



“Let the little children come to Me.”

Matthew 19:14

ALIVE IN CHRIST

PARISH RELIGION PROGRAM

**PARENT AND STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

2017-2018

Dear Parents,

As Director of Faith Formation, I would like to welcome you and your family to our Parish Religion Program (PRP) for the 2017-2018 school year. We will begin our PRP program with a special kick-off gathering on Sunday, September 10, 2017 in Ventura Hall for all parents and children.

The task of teaching a child about the faith is an awesome responsibility and takes many people working together. As parents, you are the first catechists/teachers of your child and the *most important ones*. What does it mean to be the primary catechist? Saint John Paul II referred to the family as the “domestic church”. Every moment in your home (the domestic church) can be a teaching moment. In other words, your home is the heartbeat of faith where God’s love is lived out daily.

At an early age, your child learned intuitively about God, by watching you pray and go to mass. Your children have learned about charity and forgiveness by experiencing it from you. These early encounters of faith in the home and family provided the context for them to learn about God’s love and mercy. So, being the best teachers for your child’s faith development means that you practice your faith: you pray at home, go to mass every Sunday and make your home a place where love and forgiveness abounds.

Along with our PRP Catechists, I am looking forward to the opportunity to join with you in teaching and sharing our Catholic faith with your children. Our program is available for grades K through 8th, and is held on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:45 am in the St. Bernadette School building. Families are encouraged to attend the 11:00 am mass together after the program.

Every year we experience a need for catechists and assistants to serve our growing parish. I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider if God may be knocking on the door of your heart and asking you to help bring the children to him. It is not necessary to be a certified catechist/teacher in order to work in our program. I welcome all who want to share their gift of faith with others as a catechist or assistant.

Thank you for registering your children in St. Bernadette’s Parish Religion Program, Alive in Christ. Our PRP Handbook is available on our website at www.stbameliaparish.org. I look forward to assisting you in the faith formation of your children. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or home school options. You can count on my prayers for you and your family every day.

All for Jesus, All for His Kingdom,

Amy Zurlinden
Director of Faith Formation
St. Bernadette Parish

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Parish Religion Program (PRP) for faith formation of the children of St. Bernadette Parish, grades K – 8th. It is our hope that this handbook will serve as a guide and reference regarding various aspects of our program.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bernadette Parish is a welcoming Catholic community, worshipping God and serving our neighbor.

FAITH FORMATION MISSION STATEMENT

The parish family of St. Bernadette believes that lifelong faith formation is essential to grow in love and service of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage all families; children, teens and adults to grow in knowledge of Jesus and the holy, Catholic Church by participation in a wide variety of programs designed to deepen our faith. With lives centered on the Mass and sacraments, we find unity when we recognize Christ alive in the hearts and minds of all who are called to witness.

PROGRAM GOAL

Our goal is to provide an opportunity for nurturing and forming our parishioners of all ages, in the teachings of Christ our Lord, through the study of Scripture, the Catholic Catechism, traditions of the church and specifically selected programs designed for religious education of children.

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PROGRAM CONTACTS

ST. BERNADETTE ADDRESS

1479 LOCUST LAKE ROAD
AMELIA. OHIO 45102

ST. BERNADETTE WEBSITE

www.stbameliparish.org

ST. BERNADETTE FACEBOOK PAGE

St. Bernadette, Amelia Ohio



ST. BERNADETTE PARISH RELIGION PROGRAM 2017-2018
***CLASS BEGINS AT 9:15 AM TO 10:45 AM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Opening Day	Kick-Off Event	
September 10, 2017	Parents & Students	Ventura Hall
September 17, 2017	Class	Classrooms
September 24, 2017	Class	Classrooms
October 1, 2017	Class	Classrooms
October 8, 2017	Class	Classrooms
October 15, 2017	Class	Classrooms
October 22, 2017	Class	Classrooms
October 29, 2017	Class	Classrooms
November 5, 2017	Class	Classrooms
November 12, 2017	Class	Classrooms
November 19, 2017	Class	Classrooms
November 26, 2017	OFF	
December 3, 2017	Class	Classrooms
December 10, 2017	Class	Classrooms
December 17, 2017	Class Christmas	Party Stievenard Hall
December 24, 2017	OFF Merry	Christmas
December 31, 2017	OFF Happy	New Year
January 7, 2018	Class	Classrooms
January 14, 2018	Class	Classrooms
January 21, 2018	OFF	School Open House
January 28, 2018	Class	Classrooms
February 4, 2018	Class	Classrooms
February 11, 2018	Class	Classrooms
February 18, 2018	OFF	
February 25, 2018	Class	Classrooms
March 4, 2018	Class	Classrooms
March 11, 2018	Class	Classrooms
March 18, 2018	Class	Classrooms
March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday	Class	Classrooms
April 1, 2018	OFF EASTER He is risen!	
April 8, 2018	OFF Spring Break	
April 15, 2018	Class	Classrooms
April 22, 2018 *	Class *No class for 2 nd grade	Classrooms
April 29, 2018	Class	Classrooms
May 6, 2018	Class	Classrooms
May 13, 2018	Class	Classrooms
May 20, 2018	End of Year Event	TBD

- Dates and times for other parent and sacramental meetings TBD and subject to change.

*April 21st and 22nd is First Holy Communion at all masses

*Wednesday, May 2nd, 2018 Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders at St. Peter In Chains Cathedral

CURRICULUM REVIEW

We will be using textbooks from Our Sunday Visitor. For Kindergarten, they will use the book Allelu. For 1st through 6th grades, they will be using the Alive In Christ books.

There is a family page on their website at <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/family>.

Please visit this page for more information about at home faith formation.

There are great resources to help parents discuss the weekly gospel reading with their children. On the website there are valuable tools for parents, teachers and catechists featuring free downloadable activities and teacher resources. There are fun, inactive learning tools and games. You will also find access to adult learning. Home Session Plans provide parents all they need for home-based catechesis.

Each week a family page form the textbooks will be sent home with the students to help live the faith at home.

Our 7th and 8th grade classes will be using the program and textbook, Chosen. With the textbook, the student will also receive a parent book and a book for their Confirmation sponsor. This teaching includes a series of videos, textbook, prayer and group discussions.

REGISTRATION

Registration for all Faith Formation programs is ongoing for new families joining our parish or entering religious education for the first time. New students must provide Baptismal Certificate at the time of registration. All new and returning students must have completed registrations forms.

Registration forms can be found online at our website www.stbameliparish.org .

TUITION

\$75 per Child Additional \$25 per Child if a Sacramental Year

Please make checks payable to St. Bernadette.

Financial assistance is available; please contact Director of Faith Formation.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Our sacramental programs are based on these principles:

- Parents are the primary teachers of their children.
- Sacraments are gifts of grace.
- Sacramental catechesis can help invigorate the faith participation of families.
- All learning of faith seeks to draw persons into deeper communion with Christ and his Church.
- Sacramental Preparation is included in the Parish Religion Program classes with additional mandatory meetings, retreats and projects outside the classroom for students and parents. As such, we partner with parents and families to prepare for the celebration of the sacraments.

Typically Baptism is celebrated as an infant, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are celebrated when the child is in 2nd grade and Confirmation is celebrated when the student is in 8th grade. However for many reasons a child may not have celebrated these sacraments at the typical age. We welcome all children under any circumstances and will work to provide instruction necessary to celebrate these sacraments. Please contact the Faith Formation Director for assistance.

HOMESCHOOL OPTION

Any family may elect to participate in St. Bernadette's Homeschool Option. This option is especially encouraged for families who homeschool. Families who chose this option will meet with the Director of Faith Formation who is available to help assist the family choose catechetical materials and plan out the year.

Families who select the family option will be expected to attend any retreats, meetings, and events associated with First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Check the appropriate Home School Option box on the registration form.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

NONDISCRIMINATION

The policy for admissions at St. Bernadette PRP entails no discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, or handicapping conditions. The Faith Formation Office will work directly with families to ensure that no student who has a learning or physical handicap is excluded or discouraged.

DISCIPLINE

If a teacher/catechist corrects a student's behavior, speech or attitude more than once per class, then that student may be referred to the Faith Formation Director who will contact the parent(s) for disciplinary collaboration. Repeated and significant student disciplinary measures may result in a student's expulsion from the program. Such circumstances are rare and parents can be assured that all steps will be taken to work with a family and to allow a student's continued participation in PRP.

It is important in a learning community that all students be given access to an environment free from distraction. *Bullying is not tolerated at PRP.* St. Bernadette's PRP strictly follows the Decree on Child Protection, which includes the mandate by the Decree on Child Protection as well as the Ohio Revised Code to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.

NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

At the time of registration, the Faith Formation Office needs to be informed by the custodial parent of the rights of the non-custodial parent.

ATTENDANCE

In the event of an absence, families will be assigned homework to make up for the class time. Make-up work must be returned at the next class in order for students to remain on schedule with the group. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that make-up work is picked up and completed. More than 3 absences and/or 3 tardies will necessitate communication with Faith Formation Director, including the Pastor, regarding the family's commitment to the PRP program.

RECORDS

Performance and attendance records will be kept on file in the Faith Formation office. Parents may contact the Faith Formation office in order to access their student's records. Teachers do not keep such records, all attendance and performance accounts are kept on file in the office.

SHARING SPACE

It is important that the students respect the property of others. The Parish Religion Program shares classroom space at St. Bernadette School. Everyone who uses the space must respect it and the other students who use it during the week. While the PRP students are in the classrooms they will be using the desks of the daily school children. Nothing in the desk is to be touched. PRP students are supplied with pencils, crayons, etc, so there is no need to use or borrow anything that does not belong to them. Any items damaged, destroyed, or missing will be repaired or replaced at the student's expense.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL : Students should arrive no earlier than 9:05, no later than 9:15. A teacher or other volunteer will be available to supervise and direct students beginning at 9:05. Students should be dropped off at main school entrance facing the cafeteria. Students who arrive after 9:15 are considered tardy.

DISMISSAL: Students must be picked up in Stievenard Hall at 10:45. * Unless it is communicated otherwise by email or at drop off.

*Please help us ensure the safety of all the children and youth by following these arrival and dismissal procedures.

*Please avoid driving in the coned areas. Please park in the parking spaces and walk your child to the front doors of the school.

CANCELLATIONS

For weather or facility related cancellations, please check the St. Bernadette Facebook page and your email. Cancellation decisions will be made by 8:00 a.m.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

If a student should become sick or injured during PRP, parents/guardians will be called and appropriate medical protocol followed. If a student has a minor injury (e.g. requiring a band-aid), an incident report will be sent home.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION

Students may not attend PRP unless the Emergency Medical Authorization Form is on file. See registration forms.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

No medicine or personal prescriptions will be administered at PRP. Epi-pens and inhalers are the exception. Please contact the Faith Formation Director to coordinate the necessary medical awareness for your child.

FOOD AND DRINK IN THE CLASSROOM

Food and drink are not allowed in the classroom. Students should finish eating and drinking before attending PRP. Teachers may offer a special beverage or snack at their discretion and only under advisement of student allergies.

POLICY CHANGES

In the event that policies and procedures are added or amended, parents will be notified in writing.