

Church of St. Catharine  
Religious Education Program  
*"Growing in Faith and Service"*

**2017-2018 Fall  
Parent Handbook**



## A Parent's Prayer on the First Day of School

HERE WE ARE AGAIN, LORD. THEIR BACKPACKS ARE LOADED AND THEIR FACES ARE SCRUBBED AND THEIR LUNCH ACCOUNTS ARE FULL.

AND I KNOW YOU'LL WALK WITH THEM, LORD. YOU ALWAYS DO.

BUT A PARENT STILL HAS TO ASK.

WILL YOU WALK WITH THEM? WILL YOU WHISPER TO THEM WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAR, WHEN I'M NOT THERE TO WHISPER IT?

WILL YOU PLEASE, OH PLEASE, COVER THEIR SCHOOL WITH THE PROTECTION ONLY YOU CAN GIVE, AND WILL YOU KEEP HARM FAR AWAY?

WILL YOU MAKE THEIR MINDS STRONG AND READY TO LEARN? WILL YOU HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THAT HARD WORK HONORS THE ONE WHO CREATED THEM?

WILL YOU GUIDE THEIR TEACHERS, GIVING THEM PATIENCE AND WISDOM AND CREATIVITY AND MORE PATIENCE? WILL YOU BLESS THEM FOR THEIR EFFORTS?

WILL YOU LOVE ALL THOSE CHILDREN THERE, THE ONES WHOSE LUNCH ACCOUNTS AREN'T FULL, THE ONES WHO FEEL ALONE? WILL YOU TEACH MY CHILDREN TO BE KIND AND UNSELFISH AND TO LOVE THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM THEM?

WILL YOU POINT THEM BACK TOWARD HOME JUST AS SOON AS YOU CAN?

LORD, I GIVE THEM TO YOU TODAY AND EVERYDAY, TRUSTING THEM TO YOUR CARE.

 Amen





# Works of Mercy for Missionary Disciples

## Corporal Works of Mercy

### Feed the Hungry:

- Avoid wasting food. Take only what you can eat.
- Give up your favorite food or dessert and put the money you would have spent on it in a home-made mission bank.

### Give Drink to the Thirsty:

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth to conserve water.
- Pick one day for to drink water only for your liquid. Offer the cost difference to MCA.

### Shelter the Homeless:

- Spend one night sleeping on the floor instead of in your bed. Make a sacrifice into your mission bank for every time you wake up during the night.
- Learn more about the issue of homelessness in your town. Organize a fundraiser, with parents' help, to support a local charity that benefits them.

### Clothe the Naked:

- Sort through your drawers and donate clean, used clothes that you do not wear anymore.
- Give up buying something new to wear and give the money saved to the missions.

### Care for the Sick:

- Make cards for your pastor to take to homebound parishioners.
- Learn more about how malaria affects children in Africa. Donate to Missionary Childhood to help the missionaries who care for sick mission children.

### Visit the Imprisoned:

- Draw religious pictures for local prison chaplains to give out in area prisons.
- Gather religious pamphlets from parents and neighbors for prison chaplains to distribute. Explain that you are

### Bury the Dead:

- Ask your pastor if you can clean the church before a funeral.
- Make sympathy cards for parish families when someone dies, by name.

## Spiritual Works of Mercy

### Advise Others:

- Respond to negative, prejudicial, or bullying statements with positive ones.
- Ask your friends to join you in sacrificing for the missions. Tell them why it is so important.

### Instruct the Ignorant:

- Reach out to a new person at school who may be lonely.
- Learn some phrases in a different language—one that is used in the missions and here at home.

### Console the Doubtful:

- Invite someone to say a decade of the World Mission Rosary with you.
- Share your favorite story about Jesus with someone.

### Comfort the Sorrowful:

- Sit with someone who is sad in their time of need. Perhaps words are not necessary, simply your loving presence is enough.
- Be a good listener.

### Bear Wrongs Patiently:

- Pray for Christians who are persecuted for their faith. Thank God that you are free to live your Catholic faith.
- Be courageous and compassionate in calling others to understand when they are disrespectful of you or others simply because you have differences.

### Forgive all Injuries:

- Be sure to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation a regular part of your life! As you are forgiven, so you will learn to forgive as well.
- Instead of condemning others when you hear of the bad things they have done, pray for them.

### Pray for the Living and the Dead:

- Say a World Mission Rosary with your family for all loved ones, living and deceased.
- Say a World Mission Rosary for children of the mission who have lost their families to war or illness.





# CHURCH OF ST. CATHARINE

*Growing in Faith & Service*

"This is what God asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8

## PARISH

## PARISH MINISTRIES

## PRESCHOOL

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## YOUTH GROUP

[Church of St. Catharine](#) [Religious Education](#) [Fall Program](#)

### Fall Program

#### Church of St. Catharine Fall Religious Education Program General Information, Rules & Procedures



#### Staff:

**Dominica Vullo – Coordinator**

**Dee Waggoner & Joanne Chiusano – Secretaries**

**Office Phone Number & Email:** 732-758-8568, [religious\\_ed@stcatharine.net](mailto:religious_ed@stcatharine.net)

#### Office Hours:

9:00 am – 5:45 pm Monday & Wednesday

9:00 am – 4:30 pm Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

#### Class Times:

Classes are held on Monday or Wednesday afternoons from 4:30pm – 5:45 pm

#### Arrival Procedures:

Please park in the back parking lot and walk your child/children through the Back Entrance of the Religious Education Building. All students need to enter through the back entrance as the Atrium Entrance will be locked.

(All PETS must remain in the car while you walk your child/children into the building.)

#### Dismissal Procedures:

**Older Siblings**

2017 Summer Program  
Registration

Catechist Development

Fall Registration

Family Home Study  
Program

Family Monthly Articles

Upcoming Events

Calendar

Parent Resources

Sunday Mornings

- **Fall Program**

- Curriculum Grade 2

- Curriculum Grades 1-7

- Summer Program

- Confirmation Program

- Sacramental Preparation

- Photo Gallery

- Parent Letters & Paperwork

- Teachers' Lounge

- Volunteer

(siblings of children in grades 1 & 2) will be dismissed first and will wait with the hall monitor until it is time to pick-up younger siblings.

**Grades 1 & 2**

Will remain in their classrooms. Parents/Guardians will enter the Parish Hall Entrance and will pick-up their children in the classrooms when it is announced.

**Grades 3 -7**

Classes will be dismissed from the back of the Religious Education Building. (Please park your car and walk up to the coned area to meet your child/children at the Back Entrance.)

**Religious Education Program Rules:**

All students are expected to arrive on-time and prepared for class. Any student arriving after 5:00 pm will not be permitted to go to class and will be marked absent for that session.

All students are expected to remain until the end of class time. Any student needing to leave early, must be signed-out by a parent/guardian in Room # 1. (No student will be permitted to leave the building unless accompanied by a parent/guardian.)

Any student that leaves before 5:15 pm will be marked absent that session.

**Attendance:**

All students are expected to attend class each week, unless of an illness or family emergency only. (Not sports, dance or other activities)

If your child will be absent, please contact us by calling: 732-758-8568, ext 1 and let us know the reason for the absence. A doctor's note may be required if your child has multiple absences.

If for some reason there is an illness or family situation, please contact us so that we may be "here" for you and to assist you in any way possible.

If your child is absent, we will send home any missed assignments when your child returns, and we ask that you help your child complete the assignment and return to your child's teacher.

Excessive absences may result in your child being asked to repeat the year.

**Cell Phone Policy:**

All cell phones will be collected by the teacher before class begins and will be returned to the students at dismissal time. For any emergencies, please contact the Religious Education Office at 732-758-8568.

**Communication:**

[www.stcatharine.net](http://www.stcatharine.net) for all calendar and parent information, etc.

All communications with parents/guardians will come via the website.

We will send you an email alerting you to go to the website for any pertinent information or calendar changes.

**Cancellations:**

When school is closed due to inclement weather, Religious Education classes will be cancelled. For any other emergency closing, we will post on the website and send out an email alert.

**Fire/Evacuation & Lock Down Plans:**

In case of an emergency, we have implemented a Fire, Evacuation & Lock Down Plans. During the course of each program we will run a test drill on the above plans. For further information please contact us at 732-758-8568.

**Miscellaneous:**

Each child is given the books he/she needs. If a child loses a book, a fee of \$20.00 will be charged to replace the book.

**Snacks:**

We have incorporated a no food, snack or candy policy. Please do not send your child into class with snacks of any kind.

**Volunteering:**

All parents are expected to volunteer for a minimum of 2 hours per year. There are many opportunities for parents to be active and involved. Please contact us for information.

**Family Information:**

Please be sure to notify us if any of your contact information changes, example: address, phone number, cell phone number, email address or emergency contact information.

Please be sure to notify us if any of your child/children's information changes, examples: learning, medical or allergy information.

**PARISH**

Action Alerts  
 Bulletins  
 Calendar  
 Contact Us  
 Cornerstone  
 Directions  
 Funerals  
 History  
 Library  
 Mass Schedule & Sacraments  
 Mission Statement  
 Monsignor's Message  
 Online Giving  
 Our Patron Saint  
 Pathways  
 Parish Counseling Services  
 The St. Vincent De Paul Conference At The Church Of St. Catharine  
 Upcoming Events  
 Upcoming Events  
 Volunteers  
 Weddings

**PARISH MINISTRIES**

Adult Faith Formation  
 Baptism  
 Caring Ministry  
 Circle Of Comfort  
 Communications  
 Employment Resource Committee  
 Parish Nursing  
 Finance Committee  
 Homebound Ministry  
 Hospital  
 Liturgical Ministers  
 Liturgy Committee  
 Mom's Playgroup  
 Music Ministers  
 Parish Life/Hospitality  
 Prayer Shawl Ministry  
 RCIA  
 Readers  
 Respect Life Ministry  
 Rosary Makers  
 Social Justice Committee  
 St. Andrew's Men's Group  
 St Ann's Women's Group

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Calendar  
 Upcoming Events  
 Sunday Mornings  
 Fall Program  
 Summer Program  
 Confirmation Program  
 Sacramental Preparation  
 Photo Gallery  
 Parent Letters & Paperwork  
 Teachers' Lounge  
 Volunteer

**PRESCHOOL**

Admissions  
 FAQs  
 Online Payment  
 Parent Portal  
 Teachers' Lounge

**YOUTH GROUP**

Executive Board  
 Facebook  
 Upcoming Events  
 Calendar  
 Adult Advisors  
 Photo Gallery  
 Event Sign-Up  
 Volunteer Opportunities  
 Registration Package  
 Event Descriptions





# CHURCH OF ST. CATHARINE

## *Growing in Faith & Service*

"This is what God asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8

### PARISH

[Church of St. Catharine](#) > [Religious Education](#) > [Fall Program](#) > [Curriculum Grades 1-7](#)

### PARISH MINISTRIES

#### Curriculum Grades 1-7

**Finding God Series**  
by Loyola Press.

### PRESCHOOL

[www.findinggod.com](http://www.findinggod.com) – access code = FG-2013 (excellent family resource tool)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Talk to your child/children each week about what they learned. Reinforcing what your child learns each week will ensure that they retain the information and also show the importance of the connection between home and class.

### YOUTH GROUP

**Prayer.** Please establish prayer-time each day with your child/children. Help them to remember their prayers and to learn to talk with Jesus each day.

2017 Summer Program  
Registration

#### *Parents are the Primary Educators of the Faith:*

Catechist Development

As the primary educators of your children and being the role models for their faith, it is important to attend Mass regularly, so that what is taught at home and at religious education classes is reinforced in Church.

Fall Registration

Family Home Study  
Program

**Together:** We can all make a difference in the life of a child!

Family Monthly Articles

#### **Religious Education: Grades 1 – 7 Curriculum & Program Overview**

Upcoming Events

Calendar

Parent Resources

#### **Finding God – Our Response to God's Gifts**

Sunday Mornings

By Loyola Press

Fall Program

*"The desire for God is written in the human heart."*

Curriculum Grade 2

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC27)*

#### • Curriculum Grades 1-7

Summer Program

We desire to know God in a personal way in order to find meaning and purpose in our lives. This is the aim of catechesis as expressed in the *General Directory for Catechesis*: "to put people, not only in touch, but also in communion with Jesus Christ" (GDC 80).

Confirmation Program

Sacramental Preparation

Photo Gallery

#### *Curriculum:*

Parent Letters & Paperwork

*The Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* program invites all who experience the program to recognize the presence of God in the sacraments and in their communities of faith and realize the presence of God in their experiences of God's creation in their lives as people for others.

Teachers' Lounge

Volunteer

*Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* is an authentic expression of the Catholic faith, found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* by the Subcommittee on the Catechism. The program reflects a vision of our Catholic faith grounded in Scripture and Tradition. The expression of the vision is based on our Catholic belief that effective catechesis:

- Reflects the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Centers on the Person of Jesus Christ.
- Proclaims the liberating good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Leads the Christian into the world in mission and action.
- Addresses the needs of the culture in which it is presented.
- Invites believers to reflect on personal experience as they grow in relationship with God.
- Leads to a full, conscious, active participation in the liturgical life of the Church.
- Fosters a climate of prayer and nurtures a faith that is expressed in prayer

*Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* helps children and families experience the full and authentic teaching of the Church while entering more deeply into a meaningful, lifelong relationship with God.

***Catholicism is more than just an interesting theological proposition-it's the way you live your life.***

Our faith is meant to be lived out in our homes, at school, on our jobs, and in the community. *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* provides an invitation into a way of living in relationship to God, family, parish and neighbor. This compelling and comprehensive program provides sound and substantial lessons in the faith and delivers those lessons through experiential activities that make these essential lessons part of a lifelong practice.

***This program involves the whole child: mind, and heart, body and soul.***

#### ***Diversity:***

This program helps all children recognize themselves in the story of Salvation History and celebrate the Church's diversity through:

- Art
- Saints & Holy People
- Music
- Ritual & Tradition

#### ***Inclusion:***

Among the many children in our parish community, some have special needs. The *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* includes activities in each Catechist Guide that adapt teaching approaches so that all children are included and can enter into the faith experience.

#### ***Families:***

The continuation of faith formation at home and the ability to monitor progress are key elements of this curriculum.

- With My Family has three suggestions that families can work together through each session: activity; faith on the go; family prayer
- Online family resources and newsletters
- [www.findinggod.com](http://www.findinggod.com) – (access code = FG-2013)

**National Directory for Catechesis**  
***Learning by Discipleship***

*Catechesis nourishes a living, explicit, and fruitful faith lived in discipleship to Jesus Christ. The disciple is brought to intimate communion with Jesus Christ and a deeper understanding that "by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God". (NDC # 328 /Eph 2:8)*

PARISH	PARISH MINISTRIES	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	PRESCHOOL	YOUTH GROUP
Action Alerts	Adult Faith Formation	Calendar	Admissions	Executive Board
Bulletins	Baptism	Upcoming Events	FAQs	Facebook
Calendar	Caring Ministry	Sunday Mornings	Online Payment	Upcoming Events
Contact Us	Circle Of Comfort	Fall Program	Parent Portal	Calendar
Cornerstone	Communications	Summer Program	Teachers Lounge	Adult Advisors
Directions	Employment Resource Committee	Confirmation Program		Photo Gallery
Funerals	Parish Nursing	Sacramental Preparation		Event Sign-Up
History	Finance Committee	Photo Gallery		Volunteer Opportunities
Library	Homebound Ministry	Parent Letters & Paperwork		Registration Package
Mass Schedule & Sacraments	Hospital	Teachers Lounge		Event Descriptions
Mission Statement	Liturgical Ministers	Volunteer		
Monsignor's Message	Liturgy Committee			
Online Giving	Mom's Playgroup			
Our Patron Saint	Music Ministers			
Pathways	Parish Life/Hospitality			
Parish Counseling Services	Prayer Shawl Ministry			
The St. Vincent De Paul Conference At The Church Of St. Catharine	RCIA			
Upcoming Events	Readers			
Upcoming Events	Respect Life Ministry			
Volunteers	Rosary Makers			
Weddings	Social Justice Committee			
	St. Andrew's Men's Group			
	St. Ann's Women's Group			



# CHURCH OF ST. CATHARINE

## *Growing in Faith & Service*

"This is what God asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God" Micah 6:8

### PARISH

[Church of St. Catharine](#) > [Religious Education](#) > [Fall Program](#) > [Curriculum Grade 2](#)

### PARISH MINISTRIES

## Curriculum Grade 2

### Religious Education: Curriculum & Program Overview

### PRESCHOOL

*Go Seek Find - Discover God's Treasures: Welcome:* We at Saint Mary's Press are excited to join you in the important ministry of preparing children for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Through this new and unique program, children are led on an adventure of discovery as they explore the rich and beautiful significance of these sacraments in their lives. *Go Seek Find* will engage and inspire children, creating a spirit of excitement and joy around their journey toward encountering Jesus through the treasures that are the sacraments.

### YOUTH GROUP

This program was developed with the real needs of children at its center. The core text of this program is the Saint Mary's Press *Catholic Children's Bible*. By using a Bible designed specifically for them and engaging with the Featured Stories within it, children will explore the sacraments through the biblical lens of Jesus' life and works and learn more about their faith in language they can understand. They will also experience interactive core activities that bring the chapter lessons to life in a fun and memorable way. And they will learn important information about the sacraments and reinforce this new knowledge through a variety of activities and family learning opportunities offered in the activity booklets that accompany each lesson.

*Go Seek Find* will help children discover the incredible treasures that are the sacraments. May an ever-expanding awareness of Christ's presence in our lives be the source of faith, hope, and love for all of us!

*"Ask, and you will receive, seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you"*  
(Matthew 7:7)

2017 Summer Program  
Registration

Catechist Development

Fall Registration

Family Home Study  
Program

Family Monthly Articles

Upcoming Events

Calendar

Parent Resources

Sunday Mornings

Fall Program

• [Curriculum Grade 2](#)

Curriculum Grades 1-7

Summer Program

Confirmation Program

Sacramental Preparation

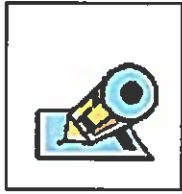
Photo Gallery

Parent Letters & Paperwork

Teachers' Lounge

Volunteer





## **Discipline**

The goal of all discipline is not just to keep order, but rather to instill within the student the ability for self-discipline. Our role is to guide each student to discover the inner resource within him/herself. The ultimate Christian goal is to move the student from self-discipline to discipleship.

### **Guidelines for Discipline**

- Be consistent. Children need to know what is expected of them in order to develop their own values and ideals. Inconsistency leads to discipline problems.
- Be fair: fairness is very important to children, so it is essential that rules and regulations are made with this point in mind.
- Praise good behavior: children respond to praise and it is important to do so as frequently as possible. This offers an incentive to those who may be acting out.
- Confront bad behavior. Do not allow bad behavior to rule the class. Confront it and expect a change of behavior. If there is no change, have an alternative way of dealing with the problem.
- Have as few rules as possible, but as many as necessary: children appreciate knowing the boundaries that are expected of them. If they are clear and concise, they will respond to them.
- Use “I” message: let the students know how you feel, “I feel angry because you are disrupting the class.”
- Focus on inner strengths: we as catechists are called to bring forth in each child the gifts and strengths that he/she possesses. Make this an aim in each class.
- Know names: this is vital. If the students feel you do not know them, they feel unimportant and may proceed to act out in order to get attention.

- Keep students actively engaged: all classes should have various activities planned in which all participate.
- Lessons should be well-planned: many problems arise because the teacher is not well prepared. The key to good discipline is well prepared lessons.

Sometimes it happens that even with the most well prepared lessons and activities; a student does not respond and causes constant disruption in a class. When this happens, please be sure to follow the guidelines for the behavior plan that we have instituted.

Please follow the behavior plan on the following pages!



# (Teacher's Name) Class Team

## Behavior Contract

This school year, our classroom is one where kindness counts, and positive learning take place! There is no room for negative thoughts or actions. In order for everyone in our class to have the opportunity to be the best he/she can be, these rules will govern the environment.

- ❖ **Follow the Golden Rule at all times.**  
**TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.**
- ❖ **LISTEN, and stay quiet while others are speaking.**
- ❖ **Always raise your hand to share your ideas.**
- ❖ **Have fun, and enjoy learning!!**

Religious Education can be an educationally worthwhile and fun time! Let's work together to help your child succeed. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email one of us.

### Teacher's Name

Dominica Vullo

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [dvullo@stcatharine.net](mailto:dvullo@stcatharine.net)

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Office #: 732-758-8568

### **Best time to reach us....**

Dominica Vullo can be reached between 9:00am - 4:30pm

\_\_\_\_\_ can be reached:

\_\_\_\_\_





## Behavior Contract

**As much as we will focus on positive behavior, there may be times when there is a need to track negative behavior. A class list will keep track of the following negative behaviors:**

- ❖ Talking while another student or adult is speaking
- ❖ Getting up out of your seat while a teacher is presenting a lesson
- ❖ Excessive talking while the class is working independently
- ❖ Coming into or leaving the classroom in a disruptive manner

**A check will be placed by your name if you present any of these behaviors. The following will be the consequences:**

- ❖ If you receive ONE check you will be given a warning.
- ❖ If you receive TWO checks you will need to complete a behavior slip, and have a parent sign it to show accountability for your actions. You will *NOT* be able to return to class the next day without it signed.
- ❖ If you receive THREE checks on any given day, a meeting will be scheduled for you and your parents, as well as both of us in order to discuss a plan to help you get back on track.
- ❖ If you receive THREE additional checks on any day after the meeting, you will be **REMOVED** from the program and will need to complete the year at home, and/or repeat the same grade the following year. There will be NO exceptions!

**Remember that each day is a chance to start fresh. We KNOW that this will help us to enjoy our time together!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dominica Vullo



**Parent Handbook:** I have read and understand the contents of the Parent Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature) \*\*

-----

**Behavior Contract:** I have read, understand and agree to comply to the behavior contract for all Religious Education programs. I have discussed this contract and consequences with my child/children.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature) \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

**\*\*Parents please sign in both places. Thank You\*\***

**All Signed Contracts must be returned to your child's teacher on Monday, September 18 for Monday Classes & Wednesday, September 20 for Wednesday Classes.**



Teacher's Name

Behavior Slip

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 's behavior has been unacceptable in our classroom today. Please discuss how he/she will come back with a positive attitude, which includes respect for his/her classmates and teacher.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature\*

Dominica Vullo

**\*Must be signed and return to your child's teacher before your child can return to class\***

-----

Behavior Slip

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 's behavior has been unacceptable in our classroom today. Please discuss how he/she will come back with a positive attitude, which includes respect for his/her classmates and teacher.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature\*

Dominica Vullo

**\*Must be signed and return to your child's teacher before your child can return to class\***

Dear Parents,

We can pray with any words that come to mind. Sometimes, when we find that choosing our own words is difficult, we can use traditional prayers. Likewise, when we pray aloud with others, we rely on traditional prayers to unite our minds, hearts, and voices. Memorizing traditional prayers can be very helpful. When we memorize prayers, we take them to heart, meaning that we not only learn the words but also try to understand and live them.

Listed below are all the Prayers by grade. For your convenience we have listed all the Prayers in one file: "Prayers to Take to Heart" on our website.

**Grade 1 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- Sign of the Cross
- Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be to the Father
- Grace Before Meals

**Grade 4 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- Sign of the Cross
- Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be to the Father
- Grace Before Meals
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles' Creed
- Nicene Creed

**Grade 2 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- Sign of the Cross
- Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be to the Father
- Grace Before Meals
- Act of Contrition

**Grade 5 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- Sign of the Cross
- Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be to the Father
- Grace Before Meals
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles' Creed
- Nicene Creed

**Grade 3 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- Sign of the Cross
- Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be to the Father
- Grace Before Meals
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles' Creed

**Grade 6 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- \_\_\_ Sign of the Cross
- \_\_\_ Lord's Prayer
- \_\_\_ Hail Mary
- \_\_\_ Glory Be to the Father
- \_\_\_ Grace Before Meals
- \_\_\_ Act of Contrition
- \_\_\_ Apostles' Creed
- \_\_\_ Nicene Creed

**Grade 7 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- \_\_\_ Sign of the Cross
- \_\_\_ Lord's Prayer
- \_\_\_ Hail Mary
- \_\_\_ Glory Be to the Father
- \_\_\_ Grace Before Meals
- \_\_\_ Act of Contrition
- \_\_\_ Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_ Apostles' Creed
- \_\_\_ Nicene Creed

**Grade 8 - Prayers to Take to Heart**

- \_\_\_ Sign of the Cross
- \_\_\_ Lord's Prayer
- \_\_\_ Hail Mary
- \_\_\_ Glory Be to the Father
- \_\_\_ Grace Before Meals
- \_\_\_ Act of Contrition
- \_\_\_ Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_ Apostles' Creed
- \_\_\_ Nicene Creed

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

***\*\*\*Please send in with your child/children on the first day of class\*\*\****

# Celebrating Our Faith

## *The Seven Sacraments*

Jesus touches our lives through the *sacraments*. Our celebrations of the sacraments are *signs* of Jesus' presence in our lives and a means for receiving his *grace*. The Church celebrates seven sacraments, which are divided into three categories.



### *Sacraments of Initiation*

These sacraments lay the foundation for our lives as Catholics.

#### 1. Baptism

In Baptism we receive *new life in Christ*. Baptism takes away Original sin and gives us a new birth in the Holy Spirit. Its sign is the *pouring of water*.

#### 2. Confirmation

Confirmation *seals* our life of faith in Jesus. Its signs are the *laying on of hands* on a person's head, most often by a bishop, and the *anointing with oil*. Like Baptism, Confirmation is only received once.

#### 3. Eucharist

The Eucharist *nourishes* our life of faith. Its signs are the Bread and Wine we receive- *the Body and Blood of Christ*.



### *Sacraments of Healing*

These sacraments celebrate the healing power of Jesus.

#### 4. Penance and Reconciliation

Through Penance we receive *God's forgiveness*. Forgiveness requires being sorry for our sins. In Penance we receive Jesus' healing grace through absolution by a priest. The signs of this sacrament are our *confession of sins* and the words of *absolution*.

#### 5. Anointing of the Sick

This sacrament unites a *sick person's suffering* with that of Jesus and brings forgiveness of sins. Oil, a symbol of strength, is the sign of this sacrament. A person is *anointed* with oil and receives the laying on of hands from a priest.

## *Sacraments at the Service of Communion*

These sacraments help members serve the community.



### 6. Holy Orders

In Holy Orders men are *ordained* as priests, deacons, or bishops. Priests serve as spiritual leaders of their communities, and deacons serve to remind us of our baptismal call to help others. Bishops carry on the teachings of the apostles. The signs of this sacrament are the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil by the bishop.

### 7. Matrimony

In *Matrimony* a baptized man and woman are united with each other as a sign of the unity between Jesus and his Church. Matrimony requires the consent of the couple as expressed in the marriage promises. The couple and their wedding rings are the signs of this sacrament.

## **Celebrating the Lord's Day**

*Sunday* is the day on which we celebrate the *Resurrection of Jesus*. Sunday is the Lord's Day. We gather for Mass, rest from work, and perform works of mercy. People all over the world gather at God's Eucharistic table as brothers and sisters.

### *The Order of the Mass*

The *Mass* is the high point of the Catholic life, and it always follows a set order.

- **Introductory Rites – preparing to celebrate the Eucharist**

*Entrance Chant* – We gather as a community and praise God in song.

*Greeting* – We pray the Sign of the Cross. The priest welcomes us.

*Penitential Act* – We remember our sins and ask God for mercy.

*Gloria* – We praise God in song.

*Collect* – We ask God to hear our prayers.

- **Liturgy of the Word – hearing God's plan of Salvation**

*First Reading* – We listen to God's Word, usually from the Old Testament.

*Responsorial Psalm* – We respond to God’s Word in song.

*Second Reading* – We listen to God’s Word from the New Testament.

*Gospel Acclamation* – We sing “Alleluia!” to praise God for the Good News.  
During Lent we use a different acclamation.

*Gospel Reading* – We stand and listen to the Gospel of the Lord.

*Homily* – The priest or deacon explains God’s Word.

*Profession of Faith* – We proclaim our faith through the Nicene Creed.

*Prayer of the Faithful* – We pray for our needs and the needs of others.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist – celebrating Christ’s presence in the Eucharist

*Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts* – We bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

*Prayer over the Offerings* – The priest prays that God will accept our sacrifice.

*Eucharistic Prayer* – This prayer of thanksgiving is the center and high point of the entire celebration.

✠ Preface – We give thanks and praise to God.

✠ Holy, Holy, Holy – We sing an acclamation of praise.

✠ Institution Narrative – The Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

✠ The Mystery of Faith – We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

✠ Amen – We affirm the words and actions of the Eucharistic Prayer.

- **Communion Rite – preparing to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ**

*The Lord’s Prayer* – We pray the Lord’s Prayer.

*Sign of Peace* – We offer one another Christ’s peace.

*Lamb of God* – We pray for forgiveness, mercy and peace.

*Communion* – We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

*Prayer after Communion* – We pray that the Eucharist will strengthen us to live as Jesus did.



- **Concluding Rites – going forth to glorify the Lord by our life**

*Final Blessing* – We receive God’s blessing.

*Dismissal* – We go in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives.

## **Holy Days of Obligation**

The Holy Days of Obligation are the days other than Sundays on which we celebrate the great things God has done for us through Jesus and the saints. On Holy Days of Obligation, Catholics attend Mass. Six Holy Days of Obligation are celebrated in the United States.

1. *January 1* – Mary, Mother of God
2. *40 days after Easter* – Ascension
3. *August 15* – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4. *November 1* – All Saints Day
5. *December 8* – Immaculate Conception
6. *December 25* – Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

## **Precepts of the Church**

The Precepts of the Church describes the minimum effort we must make in prayer and in living a moral life. All Catholics are called to move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor. The Precepts are as follows:

Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

Confession of sin at least once a year

Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season

Observance of the days of fast and abstinence

Providing for the needs of the Church



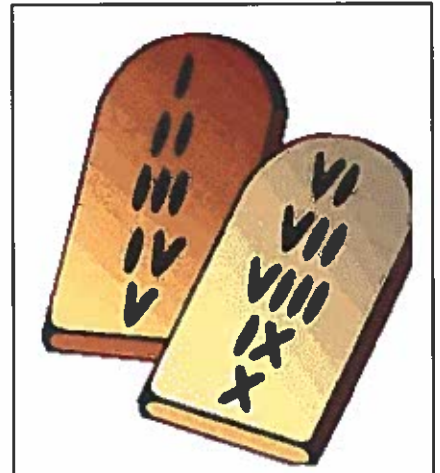
## Living Our Faith

### *The Ten Commandments*

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to a new life and are asked to make moral choices that keep us united with God. With the help and grace of the Holy Spirit, we can choose ways to act to keep us close to God, to help other people, and to be witnesses to Jesus.

The *Ten Commandments* guide us in making choices that help us to live as God wants us to live. The first three commandments tell us how to love God; the other seven tell us how to love our neighbor.

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbors' goods.



### *The Great Commandment*

The *Ten Commandments* are fulfilled in *Jesus' Great Commandment*:

*"You shall love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Adapted from Mark 12:30-31

### *The New Commandment*

Before his Death on the cross, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment:

*"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."*

John 13:34

## *The Beatitudes*

The *Beatitudes* are the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-10). Jesus teaches us that if we live according to the Beatitudes, we will live a happy Christian life. The *Beatitudes* fulfill God's promises made to Abraham and his descendants and describe the rewards that will be ours as loyal followers of Christ.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



## Making Good Choices

Our conscience is the inner voice that helps us to know the law of God has placed in our hearts. Our conscience helps us to judge the moral qualities of our own actions. It guides us to do good and to avoid evil.

The *Holy Spirit* can help us form a good conscience. We form our conscience by studying the teachings of the Church and by following the guidance of our parents and pastoral leaders.

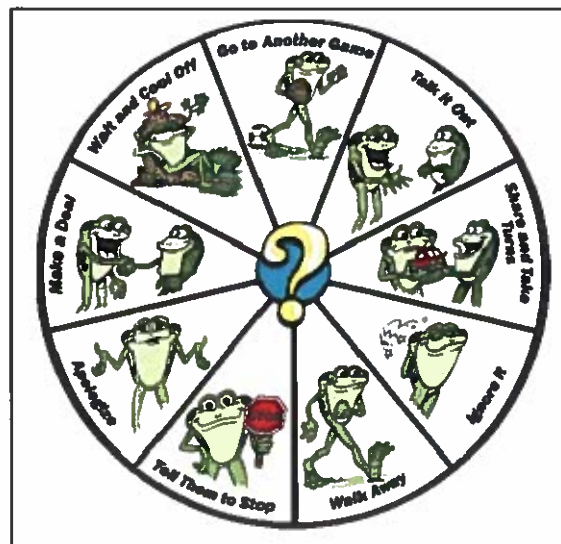
God has given every human being freedom of choice. This does not mean that we have the right to do whatever we please. We can live in true freedom if we cooperate with the *Holy Spirit*, who gives us the *virtue of prudence*. This virtue helps us recognize what is good in every situation and make correct choices. The *Holy Spirit* gives us the gifts of wisdom and understanding to help us make the right choices in life in relationship to God and others. The gift of counsel helps us reflect on making correct choices in life.

The *Ten Commandments* help us to make *moral choices* that are pleasing to God. We have the grace of the sacraments, the teachings of the Church, and the good example of saints and fellow Christians to help us make good choices.

Making moral choices involves the following steps:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.
2. Think about God's law and the teachings of the Church.
3. Think about what will happen as a result of your choice. Ask yourself, will the consequences be pleasing to God? Will my choice hurt someone else?
4. Seek advice from someone you respect and remember that Jesus is with you.
5. Ask yourself how your choice will affect your relationships with God and with others.

Making moral choices take into consideration the object of the choice, our intention in making the choice, and the circumstances in which the choice is made. It is never right to make an evil choice in the hope of gaining something good.



## Virtues

Virtues are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with him. Virtues are like habits. They need to be practiced; they can be lost if they are neglected. The three most important virtues are called *Theological Virtues*, because they come from God and lead to God. The *Cardinal Virtues* are human virtues, acquired by education and good actions. *Cardinal* comes from *cardo*, the Latin word for *hinge*, meaning “that on which other things depend.”

### *Theological Virtues*

faith                      hope                      charity

### *Cardinal Virtues*

prudence              justice                      fortitude              temperance



### *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to do what God asks of us by giving us these *gifts*.

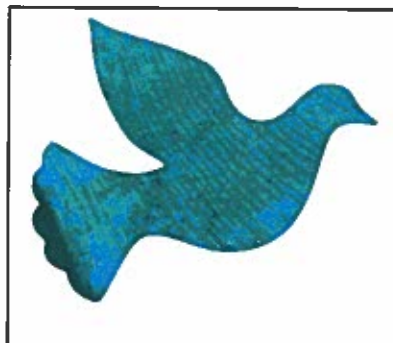
wisdom              understanding              counsel              fortitude              knowledge  
piety                      fear of the Lord

### *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*

*The Fruits of the Holy Spirit* are signs of the Holy Spirit’s action in our lives.

love                      joy                      peace                      patience                      kindness  
generosity              faithfulness              gentleness              self-control

*Church Tradition* also includes goodness, modesty, and chastity as *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*.



## **Works of Mercy**

*The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.*

### *Corporal Works of Mercy*

feed the hungry      shelter the homeless      clothe the naked  
visit the sick and imprisoned      bury the dead      give alms to the poor

### *Spiritual Works of Mercy*

*The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.*

instruct      advise      console      comfort      forgive      bear wrongs patiently

## **Showing Our Love for the World**

In the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), Jesus makes clear our responsibility to care for those in need. The Catholic Church teaches this responsibility in the following themes of *Catholic Social Teaching*.

### *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*

All human life is sacred and all people must be respected and valued over material goods. We are called to ask whether our actions as a society respect or threaten the life and dignity of the human person.

### *Call to Family, Community, and Participation*

Participation in family and community is central to our faith and to a healthy society. Families must be supported so that people can participate in society, build a community spirit, and promote the well-being of all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

### *Rights and Responsibilities*

Every person has a right to life as well as a right to those things required for human decency. As Catholics we have a responsibility to protect these basic human rights in order to achieve a healthy society.

### *Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*

In our world many people are very rich while at the same time many are extremely poor. As Catholics, we are called to pay special attention to the needs of those who are poor by defending and promoting their dignity and by meeting their immediate material needs.

### *The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*

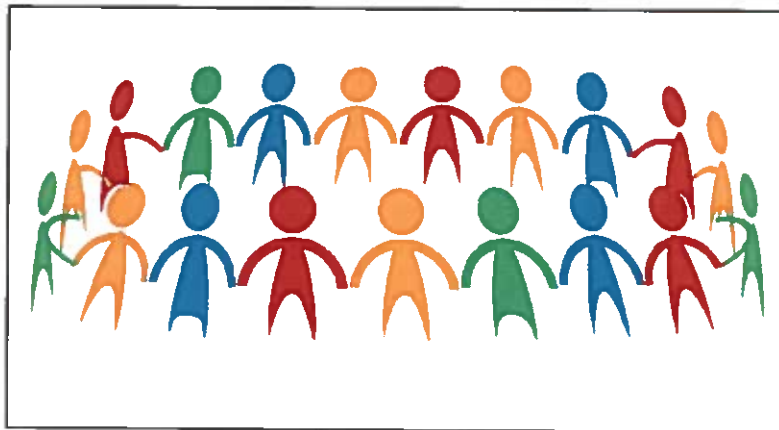
The basic rights of workers must be respected: the right to productive work, fair wages, and private property; and the right to organize, join unions, and pursue economic opportunity. Catholics believe that the economy is meant to serve the people and that work is not merely a way to make a living but an important way in which we participate in God's creation.

### *Solidarity*

Because God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters with the responsibility to care for one another. Solidarity is the attitude that leads Christians to share spiritual and material goods. Solidarity unites rich and poor, weak and strong, and helps to make a society that recognizes that we all depend upon one another.

### *Care for God's Creation*

God is the Creator of all people and all things, and he wants us to enjoy his creation. The responsibility to care for all God has made is a requirement of our faith.



Looking to purchase for your parish or school? Contact your Consultant or Customer Service.

**LOYOLAPRESS.**  
A JESUIT MINISTRY

Go To: [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)  
Click on: Faith Formation Programs  
- Finding God  
- Finding God 2013  
- Families Resources

LOGIN | SIGN UP | CART (0) 

Looking for something?

SEARCH



Home > Faith Formation > Finding God > Finding God 2013 > Families

## Families

*Finding God* offers parents and families materials specifically designed for use at home whether catechesis takes place in the parish, school, or home. From **at-home, family friendly lesson plans**, to **interactive study guides**, to the exciting online game **Fishers of Faith**, the activities listed below will refresh your own faith while helping you become an active partner in your child's faith formation.

### Select Grade/Resource:

Finding God e-newsletters

Kindergarten >

Grade 1 >

Grade 2 >

Grade 3 >

Grade 4 >

Grade 5 >

Grade 6 >

Grade 7 >

Grade 8 >

### More for Students and Families

Read about your favorite Saint. >

Faith, Family and Fun >

#### Program Overview

Finding God is a K-8 faith formation program that covers the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church and helps children develop as intentional disciples. Based on Ignatian spirituality, the program nurtures children in their faith.

#### Directors and Principals

Directors of Religious Education and principals can access Finding God tools and resources to provide teaching support and program guidance to nurture the faith of children and their families.



