

FAITH FORMATION STAFF

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Coordinators 2011– 2012

St. Joseph Faith Formation

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A Message for Parents

As the first and most important teachers of your children your input is essential in order to form your children in the Roman Catholic Faith.

Weekly participation in Sunday Mass (or Saturday evening) is the most effective way to form children in the faith because they experience the ritual week after week and they encounter God in the Scripture readings and in the Eucharist. They also become familiar with the parish community.

A good way to help your children prepare for Sunday Mass is to read the Gospel and share what its message means for you. This family activity would help all members of your family to be more open to hearing God's message at Mass.

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY: HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Begin by focusing on the Gospel only. (If your children are older you can also read the other scripture passages.)
- Invite one of your children to find the Gospel passage in the Bible. Use any translation. On Sundays we hear the New American Bible.
- Or, access the reading online through the parish website www.stjosephsbabylon.org. Click on READINGS AND REFLECTIONS (on left side of home page). Scroll down to www.nccbuscc.org. You will see a calendar. Click on the date of the coming Sunday and you will access all the readings exactly as they will be heard at mass.
- Invite your children to listen carefully as you read the Gospel. Then suggest listening for a word or phrase that stands out. Slowly read the Gospel again.
- What is God saying to you in these words? If you had to get up and give a homily on these readings what would you say?



PARENT MEETINGS AND SPECIAL LITURGIES

We look forward to your presence at parent meetings and special liturgies. Please mark your calendar with the event dates listed in this booklet that pertain to your child's grade level. Please call the Faith Formation Office if you are unable to attend a scheduled event.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly attendance is required in order for a child to successfully complete each grade level. Please phone the catechist when your child must miss the Faith Formation group and then, to the best of your ability, make up the missed chapter with your child. Children are expected to attend each scheduled session.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Each child is to be escorted by a parent, guardian, or designated adult to the door of the catechist's home or to the door of the catechist's meeting room in the Center. At dismissal time the child will be released by the catechist (home or meeting room) only to the parent, guardian or designated adult.

"INFORMATION FOR THE CATECHIST" FORM

Your child will be given an "Information for the Catechist" form at the first meeting. Please return the information form **to the catechist** at your child's next Faith Formation group meeting.

CONTACT WITH CATECHISTS

We encourage you to be in communication with your child's catechist. The catechist is available to share or clarify any concerns you might have. If your child is unable to attend a meeting, please notify the catechist prior to the meeting.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

After each meeting of your child's Faith Formation group try to find time to read the chapter presented by the catechist that week and discuss its content with your child. A schedule for the year will be taped inside your child's text. **CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN PARENTS ARE INVOLVED.**

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Please feel free to call the Faith Formation Office if you have questions, suggestions, problems or concerns.

BUILDING PROCEDURES
For groups meeting at the Parish Center

For a variety of reasons, we have begun to require that all Faith Formation groups meet at the parish center. During the 2011-2012 year, all levels 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Faith Formation groups will be in the building in addition to children in other levels whose catechists have chosen to meet at St. Joseph.

Arrival and Dismissal –

- Every child must be accompanied to and from the classroom by an adult.
- Stairways are marked “up” and “down”; please use the proper stairways to help alleviate congestion.
- We ask that the children be in the rooms five minutes prior to the starting time so that the group can begin on time.
- For the safety of the children, we ask that parents please park in a designated parking spot and walk the child to either the “staff entrance” which is in the rear of the building across from the thrift shop, or to the “nursery school” entrance with the ramp which is a North Carll Ave. entrance, and then to the classroom.
- Do not leave your child in the classroom if the catechist is not present.

Hall Monitors – there are three hallways at the center that are used by Faith Formation. The ideal is to have parents volunteer to monitor each of these hallways when the children are in the building. Please call the Faith Formation office 587-4717 if you are willing to help with this effort. It involves occasionally escorting a young child to the rest room and back and sitting in the hallway to make certain that the children are safely in their rooms. It is a good opportunity to read the newspaper or a good book while your child is participating in a Faith Formation session.

Footwear – footwear with wheels is not permitted in the building.

Food - no food or drinks are permitted in the building during the catechetical sessions.

Toys, I-Pods, etc. – please leave all distractions at home. The children have only one hour per week to focus on their formal religious education.

Books – parents are asked to buy a work book for each of their children; the books are sold in the Faith Formation office. Please send the work book with the child each week.

If your child will be absent – please call the catechist if your child will not be present so that the catechist isn’t waiting for your child to arrive before she/he begins the session.

**ST. JOSEPH'S FAITH FORMATION
2011- 2012 CALENDAR**

<u>Number of classes</u>	<u>Week beginning on Monday</u>	
1	September	19
2	September	26
NO SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28		
3	October	3
4	October	10
5	October	17
6	October	24
7	October	31
8	November	7
NO SESSION ON TUESDAY, NOV. 8		
9	November	14
NO SESSIONS week of November 21- Happy Thanksgiving		
10	November	28
11	December	5
12	NO SESSIONS	December 12 - Children are encouraged to attend the Christmas Pageant.
NO SESSIONS weeks of December 19 & 26 – Merry Christmas		
13	January	2
14	January	9
15	January	16
16	January	23
17	January	30
18	February	6
19	February	13
NO SESSIONS week of February 20 - Presidents' Week		
20	February	27
21	March	5
22	March	12
23	March	19 (last week of sessions)

KINDERGARTEN

Children may be registered for one or both of the sessions listed below. The focus of the Kindergarten program is to help the children quiet themselves, and then guide them to use their imagination in order to experience the presence of our loving God.

We offer a five session program at St. Joseph in the fall for children who are now in kindergarten.

Dates: November 7, 14, 21, 28, & December 5

Time: 5:00 until 5:45 pm

Place: Rooms 259 & 260 in the parish center

Cost: \$25

Parents are asked to stay for the 45 minutes.

The children will be listening to stories, praying, singing, and they will enjoy a tour of the Church. For Thanksgiving week, we will offer some insights about gratitude to God, and together we'll delight in the Christmas story in December.

To register: call the Faith Formation office 587-4717 before October 24.

We are only taking 25 children.

&

We offer a 5 session program at St. Joseph in the spring for children who are now in kindergarten.

Dates: February 27, March 5, 12, 19 & 26

Time: 5:00 until 5:45 pm

Place: Rooms 259 & 260 in the parish center

Cost: \$25

Parents are asked to stay for the 45 minutes.

The children will be listening to stories, singing, praying, and they will enjoy a tour of the Church. Together we'll delight in the Easter story at the final session.

To register: call the Faith Formation office 587-4717 as soon as possible, but no later than February 13. The group will be limited to 25 children.

LEVEL 1

Christ Jesus, the Way has as its theme the story of Jesus and the little children (see Mark 10:13-16). The theme is demonstrated throughout the year by showing the children that they are welcomed and loved by God's only Son and by his Church. The text tells the story of God's loving presence in everyday life. Level 1 invites the children and their families to follow Jesus and to be faithful to him.

All Level One families will be required to attend five Sunday Masses @ 9:30am in the Msgr. Nolan Hall. Please see the dates listed below.

LEVEL 1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Much to Know text page 10

Things to Remember text pages 12-13

Prayers to Learn by Heart text pages 15-17

Level 1 children are expected to come to the first group session knowing the **Sign of the Cross and The Lord's Prayer.**

Prayer text page 18

End of Year Review text page 184

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR LEVEL 1 2011 - 2012

Parent Meeting	Overview of Level 1 - Role of parents Monday, September 19, 10:00-11:00am – Room 257 or 7:00-8:00pm – Room 257
Beginning Celebration	Prayer Service and blessing for child & parent Saturday, September 24, 4:00-4:30pm in Church followed by cookies, cupcakes and juice in the gym.
Sunday Masses @ 9:30am in the Msgr. Nolan Hall	November 27, December 11, January 22 February 12 & March 18
Advent Wreath Blessing:	at the 9:30am Mass - First Sunday of Advent November 27
Level 1 Bread Celebration	Monday, March 26 at 6:00-7:00pm – Msgr. Nolan Hall

LEVEL 2

Christ Jesus, the Way has as its theme story, Jesus feeding the crowds (see Luke 9:11-17). The theme is demonstrated throughout the year by taking a closer look at the celebration of the Eucharist. While Jesus was on earth, he provided food for the Apostles and the large crowds that followed him. In that same spirit, God's people are able to share in a meal with Jesus and the Church, nourished by the presence of Jesus. Level 2 children prepare for two Sacraments...Reconciliation and Eucharist.

LEVEL 2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Know text page 10

Important Questions text pages 12-13

Prayers to Learn text pages 15-16

Talking to God text page 17

End of Year Review text page 184

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR LEVEL 2 2011-2012

Parent Meeting:

Thursday, September 22 in room 257
10:00 until 11:00am or 7:00 until 8:00pm.

**First Reconciliation
Services**

Your child will be assigned to one of the following dates and times: **Saturday, December 3 at 11:00am or 1:00pm** or **Saturday, December 10 at 11:00am or 1:00pm**. Parent and child are asked to please arrive at the **Church** at 15 minutes prior to their assigned time.

Parent Meeting

Thursday, January 19 at 10:00 until 11:00am
or 7:00 until 8:00pm in room 257.

**Blessing of
"My Own Mass
Booklet"**

at all masses on the weekend of
January 28 – January 29.

Instructional Mass

**Will take the place of a class on:
February 7 or 8 for those @ the 3:45 or 6:45pm sessions
February 28 or 29 for those @ the 5:15pm session.
Please arrive 10 minutes prior to sign in.**

**Presentation of
Crosses**

At all masses the weekend of
March 3 – March 4.

Parent Meeting

Thursday, March 22 in room 257 at 10:00 until 11:00am
or 7:00 until 8:00pm.

**First Eucharist
Celebrations**

will be on the last two Saturdays in **April** and the first two
Saturdays in **May**.
Your child will be assigned a date and time. Please note
that the rehearsals (4:00pm & 5:00pm) for First Communion
are on the Wednesdays prior to your assigned
Saturday celebration.

**“Going Forth To Make
The World a Better Place”
Celebration**

Sunday, May 20 after the 9:30am Mass in the gym.
Most children wear their First Communion outfits, but it’s not
required.



LEVEL 3

Christ Jesus, the Way has as its theme the story of Jesus at the wedding at Cana (see John 2:1-11). Just as Mary urged the servants to “Do what he tells you,” the children learn throughout the year that they, too, are called to do as Jesus asks. In order to follow Jesus, they learn about what Jesus said and did by exploring the Word of God and the teachings of the Church. The story of the wedding at Cana shows that God’s children are rewarded when they follow Jesus’ command. Level 3 teaches the children that all are called to be apostles of Jesus, loving God and one another, and spreading the Good News everywhere.

LEVEL 3 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Know text page 10

Important Questions - text pages 12-13

Prayers to Learn - text pages 14-16 - especially The Sign of the Cross, Lord’s Prayer and Hail Mary

Talking to God - text page 17

End of Year Review text pages 244-245

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR LEVEL 3 2011 - 2012

Presentation of the Gifts at Mass - In Level 2 the children celebrated their First Communion. Level 3 encourages their active participation in Sunday Eucharistic celebrations.

Level 3 catechists will contact their coordinator in order to choose a weekend Mass at which their students will participate in The Presentation of the Gifts.

Catechists will tell the parents which Mass they are to attend so that their children can join in the procession. Ushers will be informed that a Level 3 group will carry the bread and wine in procession at designated liturgies in the church and Msgr. Nolan Hall.

Instructional Mass

Will take the place of a class on:

February 7 or 8 for those @ the 3:45 or 6:45 sessions

February 28 or 29 for those @ the 5:15pm session.

Please arrive 10 minutes prior to sign in.

Reconciliation

Saturday, March 10 @ 11am & 1pm (Tuesday class)

Saturday, March 24 @ 11am & 1pm (Wednesday class)

LEVEL 4

Christ Jesus, the Way has as its theme story Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (see Mark 1:14-15, 5:3-10.) Throughout the year the children begin to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This text helps the children realize wherever love and care exists here on earth; God's kingdom is already present. All can help build the kingdom by following the commandments and serving others as Jesus did. The Church, then, is made up of those people who continue the ministry of Jesus today. Level 4 invites the children to follow Jesus and become active members of the loving servant Church.

LEVEL 4 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Know text page 10

Things to Remember page 11

Important Questions page 13

Prayers pgs.16, 17, 18- Our Father, Hail Mary, Sign of the Cross, Blessing at Meals, Act of Contrition

End of Year Review text pages 244-245

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR LEVEL 4 2011 - 2012

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Instructional Mass | will take the place of a class on:
February 7 or 8 for those @ the 3:45 or 6:45pm sessions
February 28 or 29 for those @ the 5:15pm session.
Please arrive 10 minutes prior to sign in. |
| Reconciliation | Saturday, March 10 @ 11am & 1pm (Tuesday class)
Saturday, March 24 @ 11am & 1pm (Wednesday class) |
| Lenten Assignments | Students will bring completed Lenten Assignments to any
Mass the weekend of March 17-18. |

LEVEL 5

Christ Jesus, the Way has as its theme the story of the Last Supper (see Luke 22:7-20). The theme is carried out throughout the year by giving the children a greater understanding of the Eucharist. The goal of Level 5 is to help the children participate more actively in Sunday Liturgy. The text manifests the great love of Jesus, who sacrificed his own life for all people. It helps the children realize they share in that love by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Level 5 invites children to respond to the story of the Last Supper by making sacrifices in their own lives.

LEVEL 5 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Know text p. 10

Important Questions text pages 12-13

Reviewing the Mass text page 14

Prayers text pages 15-16

End of Year Review text pages 244-245

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR LEVEL 5 2011 - 2012

Parent-Child Church Tours The tours will take the place of class on:
Tuesday, Oct. 11; Wednesday, Oct. 12; Thursday, Oct. 13 from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm.
Each tour is about 40 minutes in length.
Tour dates and times will be assigned

Parent-Child Meeting Presentation & Explanation of Mass Booklets
Monday, January 9 - 4:00-5:00pm or
7:00-8:00pm in Msgr. Nolan Hall

★ A satisfactorily completed Mass Book is required of all Level 5 students.

Presentation of Completed Mass Booklets by students: Students will present completed Mass booklets to the presider at the Mass of their choice on the weekend of **February 11-12, 2012.**

Instructional Mass will take the place of a class on:
February 7 or 8 for those @ the 3:45 or 6:45pm sessions
February 28 or 29 for those @ the 5:15pm session.
Please arrive 10 minutes prior to sign in.

Reconciliation **Saturday, March 10 @ 11am & 1pm (Tuesday class)**
Saturday, March 24 @ 11am & 1pm (Wednesday class)

LEVEL 6

Christ Jesus, the Way has as its theme the story of Jesus in the Temple (see Luke 2:41-49) which depicts the young Jesus “sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.” This story shows that Jesus had studied the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament) closely as a child. Level 6 children will look carefully at God’s action in human history as recorded in the Bible. The words of the Old and New Testament together offer the story of God’s people--a community of knowledge, love, and service.

LEVEL 6 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Know text page 10

Important Questions text pages 13-14

Prayers text pages 15-16

End of Year Review text pages 244-245

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR LEVEL 6 2011 - 2012

Come to the Synagogue - Wednesday, January 11, 2012— children and parents meet at Congregation Beth Shalom of Babylon, 441 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon from 4:30-5:30pm. (*Snow date: Wednesday, January 18 at the same time as above.*) Please arrive at least ten minutes early so that Rabbi Axelrud can begin on time. You might want to car pool; parking is limited.

Parent-Child Seder and Last Supper Experience: **Tuesday, March 6** from 7:00 until 8:30pm in Msgr. Nolan Hall. (*Snow Date: Wednesday, March 7*)

Return Interview Sheets: at all Masses on the weekend of **March 10-11, 2012**

Rice Bowls: will be distributed at the Seder

Return Rice Bowl Donations: at all Masses on the weekend of **March 24-25, 2012**

Reconciliation **Saturday, November 5 @ 1pm & 3pm**
Saturday, November 19 @ 11am & 1pm

All Reconciliation services take place in the Church. You will receive a letter with your assigned date and time. Please call the office if you need to change.

LEVEL 7

Call to Faith - Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ is the theme for level 7. The goal is to connect the teachings of the faith with everyday living and with opportunities to continue learning. Youth are provided various ways to live the faith and continue to grow in faith through prayer, faith learning, and participation in the sacraments. They will discuss the Incarnation, Jesus as a Model of Wisdom, Jesus' Relationships, Christ, who is Our Savior, Christ who offers Life, and the Church (us) as One in Christ.

Confirmation Book – will be used for the second half of the level 7 classes. The goal is to help you learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parents and sponsors are responsible for helping the children prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. *(If your family has a level 7 child who wishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in fall 2012, please see the page entitled "Confirmation 2012" for important dates.)*

Level 7 classes will begin meeting the week of September 19, 2011 and end the week of February 13, 2012.

Reconciliation

Saturday, November 5 @ 1pm & 3pm

Saturday, November 19 @ 11am & 1pm

All Reconciliation services take place in the Church. You will receive a letter with your assigned date and time. Please call the office if you need to change.



CONFIRMATION 2012

The preparation for Confirmation is a process of:

- growing in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ
- actively participating in the life of the church at the parish of St. Joseph through weekly participation in Sunday liturgy and service to others
- learning the meaning of Confirmation and its symbols

Parents are the first and most important teachers of their children in the faith. Children learn discipleship of Jesus from their parents who teach by the way they live.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE 2011 – 2012

1. **Monday, October 3, 2011** – Meeting for **PARENTS ONLY** – 10:00–11:00 am or 7:00–8:00 pm in the O’Connell Room. This meeting is for parents of children who plan to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall of 2012. Parents will be informed of the guidelines that the Diocese of Rockville Center has handed down regarding a young person’s readiness to be confirmed.
2. **Thursday, November 17, 2011** – Meeting for Parents and Candidates @ either 4:00-5:30pm or 7:00-8:30pm in the Msgr. Nolan Hall.
3. **Saturdays, November 5 @ 1 or 3pm or November 19 @ 11am or 1pm in the Church:** We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confirmation candidates will be assigned a date and time (*please call the Faith Formation Office if you need to change*).
4. **Weekend of December 3-4, 2011** – **Covenants to be presented** to the priest at any Mass this weekend (gold paper)
5. **Saturdays, January 7 & 28, 2012** – **Confirmation retreats** in Msgr. Nolan Hall from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm. Confirmation candidates will be assigned to attend one of these days. (*If you are not able to attend on your assigned date, please call the Faith Formation Office to request a change of date.*) Lunch will be served.

6. **Weekend of January 21-22, 2012** – return essay, “Why Someone My Age Would Want to Follow Jesus” at any mass this weekend (green paper)
7. **Weekend of February 4-5, 2012** – return **Community Service Pledges** at any mass this weekend (red paper).
8. **Friday, March 16, 2012** – final date for your **Letter to the Bishop** to be brought to the Faith Formation office (gray paper)
9. **Thursday, March 8, Monday, March 12, Tuesday, March 13, Wednesday, March 14**
Confirmation readiness interviews
from 6:00 until 8:30 pm in the O’Connell Room. Confirmation candidates will be interviewed by a member of the St. Joseph community. The interview will take about 15 minutes. Confirmation candidates will receive a letter from the Faith Formation Office apprising them of the date and time of their personal interview.
10. **Parent/Child Meeting in September 2012** – date to be announced.
11. **REHEARSALS & CONFIRMATIONS** – dates & times to be announced.



FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

All youngsters, regardless of ability level, are invited to participate in Faith Formation. Every effort will be made to cooperate with parents to provide the best possible faith formation experiences for these children.

SPECIAL NEEDS: The Special Needs Program offers supportive one-on-one catechesis on a weekly basis on Tuesdays from 5:15-6:15 pm in the O'Connell Room.

If you are interested in providing support or in being trained as a special assistant volunteer, please call the Faith Formation office at 587-4717; this is a wonderful opportunity to be the helping hands of Jesus in thanksgiving for all the blessings that you have received.



Christmas Pageant

All children in grades 1 to 12 are invited to sign up to be in the parish Christmas pageant which will be on Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 3:00 until 4:00 pm in Msgr. Nolan Hall.

High School students are needed to provide music (instrumental/voice) and to assist in directing the children.

There will be eight to ten rehearsals plus a dress rehearsal. Watch the bulletin for details.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES FOR FAITH FORMATION GROUPS

1. **MAKING CARDS FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND:**

Cards can be made on construction paper. Envelopes are not needed.

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>GRADE LEVEL</u>	<u>DATE DUE*</u>
Halloween	2	October 14
Thanksgiving	5	November 4
Christmas	4	December 9
Valentine's Day	3	February 3
St. Joseph's Day/St. Patrick's Day	6	March 2
Easter	1	March 16

***Cards must be delivered to the Faith Formation Office by 2pm on or before the date listed above so that Eucharistic Ministers can pick them up over the weekend to give them to our parishioners who are homebound.**

2. **FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**

Weekly: Containers for food are located at the entrance of each worship area. The Sunday Bulletin lists needed items.

Holiday Baskets: Faith Formation groups or individual families desiring to make holiday baskets are asked to make arrangements with the Parish Social Ministry at 669-4544 from 9:30-1:30pm weekdays prior to collecting.

3. **THRIFT SHOP DONATIONS**

Donations of clothing, household items, baby items and toys may be brought to the Thrift Shop in the convent building on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00am-3:00pm. For information please phone 669-5574.

4. **SODA CAN TABS: CAMP FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN**

Stony Brook University Hospital Transplantation Services sponsors this program to send children on Long Island who suffer from kidney disease for a short stay at summer camp. Soda can tabs can be brought to Good Samaritan Thrift Shop, 179 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon - Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm.



Youth Ministry

Telephone: 631-669-0068 ext 108

E-Mail: youth@stjosephsbabylon.org

Contact: Mrs. Barbara McNulty

Ministering to the “tweens” and teens of our Parish is a very important part of our Faith Formation program. For that reason a special Youth Ministry Team has been put in place.

All children **grades 6 thru 12** are welcome to join the many programs and activities throughout the year. There will be regular monthly get-togethers – **Sunday afternoon** after the 5pm Sunday Mass for our High School students and on **Thursday evenings** for our middle school students.

We also have a lot of fun at our monthly **Middle School Open Gym Night** where the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders participate in plenty of fun and faith, while the 9th – 12th graders organize the night!

...schedules to be announced in the bulletin or by e-mail if you **send in your e-mail address**.

Activities include:

- * * **PBJ GANG – making sandwiches for the hungry and homeless in our area**
- * * **WASHKIT GANG – collecting supplies and putting wash kits together**
 - * **Overnight Retreats with other Youth Groups**
 - * * **Helping at Parish Events by organizing games & face painting**
- * * **Monthly trips to the Seminary in Huntington for Eucharistic Adoration and an unveiling of our own Dodge Ball Team!**
- * * **Day trips to sports events, musical concerts, beach blasts, bowling, laser tag, and more!**

Youth Ministry is the best way to involve your older children in their Faith, while giving them the opportunity to have fun with their friends at the same time.

Adult volunteers are also welcome to get involved! We need chaperones, bakers, seamstresses, carpenters, storytellers, and more – please give us a call and help our kids keep their Faith active after the Sacrament of Confirmation.

New this year: **PARENT EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS.** Since our Moms of Teens & Tweens was so successful, we have put together a program one Thursday each month where parents can come to discuss topics such as teens and alcohol, drug abuse, bullying, texting, dating, and more. If you are interested, please check the bulletin for details or contact the youth office.

ST. JOSEPH YOUTH BAND

The St. Joseph Youth Band is a teen-based ensemble of male and female vocalists and a wide range of musicians. The instrumental makeup of the band changes each year as new members join and others graduate, but it basically consists of guitar, bass and percussion. Throughout its 15-year history, however, it has boasted violins, viola, trumpet, flute, oboe, clarinet, keyboard, and even sax! The band's repertoire is quite eclectic –everything from contemporary “praise and worship” music, to folk-rock, to traditional Latin chant. **Music Director Jean Cooper** works with the group to fine tune their music skills while imparting an understanding of the liturgy.

The band serves the parish community by providing the music for the 5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy each Sunday throughout the school year (September-June.) From time to time, they also play for other special events such as the annual Beach Mass, Village of Babylon Night of Christmas Caroling, the Christmas Vigil Mass, Holy Week Stations and Veneration of the Cross, Advent and Lenten Vespers, visits to homes for the elderly, and Faith Formation programs.

Rehearsals: The band generally meets at 3:45 PM in the church each Sunday during the school year. In the event there is a liturgy in progress in the church at that time, they move their pre-Mass practice to the Hospitality Center, across the lane to the south side of the church.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are in grades 7 – 12, have been blessed with singing talent or are reasonably proficient on an instrument, and would like to use your talents in direct service of the One Who graced you with them, you are warmly invited to come to a Youth Band rehearsal. Call 669-0068 ext 108 for information, or see a band member any Sunday during the school year immediately following the 5 pm Mass.

CATECHISTS

Catechists are volunteers who share their faith with the children of our parish.

This year, all Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 & Level 5 classes will be held in the parish center (no level 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 groups will meet in the homes of catechists).

Current catechists for levels 6 & 7 may choose to meet with their groups in the Center on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 3:45-4:45 pm or 5:15-6:15 pm or 6:45-7:45 pm or they may choose to teach at home.

Catechists who invite children into their homes choose the day and time for the weekly meetings. Two background checked adults must be present in the home when the children meet there. The ideal group size for the building is 10 children and for a home is 6 children.

Therefore **many** catechists are needed. Please consider sharing **your** faith with a small group of children.

Three catechist meetings are offered for each grade level to discuss the content of upcoming lessons and to keep the catechists apprised of what's new in the parish. The meetings begin in the O'Connell Room with prayer, general remarks and information and then move to classrooms where Grade Level Coordinators review the key theological points to be presented in the upcoming units. The Catechist Manuals provide a wealth of information. The Grade Level Coordinators keep in frequent telephone contact and/or e-mail contact with their catechists. The Director and Faith Formation Staff provide calendars, lesson plans, and student handouts. All do their best to support catechists in their ministry.



VIRTUS

The office of Child Protection in the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all adults who volunteer to work with children to participate in a VIRTUS training session.

VIRTUS sessions will be given at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm in the O'Connell room and again in the evening from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. If you have not yet participated in a VIRTUS session, please sign up online at www.virtus.org and click on the "registration" button and then scroll down to "Rockville Centre" diocese and follow from there.

DATES FOR CATECHISTS 2011-2012

Catechist Meeting #1
(for all levels) Tuesday, September 13 10:00 – 11:30 am in Msgr. Nolan Hall & classrooms
or
7:00 – 8:30 pm in Msgr. Nolan Hall & classrooms

Blessing of the Catechists September 17 & 18 At all weekend Masses

Catechist Meeting #2
(for all levels) Monday, January 23 10:00-11:00 am in the O'Connell Room & classrooms
or
7:00-8:00 pm in the O'Connell Room & classrooms

Catechist Evaluation Meeting & Social
(for all levels) Wednesday, March 28 7:00-8:30pm in the O'Connell Room - Evaluation & refreshments

Note: Please return binders, manuals, videos, and CD's **on** or **before** March 28th.

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN
9:30AM SUNDAY EUCHARIST
MSGR. NOLAN HALL

On many Sundays, September through June, children ages 6 to 11 are invited to leave the main worship space before the Liturgy of the Word and proceed to a worship area designed specifically with the children in mind. Catechists and Scripture Sharers read and share the Sunday readings with the children. There are two worship areas designated for these children, one for children K through Grade 2 and another for Grade 3 through 6. Children return to their parents for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

RCIA – FOR ADULTS

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the formation process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church. Any adult who is interested in becoming a Catholic or who is a Catholic and has not celebrated First Eucharist or Confirmation is encouraged to call the Parish Office at 669-0068 and ask to speak to Msgr. Chris.

RCIA ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN

We welcome all children age 7 and above, **who have never been baptized, who are coming from another faith, or have been baptized in the Roman Catholic Faith but are between the ages of 10 & 17 and have not received catechesis for Eucharist and Confirmation**, into the church through participation in an adapted form of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. A meeting with the RCIA coordinator is required.

The parents, who are the first and most important teachers of their children, have a key role in this journey of initiation.

Weekly Mass participation is expected of all RCIA families. The 9:30am Mass in Msgr. Nolan Hall offers the best experience for children.

SPECIAL EVENTS

2011-2012

- Sat. Dec. 3 **Christmas Tree Lighting** – after 5 pm Mass
- Sun. Dec. 11 **Christmas Pageant** – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm in Msgr. Nolan Hall
- Tues. Feb. 21 **Mardi Gras** – tickets must be purchased in advance
- Wed. Feb. 22 **Ash Wednesday** – check the bulletin for times of Masses and
Word Services
- Thurs. Apr. 5 **Holy Thursday prayer service** for parents and children at 11:00 am
in the church.
- Fri. Apr. 6 **Good Friday prayer service** for parents and children at 11:00 am in
the church.
- Sat. Apr. 7 **Holy Saturday prayer service** for parents and children at 11:00 am
in the church.

Textbooks will be available for purchase in the Faith Formation office during office hours beginning September 7. **Please make certain to purchase your children’s texts prior to the first meeting of Faith Formation Groups which start the week of September 20.**

Level 1	<i>Christ Jesus, the Way</i>	\$20.00
Level 2	Books and Materials Fee <i>Christ Jesus, the Way</i> and banner kit (Cross presented at Mass & “My Own Mass Booklet” which will be distributed by the catechist.)	\$35.00
Level 3	<i>Christ Jesus, the Way</i>	\$20.00
Level 4	<i>Christ Jesus, the Way</i>	\$20.00
Level 5	<i>Christ Jesus, the Way</i> <i>Good News Bible</i>	\$20.00 \$15.00
Level 6	<i>Christ Jesus, the Way</i> Bible (if not previously purchased)	\$20.00 \$15.00
Level 7	<i>Call to Faith: Jesus Christ</i> <i>Confirmed in the Spirit</i>	\$15.00 \$15.00

SNOW CANCELLATION (for the Parish Center)

Please check the radio & TV stations or Web Site listed below for cancellation of children’s Faith Formation groups that meet in the Center, special grade level liturgical events, parent and catechist meetings.

WBAB 102.3/1240AM WBLI 106.1FM CHANNEL 12 NEWS

www.stjosephsbabylon.org & click on the “faith formation” button

GLOSSARY

Catechesis – efforts which help individuals and communities acquire and deepen Christian faith and identity.

Catechist – the individual who leads a group of children or adults to acquire and deepen Christian faith and identity.

Eucharist – the Church community’s celebration of the sacramental meal Jesus had with his friends on the night before he died. Also called the “Lord’s Supper” and the “Mass”.

Initiation - the step-by-step process by which a person becomes a full member of the community of the Church. This process includes instruction, formation, and special liturgical rites, culminating in the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Liturgy – public worship offered to God by the Church, particularly in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Mass - the most common term used to designate the celebration of the Eucharist.

Para-liturgy - formal prayer service.

Reconciliation – the sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Penance (once called Confession) is a special experience of God’s love. It renews our bond with God and others that is injured or broken by sin. The Eucharist also is a sacrament of Reconciliation. Through it we receive forgiveness for our daily faults and are drawn closer to God and each other.

Sacrament - a high point in the manifestation of God’s love for us, and a high point of our response to that love. The Church designates seven events in its liturgy as sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.

Volunteer's Code of Conduct

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our parish.

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and *the New York State Child Registry (1-800-342-3720)*. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children and/or youth, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and/or youth.