance* newsletter is due to Nicholas at least 3-5 days before your class. Copies will be in your classroom on the day of your session.

[Click Here to Submit your Today at a Glance online](#)

If you prefer to make your own format or make copies yourself, please make sure Nicholas has a copy to keep on file for absent students and communication records. Thank you for supporting the families teaching the faith at home!

TAKING ATTENDANCE

- You will have an attendance folder in your classroom. Mark "P" for "Present" or "A" for "Absent". We do not record tardiness.

- Please take attendance at the beginning of class. When completed, leave the folder outside your door in the hallway. Hall monitors will come around to pick them up.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedure

Catechists and volunteers: please remain in your classrooms after we announce over the intercoms that the children will be heading down. Children will begin heading to your classroom around 10 minutes before class begins, please arrive at least 20 minutes early.

Dismissal will be in the **Gym on Sundays**: Catechists will lead students up to the gym when your class is called and the parents will enter the gym to retrieve their children.

Dismissal will be in the **Church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. Catechists will lead students through Door #8 and into the Church to your class' assigned sections. Choir practice will be going on so please ask the children to remain quiet and pray as they wait.

Resources for New Catechists

Catechist Training PowerPoint (download for notes): See Dropbox

Example Today at a Glance: [Click HERE](#)

Catechist Kickoff PowerPoint (download for notes): See Dropbox

Volunteer Handbook: See Dropbox

Phone number if running late within 1 hour of class, call or text Nicholas at: [\(779\) 803-0069](tel:779-803-0069)

UNIT 2 - TRINITY

Our Topic This Month is The Trinity

The Most Holy Trinity is one of the great mysteries of our Faith. There is one God who is three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a mystery because our human minds simply can't comprehend it. A story I like to use to illustrate this comes from the life of St. Augustine.

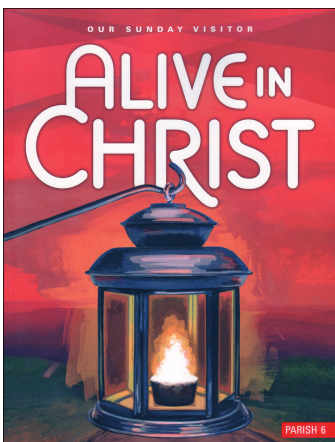
When St. Augustine was trying to uncover the mystery of how three persons can be in God, he noticed a little boy cupping water from the ocean and pouring it into a little hole he had dug on the beach. When St. Augustine asked the child what he was doing, the little boy said he was trying to pour the entire ocean into the hole. St. Augustine chuckled and told him that it was impossible to fit all of the water into the hole. The little boy replied that it is indeed impossible, just as it is impossible for the mystery of the Trinity to fit into Augustine's head! And with that, the little boy vanished!

Although we will never fully understand this mystery, through Faith, we can grasp what it is as much as our human minds will allow. This has

been demonstrated through the teachings of Sacred Tradition and by Saints like St. Patrick, who used a three-leaved shamrock. Check the Dropbox for some more ways we can help the children to come to know the Trinity.

IDEAS FOR THIS MONTH

- **Introduce the Rosary** - October is the month of the Rosary. The rosary is a way to tell the Blessed Virgin Mary "I love you" and ask her for help when we need it. Jesus gave Mary to be our mom in heaven so it's always nice to remember our mom. Maybe pray a decade with the children or watch a video on the rosary. See below for some fun rosary crafts!
- **The Trinity in Prayer** - We profess our belief in the Trinity through our prayers. For 1st and 2nd graders, remind them of where we hear the Three Persons in the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be prayers. For 3rd through 6th graders, let students see where the Trinity is in not only the Glory Be but also the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
- **Do a Trinity or Rosary craft:** There are some fun crafts in our drop box as well as this link [HERE](#) for the Trinity and [HERE](#) for the Rosary.
- **Pray to Jesus in the Mass** - The Mass isn't just the greatest and most powerful prayer God has given us, it is a **re-presentation** (not representation) of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Meaning, that at every Mass we are united with every Christian in the whole world who is at Mass, not just now, but in the past and future, too. Not only that but all the saints and angels are present with us as well! So, we are with Jesus as he is nailed to the cross, died, and resurrected. We are at Calvary! This doesn't mean that His Sacrifice happens over and over again, but it is re-presented to us at every Mass. Now, if this sounds like some time-travel shenanigans, don't worry - it is!
- **Complete the Chapter Review** - Work on the Chapter 4 review as a class. This helps them remember your discussions and shows parents what was learned at session!



Alive In Christ Lesson Plans and Training Videos

Alive In Christ Lesson

Plans: https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/parish/lesson_planning

User Name: flfjude

Password: jude241

Alive In Christ Training Videos (especially for new catechists)

https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/training/sessions_menu_parish

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

NO food or candy should be

handed out at

Faith Formation sessions.

This includes in the classroom or in the hallway as students are dismissed. If you would like to pass something out, please make sure that it is a non-food item.

Our program has always had a no-food policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicholas directly.

**NO FOOD
ITEMS
PERMITTED
in the
classrooms.
Thank you.**

**DCFS MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING
REQUIRED FOR ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

The State of Illinois requires all adult volunteers who work with minors to complete **Mandated Reporter Training** to learn how to look for signs of child abuse and report them. All adult Faith Formation volunteers are required to complete this training to be allowed to work in any children's ministry.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the DCFS webpage and complete the training. Those who have already completed this training should turn in their certificate of completion.

Please call Nicholas if you have any questions.

UPCOMING AT OUR PARISH

SPECIAL ST. JUDE MASS

**IN PREPARATION FOR ST. JUDE'S
FEAST DAY WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE**

**ST JUDE MASS, VENERATION OF THE ARM RELIC
OF ST. JUDE, & ST. JUDE OIL BLESSINGS**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

7:30 PM

AT ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**241 W SECOND AVENUE
NEW LENOX, IL 60451
(815) 485-8049**

**PRESENTED BY FR. MIKE FORD, O.P. — DIRECTOR OF
THE DOMINICAN SHRINE OF ST. JUDE, CHICAGO, IL**



The-Shrine.org

**The Dominican Shrine
of St. Jude Thaddeus**





ST. JUDE PARISH LIVING ROSARY

OCTOBER 13 AT 7PM
IN THE CHURCH

Praying for an increase in the belief of the true
presence of Christ in the Eucharist
241 W. Second Ave. New Lenox



OCTOBER 15TH - 4:00 - 6:00 PM

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND A BOARD GAME OR CARDS
FOR A FUN NIGHT OF PLAY AND FOOD! PIZZA AND
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED!



[Click Here to register for free by October 10th.](#)
You must register your family to attend!



The season of Advent is a time of preparation in our Church. It begins on December 3rd. One way our parish prepares for Christmas is by helping local families in need through the Giving Tree Project. In the past, faith formation families have been a great help. We are asking for your help again this year by donating the following:

Items we need the most:

- Theater size Boxed candy
- Games for ages 8+
- Christmas Gift Bags
- Extra items for teenage boys – (some suggestions-bath & body products, hat, scarf, gloves, water bottle, wallet, cologne, etc.)
- Extra items for teenage girls - (some suggestions- bath & body products, bath bombs, nail polish, hat, scarf, gloves, scrunchies, headbands, cute water bottle, etc.)

Please bring your donated item to the **November session.**

givingtreestjude@gmail.com



ALL SAINTS' DAY COSTUME PROCESSION

PARENTS, BRING YOUR LITTLE SAINTS TO OUR CHILDREN'S ALL SAINTS' DAY PROCESSION! DRESS THEM UP AS THEIR FAVORITE SAINT AND LET THEM LEAD A PRE-MASS PROCESSION ON NOVEMBER 1ST AT 7:00 PM IN THE CHURCH. SHARE THIS FUN TRADITION WITH YOUR FAMILY ON ALL SAINTS' DAY. FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS OF ALL AGES. STAY AFTERWARD FOR A GROUP PICTURE WITH FR. RAY!

Please arrive by 6:30 PM with your child or teen in costume. We will make an announcement before Mass begins to let them know when to head to the Narthex.

Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

WELCOME RETREAT WEEKENDS

Women's Weekend: October 21st & 22nd

Men's Weekend: October 28th & 29th

CLICK HERE for more information and to register.

Please see the Faith Formation Newsletter for
more events and announcements!

[Click Here for October](#)

For You Catechists:

SAT, NOV. 4

8:00 AM - NOON

**BLANCHETTE CATHOLIC
CENTER, CREST HILL**

CATECHIST FORMATION DAY WORKSHOP

"Christ His Person and Works"

DR. MARK GINTER



Dr. Mark Ginter, catechist, theologian, author, and speaker, works to cultivate a new springtime of the Church through the new evangelization. As a husband, father, and grandfather, he works to renew Catholic family life. In 1997, he received a PhD in theology and psychology from Marquette University. For over 38 years, Dr. Ginter has taught in parishes, high schools, universities, and seminaries. Writing the first academic article on St. John Paul II's new evangelization, he met that great pope on Jan. 5, 2005. He led the publication of the recently released book, *Spirit of God: Short Writings on the Holy Spirit*. Currently, Dr. Ginter serves as strategic partnership liaison fellow for Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute.

BREAKFAST PROVIDED

\$10 MEMBER

\$20 NON-MEMBER

(YOUR PARISH MAY COVER THE COST)

**RSVP TO YOUR DRE
BY OCT. 23RD**

For questions, contact Leslie Krauledis

lkrauledis@holyfamilyshorewood.org 

815-531-3761 

Do you follow us on Social Media?

Like and follow us at

St. Jude Parish Faith Formation



on Facebook and Instagram.

Encourage families to follow us as well! We share lots of resources and information this way!



Formed is a streaming service for Catholic Media. They offer programs, videos, books, audio books and more for kids, teens and adults - there's something for everyone!

To access your free subscription to "Catholic Netflix", visit www.FORMED.org and create an account using our special code '8c62ef'.

Catechist Mentor

This experienced catechist is available to you for advice, ideas, and support. Please contact her at any time. She is ready and willing to help!

Kelly Phelps: runob17@aol.com

Special Needs Catechist

Please contact DeAnne if you have questions about including and engaging the children in your class who have special needs. If we know a child has a need or accommodation, it will be indicated on your class list.

DeAnne Suarez: dsuarez79@sbcglobal.net

Faith Formation Staff

Nicholas Resuta, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
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Berni Kacor, Catechetical Support Associate
815-463-4262 bkacor@stjudes.org

Why is our newsletter called The Flame?

In Icons of St. Jude, he is often depicted with a tongue of flame above his head. This flame represents his receipt of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as one of the twelve apostles present in the Upper Room.

We also have the flame of the Holy Spirit above our heads as we help to form the faith of the families of St. Jude!



The Holy Spirit guides us and speaks through us!

Saint Jude Church | 241 West Second Avenue, New Lenox, IL 60451

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