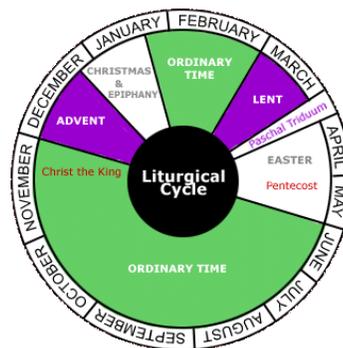


Ss. Gregory and Barnabas Parish
Religious Education Program
Parent - Student Handbook
2019-2020



Rev. Robert Ruston, Pastor

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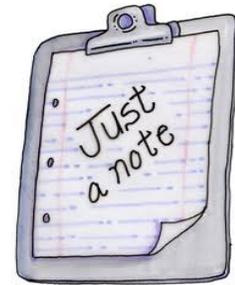
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Parish Contacts



	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
PARISH OFFICE	Fr. Bob, Pastor Kristen Arnold, Secretary	536-6818	stsgregbar@diocesaj.org
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Coordinator PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN PROGRAM (Adults and Children)	Mary Helen Percinsky	421-2247 (cell) 535-2782 (home)	percypup@atlanticbb.net
FIRST EUCHARIST, FIRST RECONCILIATION	Mary Beth Deitke-Rykala	421-2941	mbr414@outlook.com
Religious Ed SERVICE PROJECT & RETREAT Coordinators	Mary Helen Percinsky Teresa Toth	421-2247 (cell) 535-2782 (home) 241-7537	percypup@atlanticbb.net ttoth@atlanticbb.net
Confirmation Team	Ron & Daphne Moot Mary Helen Percinsky Mary Beth Rykala	269-9575	moot@atlanticbb.net

REMEMBER: If your child must be absent from class, call Mary Helen Percinsky (421-2247) before 8 AM. A written excuse, signed and dated, must be presented upon return to class the following week.

DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN CATECHESIS



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of catechesis is “to make a person’s (Christian) faith become living, conscious, and active through the light of instruction.” (National Catechetical Directory #32)

To accomplish this, catechetical ministry must be understood in relation to Jesus’ mission and to proclaim the Kingdom of God through word, teaching, worship, community and service. This mission is integral to catechetical ministry and it is the core around which the Diocese organizes the catechesis of children and youth.

Parents are the primary educators of their children and are vital to the catechetical formation of their children. They “are the first to communicate the faith to their children and to educate them.” (Apostolate on the Laity, 11). As the child’s first image of God, **parents are expected to:**

- ☛ teach basic prayers and pass on traditions at home
- ☛ worship with the child each weekend at liturgy and be a model of worship during liturgical services

A comprehensive parish catechetical formation program is essential to assist parents/guardians in fostering a mature Christian faith in their children. This formation program includes classroom instruction, liturgical experiences, and Christian service.

CURRICULUM

Diocesan curriculum guidelines, which contain the minimal amount of catechetical content, provide the basis for a complete and systematic formation of faith. Our curriculum integrates these components in an age-appropriate manner for each grade. The following is a general guideline for the focus of study for each grade:

- * Grades K/1 - God’s Creation
- * Grade 2 - First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation; Church as Community
- * Grade 3 - Catholic Beliefs and the Rosary
- * Grade 4 - Commandments and Beatitudes
- * Grade 5 – Sacraments and Liturgy
- * Grade 6 - The Old Testament
- * Grades 7/8 – Discipleship (The Story of Jesus); Church History
- * Grade 9 – The Creed
- * Grade 10 – Liturgy and Sacraments
- * Grade 11 - Morality

Parents/Guardians are supported in their role as the primary educators of their children by the Christian community: “The Christian community must make a generous effort to help them fulfill their duty.” (To Teach As Jesus Did # 52) Catechetical formation - the involvement in word, teaching, worship, community and service - must integrate both the family and the parish at all levels.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS

Students are to have at least 40 (forty) hours of formation annually, **in addition to** attendance at weekend liturgy and completion of Christian service.

The forty hours are to include classroom instruction, liturgy, worship services and retreats.

Classroom instruction does not have to be limited to a school year model, nor do classes have to meet weekly. Class times and lengths are to be set at the parish level.

Parents are expected to:

- ensure their child's attendance at all classes and programs
- help their child make up missed classes or sessions
- actively participate in their child's service
- be responsible and accountable for their child

Students are expected to:

- ← attend all scheduled/required catechetical functions for their grade level
- ← provide an excuse for all absences
- ← make up any missed work or activity



Catechists will keep accurate attendance records for each grade.

The Catechetical Formation Program must encourage parental/guardian involvement at all levels. To effectively encourage participation, parents/guardians should know the focus of their child's catechetical year and weekly lessons (editorial note: this entails review of class work and/or homework).

REMEMBER: If your child must be absent from class, call Mary Helen Percinsky (421-2247) before 8 AM. A written excuse, signed and dated, must be presented upon return to class the following week.

Ss. GREGORY AND BARNABAS PARISH RELIGIOUS ED POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all religious education classes, special event programs, and scheduled Sunday liturgies is required unless there is a serious reason the student cannot attend.

We ask you to switch your regular liturgy schedule, if needed, on the weekends of Grade School and Jr/Sr High liturgies.

Other than for illness, absences from class or events must be approved by Father Bob and/or Mary Helen Percinsky

Legitimately excused absences will be accepted under these conditions:

- ☞ they are not excessive
- ☞ assignments are promptly made up
- ☞ the parent/guardian calls ahead to excuse the child
- ☞ the student returns to the following class with a written, dated excuse

If these conditions are not met, the student will be marked with an unexcused absence. More than 2 (two) unexcused absences in the course of the year are unacceptable. If that occurs, a meeting will be held with the student, parent/guardian, pastor and teacher.

Attendance will be a major factor in determining advancement to the next grade level.

The parent/guardian of an absent student will be called immediately after roll is taken if there is no call from home.

CALENDAR

The yearly schedule is included in this handbook. Parents will be notified of any changes as the school year progresses - please check the weekly Bulletin and listen for Father Bob's announcements during liturgy. Please display the calendar in a visible place in your home and mark your calendars for the special sacrament days. Your child should not miss these dates if they are receiving a sacrament.

CATHOLIC PRAYERS

A list of common Catholic prayers are listed in the back of your child's textbook. Please review them periodically with your child.

DISCIPLINE

Although it is presumed that Christian behavior and respect for those in authority will be evident by the students at Religious Education, this issue must be addressed. For the one or two hours that the students are in session, absolutely no misbehavior will be tolerated. Students are present for the required instruction in their faith. It is not fair to the teachers or the other children that learning is denied by a disruptive student.

Therefore, for

- √ *first offenses*, the situation will be handled in the classroom between the teacher and the student
- √ *second offense*, the parent/guardian and Father will be notified of the infraction by the teacher
- √ *third offense*, the student will meet with Father Bob.
- √ *fourth offense*, the parent/guardian, student and teacher will meet with Father Bob
- √ *fifth offense*, parents/guardians will be required to sit with the child in the classroom

Causes for concern include (but are not limited to) foul/obscene language, disrespect to peers or adults, use of cell phones or other electronic devices, lying, cheating, destruction of parish property, excessive talking/disruption of class. Cell phones will be collected at the beginning of classes and returned at the end of classes. If you need to contact your child, the Emergency Number is 421-2247.

FACULTY

A list of your child's teachers and helpers and the program contact persons is included in this packet.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

NOTE: A child who is not attending Saturday/Sunday liturgies on a regular will not be eligible for the reception of the sacraments.

I. First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grade 2) - as parents/guardians are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith, attendance is required of parents at any meeting or workshop for the sacraments. A Saturday retreat is required for the second graders. In addition, Grade 2 teachers will inform families of First Communicants of any and all details regarding reception of the sacraments.

II. Confirmation - The Sacrament of Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation in the Catholic Church. In our parish we believe that it is best that Candidates be evangelized in the meaning of their Catholic faith and receive the sacrament in their high school years. The goal of the Confirmation process is to prepare students to receive the sacrament in a way that will truly and authentically confirm their Catholic faith. Eligible students and their parents must attend a mandatory meeting at the beginning of the student's ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade year. Meetings to be determined.

SERVICE HOURS

Although attainment of service hours **is encouraged** in 6th grade, students in the Jr/Sr High (Grades 7-11) **are required** to complete 15 (fifteen) hours of individual Christian service per year. The service hours may be tabulated from June through April. Several service forms are included in this packet. The students may pick up additional forms in the back of each worship site as well as in their classrooms. Any 6th grade service done within the Parish will be acknowledged and the student will need to fill out the yellow service hour form. All others will be white.

The service for junior/senior high should be community or parish-based (for example, baby-sitting for a sibling/cleaning at home & paid jobs are not considered community service). There are many opportunities to gain hours through activities such as lecturing, altar service, A&R Bingos, Cake Social, Snow Removal, fish fries, and Vacation Bible School. Students are also verbally told when there is a need in the parish.

ALL SERVICE HOURS FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY EASTER SUNDAY IN ORDER TO GET CREDIT FOR THIS YEAR AND BE PROMOTED TO THE NEXT GRADE!

SERVICE PROJECTS

In an attempt to help families recognize and enjoy Christian service as an important facet of their faith, we are instituting grade level projects this year. Our service project coordinator will be contacting you regarding the following activities, designed to be done with parents/guardians and students together:

- * Grades K/1 – To Be Announced as needed
- * Grade 2 – TBA collection for the Good Samaritan Warm Up
- * Grade 3 - host the second graders' First Reconciliation Reception in December
- * Grade 4 & 5 – TBA
- * Grades 6 – Holiday Decorations for Nursing Homes
- * Grades 7/8 – TBA
- * Jr/Sr High - in addition to individual service hours and class projects (such as a soup & sandwich luncheon and classroom resets) students and their families are asked to offer at least one area of service to the parish. Ideas include working together at a Fish Fry, taking up the gifts at Mass, raking leaves on the parish grounds, helping decorate the worship sites for holy days. All Confirmation Students have required fall and spring projects within the class – they are to be announced. Any required Parish needs that need fulfilled will be done by the 11th grade Confirmation Candidates as their individual service projects.

SUPPLIES

Grade School: Each student will be provided with a text, pencil or pen, a folder (if needed), and a tote (if can't be found from last year) in which to keep his/her materials. If the text or tote is lost, a replacement fee will be collected from the parent/guardian. **IMPORTANT: *Be sure to check your child's tote after every class for homework or messages!***

Jr/Sr High School: Textbooks, worksheets and pencils are provided. Parents/guardians will be assessed the price of a lost text. All materials should be brought to class each week.

TALENT RELEASE FORM

Included in this packet is a form for parents/guardians to sign and return to class at the first session if they plan to allow a photograph of their child to be published in the local or diocesan press. We never know when a "Kodak moment" may present itself!

TARDINESS

Late students disrupt class and prayer. Repeated tardiness will not be tolerated. Students should report to the church hall in Daisytown for the **start** of classes at **9:30 am**.

TUITION

Tuition for the school year is \$10.00 per child. If there is a hardship in paying this fee, please contact Father Bob. Tuition pays for student text books and supplies. Catechists are volunteers and do not get paid.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is held every summer at Ss. Gregory & Barnabas Parish in the church hall in Daisytown. Children from Preschool through Grade 5 are invited to this fun-filled week of adventure and learning!

CATECHISTS



*“God, who commanded the light to shine
out of the darkness, hath shined in our hearts,
to give the light of knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
2 Cor. 4:6*



Reverend Robert L. Ruston, Pastor

Mrs. Mary Helen Percinsky, Religious Education Coordinator

Grade K/1 - Mrs. Cindy Amenti

Grade 2 - Ms. Mary Beth Deitke-Rykala & Mrs. Carey Stiffler

Grade 3 – Ms. Hannah La Bar

Grade 4 & 5 – Mrs. Tabitha Studer

Grade 6 - Mrs. Sherri Slavick

Grade 7 – Mrs. Sue Hall

8– Mrs. Regina Sida

Grade 9, 10, 11 - Mr. Ron and Mrs. Daphne Moot Mrs. Mary Helen Percinsky

Subs - Jen Percinsky

Hall Monitor – Janet Pribish

REMEMBER: If your child must be absent from class, call Mary Helen Percinsky (421-2247) before 8 AM. A written excuse, signed and dated, must be presented upon return to class the following week.

*Our Catechists are certified through the **Protecting God’s Children Program**.
Their State Police and Child Abuse Clearances are on file.*

† 2019-2020 Ss. Gregory & Barnabas Parish Religious Education Program †
Grade K - 11 classes are held in the Daisytown complex from 9:30 – 10:45am

SEPTEMBER

- 22 Registration and Parent Meeting 9:30AM
- 29 10th & 11th Grade Confirmation Retreat 8AM-2PM
Attend Mass at 8AM in Bon Air, includes Sponsors

OCTOBER

- 6 FAMILY DAY - no classes
- 13 K – 11
- 20 K – 11, Confession 3rd Grade
ShyCon – St. Francis
- 27 K-11;
2ND Grade Parent Meeting during class
Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting Grades 9th,
10th, & 11th Mandatory meeting during class

NOVEMBER

- 3 K – 9, Confession 8th Grade
Conf. Session 10th Grade (No Sponsors)
- 10 K – 11, Confession 7th Grade
9th Conf. Session & Rite of Blessing 11AM
Sponsor or parent must attend
- 17 K - 10, Confession 6th Grade
Conf. Session 11th Grade with Sponsors
- 24 THANKSGIVING VACATION

DECEMBER

- 1 K – 11, Confession 9th Grade
- 7 First Reconciliation (Grade 2)
- 8 K – 11, Confession 11th Grade
- 14 Eucharistic Adoration 10AM St. Michael
- 15 K – 9, **Conf. Session: 11th Graders**
- 22 CHRISTMAS VACATION – 10th & 11th Grade will
attend 8AM Mass, then decorate Bon Air; 9th
Grade will attend 11AM Mass, then decorate
Daisytown.
- 29 New Year's Family Day – No Classes

JANUARY

- 5 Family Day – No Classes 10th & 11th grade class
will attend Mass in BA then un-decorating; 9th
Grade class will attend mass then undecorate
Daisytown
- 12 K-11,
- 19 K – 11
- 26 K – 11

FEBRUARY

- 2 FAMILY DAY- no classes
Baptism Retreat 9th Grade
8AM to 12:30PM includes sponsors
- 9 K – 11, Confession 10th Grade
- 16 K – 11 Confession 4th & 5th Grade
Conf. Session 11th Grade
- 23 K – 11, Confessions 6th Graders
Conf. sessions 10th & Conf. Session for 11th
Rite of Commitment 11AM (10th Graders)
Includes sponsors

MARCH

- 1 FAMILY DAY - no classes
 - 8 K – 11, Confessions 9th Grade
 - 15 K – 11, Confessions 7th Grade
Confirmation Session 9th Grade
 - 22 K – 11, Confessions 3rd Grade
 - 28 **Confirmation/1st Eucharist Retreat**
(10AM – Noon 2nd Graders in Bon Air)
(7AM – 7PM 11th graders in Bon Air)
 - 29 K-10
- * ALL SERVICE HOUR FORMS DUE: April 5th*
**7th/8th Grade Spring Service Project – Easter*
Egg Hunt day & time TBD.
**10th & 11th Spring Group Project tear*
down/reset Lenten Fish Fries

APRIL

- 5 K – 11; Rite of Sending 11AM (11th Graders)
Sponsor & Candidate Mandatory Session During
regular class time *Service hour forms due today!
- 12 EASTER SUNDAY - FAMILY DAY– no classes
- 16 **Confirmation Rehearsal 6:30PM – must attend**
- 17 **Confirmation 7PM St. John arrive by 5:45PM**
- 19 K – 11, Confession 8th Grade
- 26 K – 11 (Last Class – Closing Program @
10:15 in Hall)

MAY

- 2 First Communion Practice 10AM
St. Gregory Church
- 3 **First Eucharist @ Daisytown (11AM)**
- 10 **First Eucharist May Crowning @ Bon Air (8AM)**
All 2nd Graders

Intentionally left blank

Please complete and return pages 11-13 along with tuition by **October 13, 2019:**

- Verification that you have read, understood and accept the policies stated in the Ss. Gregory & Barnabas Parish Parent-Student Handbook - one form per family (page 10)
- Registration Form (page 11) - one per family and Tuition Payment - \$10.00 per child
- Talent Release Form (page 12) - one per family

**Forms and payment may be dropped off to your child's teacher
AT THE LATEST on October 13, 2019.**

**SS. GREGORY AND BARNABAS PARISH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
2019-2020**



I have read the Religious Education guidelines for our parish and I accept the policies stated therein. I understand that I have the primary responsibility for the faith formation of my child(ren).

Signatures of Parents/Guardians

Date _____ Phone _____

Names of Child(ren)	Grade

Intentionally left blank

**Ss. Gregory & Barnabas Parish Religious Education Program
2019-20 Registration Form - return with payment by 10-13-2019**

Parents/Guardians' Names _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell/Text _____

	CHILD 1	CHILD 2	CHILD 3	CHILD 4
NAME				
Date of Birth				
Grade				
School Attending				
Date of Baptism				
Church of Baptism				
Date of First Eucharist				
Church of First Eucharist				
Known Allergies				
Other Medical Information we should know				

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Phone _____

Relationship to Student(s) _____

Parent Authorization for Medical Emergency Treatment

In case of a medical emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by Ss. Gregory and Barnabas Parish to hospitalize, secure treatment for, and to order injections, anesthesia or surgery for my child(ren) as named above.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Sign Below *ONLY IF YOU DECLINE* to sign the release above

I have been offered the opportunity to authorize medical care as above set forth and decline to so authorize said medical care without my approval and accept such complications as may occur should said medical care be needed and unavailable due to my being unavailable to provide the same.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

TALENT RELEASE FORM
SS. GREGORY AND BARNABAS PARISH
JOHNSTOWN, PA

I hereby assign and grant to Ss. Gregory and Barnabas Parish the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/video tapes/electronic presentations and/or sound recordings made of my child(ren) while participating in Religious Education events, and I hereby release Ss. Gregory and Barnabas Parish, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, from any and all liability from such use and publication.

I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage, and/or distribution of said photographs, film, video tapes, electronic presentations, and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of Ss. Gregory and Barnabas Parish and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I/my child(ren) may have for any of the foregoing.

This release applies to all media displayed publicly, on the church web site, or in any way made available for viewing or listening by The Church or general public.

_____ I accept.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Child(ren)'s Name _____

_____ I decline.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____