

Faith Formation Program



Parent Handbook

Our Lady of the Visitation Faith Formation Program For Elementary and Middle School

The Faith Formation Program of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Community is designed to be an eight year program of on-going Faith development for students in our community from first to eighth grade who attend the Paramus public schools. It is designed to be a co-operative program of family and parish community.

Mission Statement

This Ministry of Catechesis requires that we carefully instruct the students in our charge to be good stewards/disciples by learning and understanding how to:

- Proclaim the Christian Message by knowing, loving and living the Life of Jesus as found in the Sacred Scriptures and the basic teachings of the Church.
- Build Community - to know about and actively participate in the life of the community here at Our Lady of the Visitation as well as the worldwide Church.
- Worship and Pray - to know, understand and participate in the worship life of the Family, Community and Parish, as well as building a strong personal prayer life.
- Serve and to help others to serve. To know and live out the care and concern shown by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as reflected in the Gospels, the Corporal/Spiritual Works of Mercy, and the Church's apostolic mission.

Children are required to attend CCD for all of their elementary school grades. Children will be required to make up any year of missed CCD before being eligible for a sacramental grade.

If a student misses more than four classes in an academic year, he/she will only be eligible for promotion to the next grade after he/she is tested and meets grade level satisfaction. Special arrangements can be made for a child with prolonged illness.

Sunday Class Time: Grades 1-6, 9:00-10:15am

Monday Class Time: Grades 1-6, 3:45-5:00 pm

Monday Evening Class Time: Grades 7- 8

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Spiritual Life

It is expected that every child who is preparing for or has made his/her First Communion will attend Mass regularly. Mass is celebrated Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, and 12:00 pm.

Attendance:

It is important that parents call the Faith Formation Office (201-265-3812) when their child is going to be absent. When calling please give the child's first & last name, date of absence and the teacher's name.

Sacramental Preparation:

Children will not automatically become candidates for First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation simply because they are in the appropriate grade level. Only students who have had a history of continuous attendance and have acceptable knowledge of each grade level in CCD will be eligible.

Parent's Meetings:

Parents of children in all grade levels are expected to participate in the "Family Orientation" at the opening of the school year. Please check the calendar for time and date.

Homework:

The aim of our CCD program is to assist you in your responsibility to help your children to know God and the kind of life He offers them. Please read each lesson. This will reassure your child that his/her faith development is important to you.

Testing:

Periodic testing is given for grades 1-8.

Students must have a satisfactory knowledge of the material presented in their grade in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

Progress Reports:

Students' progress reports will be distributed twice per year, as indicated on the yearly calendar. Areas of evaluation include knowledge of material and conduct.

Disruptive Behavior Will Not Be Tolerated

Discipline Procedure for all Grades:

First, the catechist will speak to your child and give a warning.

Second, the catechist will speak to the parent about unacceptable behavior.

Third, if unacceptable behavior continues, the child will be removed from class.

Finally, if the unacceptable behavior has not changed, parent will be asked to sit in class to curb behavior. Parent will need to take a "Protecting God's Children" (PGC) workshop before sitting in class

For 7th and 8th Grade Families:

Zero Tolerance Policy must be signed by both parent and student in order for the student to enter grade 7 or 8.

For 1st – 6th Grade Families:

Memorandum of Understanding must be signed by the parent.

Bullying:

Bullying behavior will not be tolerated. Any child caught bullying will be removed from the class. The child's return to class will depend on the Pastor, D.R.E and parent input.

Policy and Regulations:

Cell Phones

Cell phone use is not permitted during class.

Web Site Information:

Go to olvparamus.org, Faith Formation for all printable forms including CCD Calendar, Registration Form and Parent Handbook.