

Our Family Prayer

O God, Father of all people, in Your divine plan, You created the family as a special sign of Your love.

Your Son, Jesus, walked among us in the family of Mary and Joseph. They created a home in which the Word of God was revered, obeyed, and lived; where they grew in wisdom and grace and gave of themselves unselfishly to God, their family and others.

With the Holy Family as our model, help us to keep You as the center of our lives and reflect our relationship with You in our homes.

Bless and protect each of us, our families and our parish, all members of God's family.

Send Your peace upon us and grant us the grace to serve You and each other that in doing so we may provide glory to You.

Amen

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY HANDBOOK 2019



FAITH FORMATION

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WELCOME!

We welcome you and your students to participate in our Faith Formation programs! We strive to offer quality programs that provide faith formation for your children as well as the opportunity to pray together and form community with other members of our parish. Students with special needs are always accepted.

GOAL

Our goal is to provide a program that focuses on Jesus' invitation to discipleship and service. This is done with age-appropriate catechesis, focus on scripture, the Gospels and the teachings of the Church. We build on students' life experiences, foster family involvement, develop spirituality and liturgical prayer, encourage moral development and challenge students to experience faith in a spirit of joy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your home is the Domestic Church. If we are not working together then our goals become meaningless. Parents' involvement at home, teaching and living the faith, supports and reinforces what we are teaching in class. "The role of the parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute," and "the right and duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable." CCC 2221

Christ the Good Shepherd (CTGS)

Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am

Sunday: 10:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation—3:30pm-4:15pm on Saturday

CTGS @ St. Joseph's

Monday & Friday 12:10pm

CTGS @ St. Mary's

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00am

CTGS @ St. Stephen's

Wednesday 7:00am

Holy Days as scheduled, check the bulletin for days and times.

Policy and Procedures

ACCIDENT/ILLNESS

If your child becomes ill or has an accident during faith formation activities, the parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified. Basic First Aid will be given and an accident report will be filed.

ATTENDANCE

To receive the maximum benefit from the Faith Formation programs, students are asked to attend all sessions and Mass on a regular basis. If your child will be absent, please call the Faith Formation office, 315-342-3967, **NOT the Rectory**.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Our catechists try to arrive prior to the students but there are those occasions where something comes up. Please do not leave your child unless there is a staff member there.

If your child is in Pre-K/Kindergarten or First Grade please pick them up in their classroom! Students grades 3—6 on Sundays or Mondays are not allowed to leave the parish center without a parent or designee for their own safety. Please do not tell your child to meet you in the parking lot. If it is necessary to do so, please let staff know either in person or by a note. This is for your child's safety.

Sunday & Monday 7—12 students are released at the end of class. If they need to leave before then, please email the director.



"I learned so much by sitting outside the classrooms this year!"

"I'm not a Catholic but have decided, after listening to my child's classroom teacher, that I want to become one!"

Confirmation is conferred during the sophomore year of high school. Preparation for the sacrament takes place during the freshman and sophomore years. Students attending Catholic High Schools are required to attend year 2 of the Confirmation process in their home parish.

Community Service

Jesus called us all to serve one another: **“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you come to visit me.” Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)**

Community service opportunities are offered for all students throughout the year. Group projects are recommended over solitary projects. We require participation but we do not require an exact number of hours.

Retreat Opportunities

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” Mark 1:35

We do half day family retreats for those in the process of making First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Confirmation students are required to make a retreat during both prep years. Other retreat and mission experiences are offered for the entire community. Age appropriate retreats may be offered for students throughout the year.

CALENDAR

We have an annual calendar at the beginning of the year, however, this is only tentative. We do NOT always follow the school schedule. Monthly calendars go home and replace the annual calendar with updated information.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

For Sunday Class cancellations please check Channel 9 or their website or our website or Facebook page. We live in the land of lake effect and if we do not cancel, we will defer to your judgment as to whether you plan to bring your student. This will be considered an excused absence. For Monday Classes, if Oswego City School classes are cancelled or dismissed early, then we are also closed. There will be no personal notifications unless you are part of our Flocknote group.

CELL PHONES, I-PADS, TOYS, LASER POINTERS, ETC.

iPads, toys, laser pointers, etc. are NOT allowed in the classroom at any time. These are distractions to all involved and we are not to be held responsible for these items. Cell phones are allowed in the classroom during Monday evening older sessions as they are needed at times for in-class work.

FOOD

Snacks provided on most Sundays are for parents and students. On First Mondays, we provide pizza dinner for students. Other times on Monday evenings food is permitted when coming from school practices.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Please inform the director regarding any health concerns that may affect your student during Faith Formation. This information may be shared with your child's catechist if needed.

MASS TIMES

We are called to attend Mass at least once a week and on Holy Days of Obligation (remember to keep holy the sabbath day). Masses are offered at 4:30pm on Saturday, and 8:00am and 10:30am on Sundays.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Church recognizes the supreme responsibility of parents as the first and foremost teachers of their children in matters of faith. Your example, prayer life, and participation in the weekly Sunday liturgy and other sacraments speak volumes to your children. There are many ways to formally involve yourself in the life of the parish. What do you feel called to do?

PARKING LOT

Please use extreme caution in the parking lots.

VISITORS

Your child is welcome to bring visitors to our program! This is one way a student can answer the call to evangelize!!
"An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral," Pope Francis

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers who have contact with children or vulnerable adults must complete Safe Environment training and pass a background check. This is for the safety, well-being, and protection of all.

CURRICULUM

Pre-K/Kindergarten:

This group uses the Allelu program from Our Sunday Visitor one year and Stories of God's Love from RCL Benziger the next.

GRADES 1, 3, 4, 5, 6:

These students use "Be My Disciples" from RCL Benziger. This program emphasizes learning and practicing the skills and habits, virtues and spiritual gifts that lead young disciples to higher levels of moral thinking.

Older grades use a variety of approved sources for classroom work.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

All sacramental preparation courses are multi-age groupings for those students who may have missed the sacramental year. To be eligible for these courses a student must have been in the grade prior to the sacramental year (ex: Sacramental year in grade 2, must have satisfactorily completed grade 1) or be an ongoing student in a Catholic school.

First Reconciliation is completed during the first semester and a student must be registered before October 1 to complete the preparation.

First Eucharist is completed during the second semester and is only open to those students who satisfactorily completed the first semester