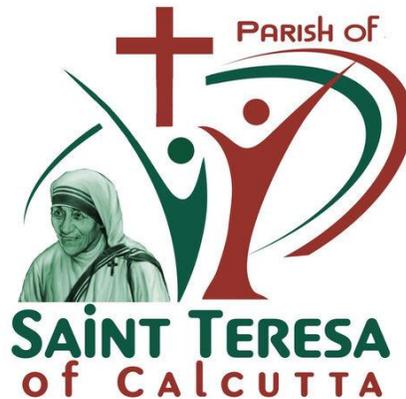


Student Handbook

2018-2019 Middle School Students



Dear Student(s) and Parent(s):

Welcome to a new year of Religious Education at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish!

At the time of your child's Baptism, you were invited to take seriously the responsibility of raising your children in the practice of our Catholic faith. Indeed you are the "first and best teachers of your children in the ways of faith." By enrolling your child (ren) in our Religious Education program, you are living out that promise you made for them at their Baptism. We as their teachers, parish staff and clergy pledge to do all that we can to help them not only learn about their faith, but also live out their faith and develop their all-important relationship with the Lord.

But we cannot do this without you! Please be sure to bring them regularly to Sunday Mass. For it is here alone that our faith is nourished by the living word of God and Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. Please take their religious education as seriously as you do their regular school education. Be careful not to let recreation, sports and other extracurricular activities become more important than their faith development. These other things they will do only for a while in life. Their growth in faith prepares them for an entire life of following Christ and for their eternal life with God that awaits them! And finally, we invite you to take this opportunity to learn more about our Catholic faith yourself. Being able to have conversations around what you are all learning together will not only help your own faith, but also your family's faith as well.

Please let us know if there is any way we can be of assistance to you and your family. We are very grateful for your presence in our parish and your desire to inspire your child (ren) to grow in faith!

Sincerely,

Father Marcin Pluciennik (Pastor)

Allison Fusaro (DRE)

Contact Information

Pastor

Father Marcin Pluciennik

(860) 643-2403 ext. 102

pastor@manchestercatholic.org

Director of Religious Education

Allison Fusaro

(860) 643-2403 ext. 115

Childreducation@manchestercatholic.org

Religious Education Assistant

Alice Hartnett

(860) 646-1613 ext. 100

reassistant@manchestercatholic.org

Class Time

Classes will begin promptly at 6:45 and will be dismissed at 8:00 pm on Monday evenings.

Attendance

Our goal is to have each student attend every class. If there is a genuine need to miss a class please email or call Ms. Fusaro at her extension/email provided on the next page. An attendance record is kept weekly, after a series of absences, you will be contacted by the teacher or DRE. **If children need to leave early, a parent is asked to come inside and sign the child out in our early dismissal log. Thank you so much!**

Dismissal Policy

For safety reasons, students are asked to remain closest to the door nearest the parking lot exit, whilst under the supervision of the DRE or designated volunteer. We would like to avoid children running out into the parking lot at night. Thus, It is asked that parents walk inside to get their classes from Religious Education.

Class Cancellation

If school is cancelled on a religious education class day (based on Manchester Public Schools), our classes will be cancelled as well. Please frequent TV Stations (WFSB Channel 3) or will be sent via Flocknote email on such occasions.

Conduct & Behavior Expectations of Students

We ask that students conduct themselves during Religious Education classes as they would be at their Middle Schools. Our teachers are volunteers and therefore deserve our utmost respect. You as students are expected to engage in appropriate ways during discussions and activities in the classrooms. Your support as parents in discussing appropriate classroom behavior is much appreciated. Inappropriate behavior that is not fitting of a Christian student may result in a meeting with the teacher and/ or DRE, and Pastor. A call or note home may also be necessary.

Hats of any sort are not to be worn in the building at any time. No food is allowed into the Church at any time. Food may be provided in classroom settings by teachers with parent approval and notice. Since we share our classrooms with other members of our parish, it will be asked that we clean up after ourselves. It is important to leave our rooms in the best condition for our other brothers and sisters who use that room as well.

Parent Commitment

We ask that you discuss/talk with your child (ren) about what they are learning in Religious Education classes. We are **sharing** the responsibility for your child's education and want to enrich and build upon what is being done at home.

Attending Mass weekly is equally important. Receiving grace from the Eucharist, which is the all-important nourishment and food for our soul, coupled with listening to God's word, is vital for each child's spiritual growth and well-being. It is also asked by our heavenly Father in the 3rd Commandment that we "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day," and attend Mass.

It is with our warmest welcome we invite you to come worship with us at any at any of our masses! All are welcome and, it is a great opportunity for students to begin to see that this is THEIR parish as well.

Mass times and locations are as followed:

Saturdays

St. Bridget Church— 4:00 pm

St. Bartholomew Church— 5:30 pm

Sundays

St. Bridget Church— 8:30 & 11:30 am

St. Bartholomew Church— 7:00 am & 10:00 am

5:00 pm (Youth Mass)

Curriculum Overview by Grade

Grade Six

We explore the history of salvation— from Creation, through the Old Testament, to its fulfillment in Jesus—as we share stories of our ancestors in faith: Abraham, Moses, David, and Solomon. We recognize the importance of the prophets as witnesses for God and the relevance to our own time. As followers of Jesus, we explore the meaning of the Psalms as the prayers of Jesus and the themes of Wisdom Literature that teaches practical ways of living for God in everyday life. We find our connection to Christian worship from its roots in the Old Testament, and we learn of the special connection between the celebration of Passover and the celebration of the Eucharist. Important themes of Catholic Social Teaching call us to holiness, to care for the earth, and to act in the ways of justice.

Grade Seven

Based on the film “**Jesus of Nazareth**,” this series offers families and educators ample material for meaningful spiritual exercises. The program helps the students study the life of Jesus in detail using the resources of this powerful visualization as they examine the written texts on Christ’s life, ministry, death and resurrection.

Grade Eight

This program is inspired and based on the topics of specific general audiences addressed by St. Pope John Paul II, during his time as Pope, now known as “Theology of the Body”. The “Theology of the Body” discusses important insights for our Church on marriage, relationship, identity as man/woman in the Catholic church, and God’s loving role in all of it.

Our Middle School program aims to answer the following questions for students: Who am I? Do my behaviors have consequences? What is the difference between love/lust? How does my Catholic faith shape my relationships with the opposite sex? And more! It will also discuss and teach about sensitive topics, in an age appropriate but honest way, on **modesty, pornography, divorce, peer pressure, bullying, technology, friendships, religious vocation, marriage, and more.**

Important Note

If you have any questions or concerns about the content of any of these programs for your child, please feel free to contact the

Director of Religious Education, Allison Fusaro, at: (860) 643-2403 ext. 115

Childreducation@manchestercatholic.org

Parent/Student Statement of Consent

I have read the Religious Education Handbook and agree to comply with the requirements presented.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date