

**St. Cecilia's Religious Education**  
**Parent Handbook**  
**[www.stceciliakearny.org](http://www.stceciliakearny.org)**



**2020-2021**

## **PHILOSOPHY: Fellowship, Evangelization, Growth, Formation**

St. Cecilia's Religious Education Program exists in order to aid parents in their privileged duty to form the souls of their children to secure their eternal salvation. We strive to help develop in each child a confidence in the loving mercy of God through a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Each child's response to God's invitation is fostered by a deep desire for sanctity through prayer, obedience, witness and service to the beliefs made known to us in the Sacred Scriptures, the sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Lastly, the children are welcomed and encouraged by the faith community as the hope and future of our Church.

## **SCHEDULE:**

**Classes for grades 1- High School** meet **every week** online via the application, Zoom, from **8:45am - 10am**. All students should attend Mass with their families even if it is virtually. Please follow Saint Cecilia Roman Catholic Church for the livestream of Mass. The family chooses what Mass to attend with their children.

**It is stressed that children attend Mass with and sit with their families at a Mass time of the family's choice.**

**Students in grades 9-12** as well as ***older children preparing for baptism and first communion*** will have an additional class on the first Sunday of the month...see sacramental class schedule.

**Classes begin September 27, 2020—**

Students preparing to receive a sacrament (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) **have additional sacramental requirements**. Please see **sacramental preparation booklet** for dates and details.

**FLOCKNOTE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM:** You may receive reminder TEXTS or EMAILS for upcoming events or to cancel an event.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Regular Attendance is extremely important, as the children only have classes *once a week* (versus the daily Religious Education classes offered in Catholic School). In order students to be marked present in class they must have their camera on for the duration of the class. If this is not done, they will be marked absent and the parents will be contacted. Parents are expected to **report an absence by contacting Leonidas Aliaga, or Faith Formation director or Margarita Rodriguez, our Faith Formation Assistant** with the child's name, class name and teacher's name, **and to email a note** when the child returns after being absent from class. After a second consecutive

absence, parents will be contacted. It is the responsibility of parents to see that all absentee work is made up by the child. **If a child misses more than (4) classes in a year, he or she may be asked to repeat a year and/or take additional make-up classes.**

### **TARDIES:**

Please have your children ready to begin class at 8:45am. In order to solve any technical difficulties, please try to connect 5-10 minutes earlier for the first few classes.

Tardiness is distracting to the class, and a child is likely to miss important information.

***If a student is tardy 4 times, it will count as one absence.***

### **DROP OFF/PICK UP: (ONLY applicable if we return to having class in-person)**

*Students will ENTER the school at door 2 on Chestnut Street. After class ends, 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be escorted across the street to the Church (Hoyt Street) where they will meet their family. No child will be picked up outside of the school. 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will wait in the gym to be picked up by their parents. Any student not picked up at Church will wait to be picked up at the parish office. No child will be allowed to wait outside the Church, school or Parish Center without supervision. It is stressed that children are to attend Mass with their families at a Mass time of the family's choice. The schedule of Masses is posted in the parish bulletin. \* THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO CHARTER SCHOOL.*

### **DISCIPLINE:**

Since each hour of class is so vital, consistent disciplinary problems will not be tolerated. Students causing constant disciplinary classroom problems will have to be instructed at home by the parents. Parents are expected to make sure that their children complete their assignments, study, know and pray their prayers at home.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Parents are asked to advise the Religious Ed Coordinator of any learning, emotional, or physical difficulties the child may have. All such information assists us in helping us understand your child and is kept confidential. There are young people in the parish with learning, physical, or developmental disabilities who are unable to participate in regular classes, but arrangements can be made for individualized instruction. We try to find qualified Catechists with special needs training.

## **DRESS CODE:**

The basic guidelines for appropriate dress are neatness and modesty. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and should be treated with respect. Students must dress appropriately for online class. **They are NOT to be in only pajamas, briefs, underwear, boxers, robes, night gowns, tank tops, bras, etc.** Each student must be dressed modestly for class.

**Gentlemen:** please wear pants (with belts, if necessary—no sagging pants please) and a collared shirt. Hair should be neat.

**Ladies:** Blouses must be no lower than 4 fingers from the collar bone; sleeveless tops must have straps wide enough to cover bra straps. Skirts or dresses should be no more than 4 fingers above the knee. Clothing should not be tight fitting.

Underwear, including boxer shorts and bra straps are not to show. Lastly, logos promoting alcohol, drugs, gangs or inappropriate messages are not permitted.

## **PARENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

*“Parents are the primary educators in the faith...The family is defined as the ‘Domestic Church,’ that is, in every Christian family, the different aspects and functions of the life of the entire Church may be reflected: Mission, Catechesis, Witness, Prayer, etc.”* – General Directory for Catechesis, chapter III.

As you are the primary educator, we at St. Cecilia’s exist to collaborate with you in your child’s education. Your participation in this our privileged duty, is therefore of vital importance.

**All parents are required to attend 1 workshop of their choice.** Workshops can be taken in one day or separated into 2 sessions. The Archdiocesan Women’s Conference and the Archdiocesan Men’s Conference will in March. For more info: [www.rcan.org/womcom](http://www.rcan.org/womcom); [www.rcanmenscommission.org](http://www.rcanmenscommission.org) Other workshop ***dates and times to be announced.*** There are meetings for parents of children in sacramental preparation as well. Please see the list of dates at the end of this booklet.

## **Continued Religious Education at Home through FORMED.ORG**

All families are encouraged to access the free parish registration through [formed.org](http://formed.org) to view Catholic content online. View on your desktop, laptop or Smart TV. Bring the family together and watch Saint movies and other faith based programs that will benefit the whole family. Go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org), enter your email and free parish code: DQNKPN.

## Summary of Religious Education Curricula

**Grades 1 and 2: Sacraments:** The Eucharist and Reconciliation are the focus of this year. The children are invited into a special relationship with Jesus in the Christian community. They will explore the saving actions of Jesus, moral choices involved being a good follower of Jesus with special emphasis placed on the Mass. Prayers and practices that help to deepen faith are taught. Baptism, the sacrament of belonging is introduced.

**Grades 3 and 4. Commandments:** Christian morality is explored as a way of life with a growing sense of Justice through a study of the Ten Commandments. Emphasis is on a covenant relationship with God and developing a well-formed conscience. Learning that which is true, good and loving to exercise free will in a relationship framework with God and practice of the beatitudes, the child becomes capable of directing himself to the true God and to seek the truth alone.

**Grades 5 and 6: Scripture:** The Bible is the church's book, our story of Faith and God's faithful love of His people. The child comes to the place of the Word of God in our lives with special emphasis on the Old Testament in the stories that bring the History of Salvation into focus. They are encouraged to "hear the Word of God and to live it".

**Grades 7 and 8: Christian Moral Living:** Students delve more deeply into moral issues as they relate to the life of a young person and on making good moral choices founded on a formed conscience. It is expected that by completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the students have mastered all of the elementary doctrinal facts as well as all of the basic prayers of the Catholic faith and are rooted in a good foundation in the Scriptures.

**Calendar of Religious Education Classes 2020-2021**  
**Important Dates**

**Sunday Classes Begin Sunday, September 27, 2020**

*All Saints Day Celebration: Sunday, November 1, 2020.* Each student is invited to dress as a saint for online class.

**Holidays (NO CLASSES) for all students:**

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 29, 2020

Christmas Holiday: December 27, 2020 & January 3, 2021

Martin Luther King Jr. January 17, 2021

Presidents Day: February 14, 2021

Easter Holiday: April 4, 2021 & April 11, 2021

**Last Day of Classes: May 2, 2021**

**PARENT MEETINGS FOR 2020-2021**

*All parents are required to attend 1 workshop of their choice.* Workshops can be taken in one day or separated into 2 sessions.

All Parents – Sunday, October 11, 2020 1:30pm-2:45pm (English) and 3pm-4:15pm (Spanish) via ZOOM

HS Confirmation – Sunday, October 25, 2020 - 1:30pm-2:45pm (English) and 3pm-4:15pm (Spanish) via ZOOM

Confirmation HS2 – Sunday, April 11, 2021 - 1:30pm via Zoom

First Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> year) Wednesday, February 10, 2021 - 7:30pm via Zoom

First Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> year) - Wednesday, April 21, 2021 7:30pm via Zoom

*You and your families are in our prayers.  
Please keep St. Cecilia's Church in your prayers too!*

Leonidas Aliaga  
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation  
[laliaga@stceciliakearny.org](mailto:laliaga@stceciliakearny.org)  
201 991-1116