

*St. Teresa of Avila*

Religious Education Handbook  
2015/2016

Grades 1 through 9

Revised March 2015

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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Religious Education program at St. Teresa of Avila is dedicated to educating every student in the faith of Jesus Christ and His Body, the Catholic Church. We firmly believe in union with the Church that children "...because they are called by God to maturity of faith, [they] need and have, therefore, a right to adequate catechesis" (General Catechetical Directory, 167). We strive to provide both an education and an environment in which to foster and nurture the faith of our children. The Church teaches us that: "This childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable" (General Catechetical Directory, 226). It is this religious awakening in the family that we seek to bring to maturity through our Religious Education program.

Our Church also teaches us that parents are called through the Sacrament of Matrimony to "the grace and ministry of the Christian education of their children" (General Catechetical Directory, 227). We believe in the primacy of the parental responsibility stated first during the Rite of Marriage: "Will you accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and His Church?" And again during the Rite of Baptism: "You have asked to have your child baptized. In so doing, you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor." St. Teresa's Religious Education programs assist parents in this most sacred duty of the religious education of their children. Our efforts are bound to the larger task of faith formation as a parish. As parents and parishioners we strive to draw our children into our faith tradition and community.

Obedying Jesus' command to go forth, baptize and spread the faith, we teach the following:

- What we believe as Catholics,
- How we can come to know and love the Lord through prayer and the sacraments,
- What we celebrate in worship, especially the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, and
- How we can live as faithful Catholic witnesses.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Catechetical Ministry of St. Teresa of Avila Parish supports families in cultivating and sustaining a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and in living the values of His Gospel by:

- Providing formal classroom and youth ministry style catechesis on a graded level;
- Providing information sessions for learning and teaching during special gatherings, liturgical celebrations and retreat experiences;
- Providing parents with opportunities for adult enrichment focusing on faith development, parenting, values formation and family spirituality;
- Providing parish celebrations of worship as a community of believers who support candidates who are preparing for the sacraments of First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

## **PROGRAM OF CATECHESIS**

St. Teresa of Avila Parish provides catechetical formation classes weekly for those children of registered parishioners who attend public and non-Catholic schools. Instruction begins in grade 1 and continues through grade 9 for all children attending public and non-Catholic private schools.

Reception of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion normally occurs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at St. Teresa's. Confirmation takes place in the Fall of 9<sup>th</sup> grade, but is a two-year program for all students (public and parochial) commencing in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are required to have completed the middle school program (Grades 6/7) before entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade program.

Parochial school students are not required to attend regular catechetical instruction *except* during Confirmation sacramental preparation (grades 8 and 9). However, second grade Oak Knoll and Our Lady of Peace Academy students who are in St. Teresa's parish must register online at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org) and receive abbreviated sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **Student Registration**

To enroll a child in the St. Teresa of Avila Religious Education program families **must be** registered parishioners of St. Teresa of Avila with a census card on file with the rectory. These forms may be obtained by contacting the rectory office at 908-277-3700 or from the website, [www.stteresachurch.org](http://www.stteresachurch.org).

After completion of parish registration, a parent or guardian may enroll their child in the Religious Education program by going to our website, [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org), and clicking on the “on-line registration” button. If you do not have access a computer, you may come into the Religious Education office located in the school building during regular office hours: Mon-Tues-Wed 9AM-4:30 PM. Summer hours are: Mon-Tues-Wed 9AM-1 PM with a couple of weeks off during August when the school building is being cleaned. A copy of each child’s Baptismal certificate **must be** presented at the time of initial registration. Please email or call the Office with any questions (908-273-6975 or [re@stteresachurch.org](mailto:re@stteresachurch.org)).

### **Homeschooling**

In grades 3 through 7 students have the option of being homeschooled. In this situation the parent(s) acts as the primary Religious Education instructor of their child(ren). Students who will be homeschooled must be registered online first at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org), and must utilize the Archdiocesan-approved materials that we provide. (Note: this program is now completely online.) A kick-off meeting for parents who are homeschooling in grades 3, 4, and 5 is normally held in the early Fall. Homeschooled students are expected to complete all the required lessons. All regular family and activity fees apply to homeschooled students.

We strongly encourage homeschool families to stay involved by checking the website regularly for special events such as class Masses or the ACRE exam (5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), and to contact the Religious Education office with any questions that may arise.

NOTE: Restrictions and conditions apply. Please refer to the specific grade or sacrament preparation section of this handbook for those specifics.

### **Change of Address**

Any change of address, phone number(s) or e-mail address can be made through our on-line registration system or by emailing [Re@stteresachurch.org](mailto:Re@stteresachurch.org) with your update. It is important to keep the Religious Education database current so you may be better served. We communicate with our families primarily by email.

## **Calendar**

A calendar for the current Religious Education year can be found on the homepage of our website, [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org). A printed copy may be obtained from the Religious Education Office.

The St. Teresa of Avila Religious Education Calendar follows the Summit Public School Calendar. The exceptions to the public school calendar are the feast days and holy days of obligations celebrated by the Church.

The calendar is subject to change. If you have questions regarding the calendar, please contact the office.

## **Calendar Changes & Cancellation of Classes**

If the program calendar changes for any reason you will be notified by any or all of the following: e-mail notification, website announcement, telephone call, or published in the parish bulletin.

If the Summit schools are closed for inclement weather, there will be no Religious Education classes on that day or evening. If a decision is made to cancel classes, you will receive an e-mail. Additionally, a recorded message will be left at 908-273-6975 ext.102, and an update will be posted on the website homepage at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org).

## **Attendance**

The attendance requirements according to each grade and/or sacrament preparation program vary. Please refer to the specific grade or sacrament preparation section of this handbook for those specific attendance requirements.

## **Class Placement**

Class availability is on a first come, first served basis. Students are placed in classes based on the needs of the class and to ensure balance within a class. All placements are at the discretion of the Office of Religious Education.

It is not necessary for your child to be placed with his/her best friend in order to have a positive Religious Education experience. This is an opportunity for your child to make new friends and grow in their faith community. However, please do let us know if your child has any special needs.

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

Arrival and dismissal times vary according to each grade, location, time of day and day of the week. Please refer to the appropriate grade section of this handbook for specific arrival and dismissal procedures.

## **Supplies**

All students are provided with the supplies necessary for their use. A limited number of replacement texts are available for \$25 should your child lose their book. Please contact the Religious Education office after an appropriate search for lost materials has taken place.

## **Homework**

Students may be given a brief homework assignment from time to time. Catechists will discuss the weekly assignments with the students and may check students' understanding periodically either in an oral or written format. Catechists may email or call parents to discuss students' progress if necessary.

Throughout the course of the year, students will work on memorizing several essential prayers, and we encourage parents to become involved in helping their children achieve this knowledge. A list of prayers will be provided on the Parents' resource page on our website.

## **ACRE Survey**

The Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) is an integrated, multi-level survey instrument developed by the National Catholic Educational Association. It is designed to provide parish, school and diocesan religious educators with valuable information on the participants' religious knowledge; religious beliefs, attitudes and practices; and perceptions of themselves, their parish community, and their school or parish religious education program.

This survey is administered to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (including homeschooled students) in the late winter.

## **Student Records**

Every effort is made to keep detailed records of each child. These records contain sacrament information as well as attendance records. If a family transfers to another parish, a copy of the record will be forwarded if a written request is made. Any child entering the program from another parish must present a copy of his/her record from that parish. These records are for the sole use of the St. Teresa of Avila Religious Education Office and are not available to the public.

## **Discipline**

At St. Teresa of Avila, we try to treat each other the way Jesus would want. Students are required to be polite and respectful to the Religious Education staff, catechists, their peers, themselves and St. Teresa property. Any unsafe or disrespectful behavior or other inappropriate conduct at any time while students are on parish grounds may result in immediate contact with the parents who may be asked to remove their child from the premises. Should such removal occur it will count as an absence. These same criteria apply to any program sponsored activities such as retreats, service projects, etc.

In the classroom the Catechist is primarily responsible for discipline. The catechist will handle any minor discipline problems by a phone call to the student's parents to discuss the matter. However, if a student continues to be disruptive or is unable to attend to the correction of the catechist, the matter will then be referred to the Director. A meeting may then be held with the Catechist, parent(s) and the Director to discuss and attempt to reconcile any difficulties. Continued non-compliance may then result in a recommendation to the parents for either the repetition of the term, a home-study program, a summer program or any other solution deemed appropriate by the Director to compensate for the time missed in the classroom.

**Security:** State law mandates that the doors of the school building must be locked for the safety of the children attending classes. Please come to the main school entrance and buzz for entry. As a safety precaution, fire drills are conducted at least once per year in the school building. In the event that it is necessary to evacuate the building, catechists will utilize fire drill instructions provided in every classroom/gathering area. Each room in the building is also equipped with an emergency kit.

## 2015/2016 Fees

Registration fees cover the cost of texts, catechists, on-line course work and materials used in the program.

### Early Registration Fees (by 11:59PM May 31, 2015)\*

First Child:	\$145
Second Child:	\$125
Third Child:	\$ 75
Fourth & Fifth Child:	\$ 50
8th Grade Confirmation Fee	\$250 (no discount)
9th Grade Retreat & sacrament fee	\$ 50
First Eucharist Activity Fee	\$100 per child
Middle School Activity Fee	\$ 50 per child

\* *NOTE: Early registration discounts only apply to children enrolled in our Grade 1-7 programs which coincide with the September through April school calendar.*

### Regular Registration Fees (June 1 and beyond)

First Child:	\$175
Second Child:	\$150
Third Child:	\$ 75
Fourth & Fifth Child:	\$ 50
First Eucharist Activity Fee	\$100 per child
Middle School Activity Fee	\$ 50 per child
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Fee	\$250
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat & sacrament fee	\$ 50

### Additional Fees

First Eucharist Activity Fee	\$100 per child
Middle School Activity Fee	\$ 50 per child
Late fee (after Oct 15)	\$ 35
Text Replacement Fee:	\$ 25

If payment of fees poses a financial difficulty for your family scholarships are available. Please stop by or call the Religious Education office at 908-273-6975 x104 for a scholarship application.

### **Grades 1 through 5**

***Note: Our program begins in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and it is expected that children wanting to receive First Communion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have completed 1<sup>st</sup> grade Religious Education either at St. Teresa's or elsewhere.***

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Families are given a choice of available days; however, all classes are filled on a *first come-first served* basis and are subject to availability of Catechists.

Sunday	8:45 -- 10:00am
	10:30 -- 11:45am

(These Sunday classes are timed so that each student has the opportunity to attend Mass either before or after class. We strongly encourage children and families to attend Mass together.)

Monday	3:45 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday	3:45 – 5:00pm

### **Textbooks**

Grades 1-2 *Image of God* (Ignatius Press)

Grades 3-5 *Faith and Life* (Ignatius Press)

Loyola bi-lingual workbooks are also used in some cases

### **Attendance - Grades 1 through 5**

Children attend class each week that the program is in session. The 2012-2013 school year will meet for approximately 23 weeks, totaling with additional events, 35 hours of religious instruction. Attendance is taken each week by the catechist. That attendance is then transferred to each child's permanent record. St. Teresa of Avila Religious Education is a spiral graded program. Each grade level is built on the previous year's curriculum. *Regular attendance is required.* The children are accountable to learn material covered in their absence. Procedures for completing make up work are explained in the following sections. Catechists will work with parents to achieve this.

Excessive absences will result in a meeting with the Director and/or the Pastor, Fr. Brian Plate to discuss the child's progress and preparedness to move on to the next grade level of Religious Education. If there are excessive absences due to illness, family emergency or other serious situations, please contact the Director to discuss your situation.

Children are expected to attend the class in which they are registered. The program *does not* allow for make-up classes in other sections.

Regular attendance at Sunday Mass and Reconciliation is encouraged for parents and children.

## **Absences**

### **Grade 2 (Sacrament Year)**

Instruction in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is keenly focused on sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Excessive absence makes a child's preparedness for the receiving of the sacraments incomplete and will result in a meeting with the Director and/or the Pastor, Fr. Brian Plate to discuss the child's progress and preparedness to receive the Sacraments.

Absences shall not exceed two (2) per term.

Arrival after 20 minutes of class time has elapsed will be deemed an absence.

Children are expected to attend the class in which they are registered. The program *does not* allow for make-up classes in other sections.

Parents are required to contact the Religious Education Office (908-273-6975) to report a child's absence in advance of the class. Please give your child's name, grade and teacher's name when reporting an absence. As many of our students walk directly from school we are concerned for their safety when we are not informed of their absence in advance.

### **Grades 1, 3, 4 and 5**

Instruction in 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade is focused on continually developing the child's understanding of and love for God and the Church. Therefore, we believe that consistent attendance in these grades is important.

Excessive absences will result in a meeting with the Director and/or the Pastor, Fr. Brian Plate to discuss the child's progress and preparedness to move on to the next grade level of Religious Education.

Absences shall not exceed three (3) per term. Arrival after 20 minutes of class time has elapsed will be deemed an absence.

Children are expected to attend the class in which they are registered. The program *does not* allow for make-up classes in other sections.

Parents are required to contact the Religious Education Office (908-273-6975) to report a child's absence in advance of the class. Please give your child's name, grade and teacher's name when reporting an absence. As many of our students walk directly from school we are concerned for their safety when we are not informed of their absence in advance.

### **Making up Missed Chapter Work, Grades 1, 3, 4, 5**

When a student must be absent from class due to illness, a family emergency or another serious situation, it is the responsibility of the parent to assist the child in covering the material which they missed. Please contact the catechist to obtain the missed work. In most cases, the material must be completed and submitted to the catechist within two weeks of the initial absence. If there are extenuating circumstances which prohibit the completion of the material, please contact the Director.

### **Making up Missed Chapter Work, Grade 2**

When a student must be absent from class due to illness, a family emergency or another serious situation, it is the responsibility of the parent to assist the child in covering the material which they missed.

Please speak with your child's catechist, or the Director, to see about making up missed work.

### **Home School (Note: this is a completely online program)**

Grade 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (only available in these grades)

- Students must be registered online at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org). Regular fees apply, as homeschooled children are often provided with extra materials.
- Students must meet all grade level requirements for the year using Archdiocesan-approved materials which we provide.
- Completion of all on-line and supplemental work including chapter review and required service hours.
- Participation in the ACRE exam (5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade only)
- In deciding to homeschool your child, you agree to educate your child in a safe environment in your own home, in compliance with the Archdiocese of Newark's Protecting God's Children (PGC) policy. Contact the Religious Ed office with any questions.

### **Arrival and Dismissal- Grades 1 thru 5 (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)**

Arrival times for the classes are as follows: 8:35am for 8:45 Sunday; 10:20am for 10:30 Sunday; 3:35pm for 3:45 Monday and Tuesday. Please do not drop your child off any earlier as supervision is not available. Children are not allowed inside the classroom until the catechist or another adult is present.

Pick-up times for the classes are *promptly* as follows: 10:00am for 8:45 Sunday; 11:45am for 10:30 Sunday; 5:00pm for 3:45 Monday and Tuesday. For the safety of the children parents are required to pick their child(ren) up from the classroom. Children will not be permitted to wait outside the school building. At the beginning of the year a dismissal form will be distributed, which must be returned to the catechist, listing the names of individuals authorized to pick the child up from class.

## **Middle School (Grades 6/7)**

### **Overview and Philosophy**

The Middle School Religious Education program at St. Teresa of Avila is a dynamic, interactive, Christ-centered program for students in grades six and seven. The curriculum is based on a youth ministry model where the students come together in large groups.

Textbook: Faith Fusion by Our Sunday Visitor

### **Program/Class Format/ Class Schedule**

Families are given a choice between the sessions on Sunday or Tuesday night, homeschooling or our Grade 6-7 Summer program. All classes, however, are filled on a *first come-first served* basis and are subject to availability of Catechists and facilities.

Summer classes will meet for 2 weeks consecutively from 10 AM to 2 PM.

The program during the school year starts off with a mini-retreat, which includes a Mass. Regular classes during the school year will meet for an hour and a half session once a week in Memorial Hall. There will be 12 classes from September through April. Completion of classes along with the 10 hours of community service are required to successfully fulfill the program.

Class day and time options are as follows:

**Sunday:           6:30-8:00pm**

**Tuesday:         7:00-8:30pm**

**Summer Program:** intensive 2-week program, usually meeting 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, with additional attendance required at two Faith Fusion nights (Advent & Lent) during the school year.

The Sunday classes are timed so that each student has the opportunity to attend the 5:30pm Youth Mass.

### **Attendance - Grades 6-7**

Students are expected to attend the class for which they are registered. If you are not able to attend your regularly scheduled class, please call or email the Religious Education Office (908-273-6975x102 or re@stteresachurch.org and arrangements will be made for a student to attend another class session.

### **Absences**

It is expected that students in grades 6 and 7 will attend *all* 12 class sessions. If you have a scheduling conflict for one of the sessions, please call to check if attendance in another session is possible. Absence from classes and special events will require the completion of a written assignment or other reasonable assignment.

## **Homeschool**

### **Grade 6, 7**

- Attendance at special events
- All registration and activity fees apply.
- Completion of all on-line course work and any additional work assigned.

Note: In deciding to homeschool your child, you agree to educate your child in a safe environment in your home in compliance with the Archdiocese of Newark's Protecting God's Children (PGC) policy. Contact the Religious Ed office with any questions.

**Fees** In addition to the regular family registration fee, there will be an activity fee in the amount of \$50 *per child* in grades 6 and 7. This fee is required at the time of registration. This fee is to cover the additional program costs incurred through such activities as prayer services, rallies, guest speakers, supplies, community events and other projects specific to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade program.

**Arrival/Dismissal and Cancellations** Arrival for all Sunday and Tuesday programs is 10 minutes prior to scheduled start time at Memorial Hall. Memorial Hall will not open until 10 minutes before class is scheduled to begin. Please do not drop your child off any earlier as supervision is not available. Youth will be dismissed *promptly* from Memorial Hall at 8:00pm on Sundays and 8:30pm on Tuesdays. At the beginning of the year we will distribute a dismissal form, which must be returned to the catechist, listing the names of individuals authorized to pick the child up from class.

If the Summit schools are closed for inclement weather, there will be no Religion Education classes on that day or evening. If a decision is made to cancel classes you will receive an e-mail. Additionally, a recorded message will be left at 908-273-6975 ext. 102 and notice will be posted on the website homepage at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org).

## **Sacramental Preparation**

According to Diocesan regulations, a child must receive the sacraments in their home parish (i.e. the parish in which their family is registered), in this case, St. Teresa's. This is true for all children including those who attend Catholic schools. Students who attend *St. Patrick's* in Chatham, *St. Rose of Lima* in Short Hills, and *St. James* in Basking Ridge, NJ receive their sacramental education in school for First Reconciliation(Confession) and First Holy Communion; however, they still must receive their sacrament at St. Teresa's. They need not attend St. Teresa's sacramental preparation program; however, they must receive the Sacraments and they are required to attend the rehearsals prior to receiving the sacraments.

Students who attend *Oak Knoll School* do not receive any in-school sacramental instruction and, therefore, *are* required to attend a specially-designed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sacramental preparation program, with classes held after school at Oak Knoll under the supervision of St. Teresa's. Oak Knoll students entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade must register online at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org). Also,

2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in the parish who attend Our Lady of Peace Academy in New Providence will also need to register online and attend sacrament prep classes since OLP parish makes First Holy Communion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. (They may join in an Oak Knoll class).

All Parochial 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (*Oak Knoll, St. Peter's, Seton Hall Prep, Delbarton, Villa Walsh, Oratory Prep*) must register online at [www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org). The Confirmation program of study is two years, beginning in the Fall of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation is made in the Fall of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

These sacraments are traditionally celebrated for children in the second grade. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students study and prepare first for receiving First Reconciliation, which is celebrated in March. First Communion takes place in late April or early May. This preparation takes place in weekly classes held on either Sunday, Monday or Tuesday.

If your child did not receive First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion in second grade, we have a special preparation program for older students. Children will be expected to attend regular Religious Ed classes for their grade, along with an additional sacramental prep class held on certain Sundays. Please contact the Director at 908-273-6975 x102 for more information.

### **Requirements**

- Must have completed 1<sup>st</sup> grade Religious Education either at St. Teresa of Avila or another accepted Religious Education program, or must make up the 1<sup>st</sup> grade work under the supervision of the Religious Ed staff.
- Attendance at all weekly classes
- No more than two (2) excused absences for year
- Completion of any and all homework assignments
- Attendance at weekly Mass
- Attendance at Reconciliation and First Eucharist rehearsals

### **Textbooks**

*Image of God and Faith & Life Series* (Ignatius Press)

Oak Knoll students utilize Sadlier sacrament texts

Loyola bi-lingual workbooks are also used in some cases

### **Fees**

In addition to the regular family registration fee there will be an activity fee in the amount of \$100 *per child* required for all children making their First Communion that year. This fee is due at the time of registration and covers the necessary additional program costs incurred through sacramental preparation.

## **Rehearsals and Meetings**

It is *required* that at least one parent be in attendance at rehearsals for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Information about Sacrament Preparation, important dates, etc. will be shared with parents and children during these sessions. There may be informational meetings for parents to attend during the year, at the discretion of the Director. To enable parents with busy and traveling schedules to attend, each session will have a choice of either a morning or evening time slot. The dates of these meetings will be sent through email and will be available on the Religious Education website calendar.

## **Confirmation**

### **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation is the third and final Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic Church (the first two being Baptism and First Eucharist). Through this Sacrament the candidate receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit that was given to us at Baptism. This is the same Spirit that filled the Apostles with the zeal and courage needed by all who are to be public witnesses to Christ. Confirmation celebrates God's presence in our lives as the Holy Spirit continues to guide, strengthen, and empower us to live and witness the Good News of Jesus Christ. Christians, on the day of their Confirmation, become public witnesses to Christ and his saving works. Confirmation is a sign of God's love and presence in our lives. It gives us sanctifying grace - the free gift of God's love. Confirmation establishes the beginning of a life of full participation and responsibility in the Church.

### **Requirements for the**

### **St. Teresa of Avila Confirmation Program**

- must have received Baptism and First Eucharist;
- must be in 8<sup>th</sup> grade (or 9<sup>th</sup>) and have satisfactorily completed Middle School Religious Education. At a very minimum, students must have attended 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes or completed the homeschool program in those grades before they can enter the Confirmation program;
- Please note: this program encompasses all of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the Fall of 9<sup>th</sup> grade for all students, public and parochial.

## **Fees**

There is a Confirmation fee of \$250 payable at the time of registration in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please note that 9th graders will still need to register online; their fee will be \$50 to cover the cost of the retreat and sacrament celebration. All public and parochial school students must register online in both 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades.

## **Homeschooling**

Homeschooling is not available for the Confirmation Program in either grade 8 or grade 9.

## **Confirmation Program Requirements**

### **Grade 8**

#### **Class Schedule**

Families are given a choice of available days; however, all classes are filled on a *first come-first served* basis and are subject to availability of Catechists and facilities.

Classes will meet for two (2) hours each in Memorial Hall.

Class day and time options are as follows:

Sunday:           6:30-8:30pm

Tuesday:         7:00-9:00pm

(The Sunday classes are timed so that each student has the opportunity to attend the 5:30pm Youth Mass.)

#### **Requirements in Grade 8**

- Attendance at 6 class sessions in grade 8. Failure to attend all sessions will result in a meeting with the Confirmation Director to determine commitment and preparedness to move to the next level of Confirmation preparation.
- The program during the school year starts off with a parent/candidate orientation, which includes a Rite of Invitation Mass that must be attended.
- 15 hours service commitment must be completed before Confirmation.
- Attendance at one or more Teen Night Life (TNL) meetings of the Youth Ministry

## **Confirmation Program Requirements**

### **Grade 9**

#### **Requirements**

- Candidates for Confirmation must have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level of the program. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade level begins in October and finishes with the receiving of the Sacrament in November.
- Candidates must complete 15 hours of community service during the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade period.
- In 9<sup>th</sup> grade you are REQUIRED to attend one (1) half day St. Teresa of Avila sponsored Confirmation Retreat. Two different dates are available. In the event that a candidate misses our retreat, every effort must be made by the candidate and his/her parents or guardians to get them to another Confirmation retreat offered within the Archdiocese of Newark.
- Candidates must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before and within weeks of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The St. Teresa of Avila program offers multiple opportunities for Reconciliation. Failure to attend a retreat and Reconciliation will result in a meeting with the Confirmation Coordinator and/or the Pastor, Fr. Brian Plate to determine whether or not the student is sufficiently committed and prepared to receive the Sacrament.

#### **Confirmation Rehearsal**

Attendance at rehearsal is REQUIRED for the Confirmandi. You must attend the rehearsal at the time which corresponds with your chosen celebration time.

#### **Confirmation Celebration**

There are three Confirmation Masses, scheduled in November & December of 2015. You may choose which celebration you would like to attend at the time of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration. Space at each celebration is limited and will be filled on a *first-come, first-served* basis.

## **STAFF DIRECTORY**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE**

908-273-6975

Fax 908-273-1770

[www.stre.org](http://www.stre.org)

**Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed: 9AM-4:30 PM**

**and Sunday mornings when classes are in session.**

Summer office hours: 9AM-1 PM, Monday through Wednesday,

with the office closed a couple of weeks in August.

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### **RECTORY**

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Sharon Ertz, Business Manager