

FAITHWAYS

MIDDLE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE 2015 – 2016

PROGRAM 3: CATHOLIC VALUES

Sunday Sessions 6:00 – 7:30 PM

AUTUMN 2015		
Event	Date	Session Topic
1	September 27	Cyber Ethics
2	October 4	Love
	October 11	NO CLASS
3	October 18	Care and Compassion
4	October 25	Generosity and Hospitality
5	November 1	Forgiveness
6	November 8	Peace
7	November 15	Faithfulness

SPRING 2016		
Event	Date	Session Topic
8	January 24	Honest and Integrity
9	January 31	Courage and Endurance
10	February 7	Respect for Human Dignity
	February 14	NO CLASS
11	February 21	Respect for Creation
12	February 28	Service
13	March 6	Justice
14	March 13	Program Summary

Tuesday Sessions 6:30 – 8:00 PM

AUTUMN 2015		
Event	Date	Session Topic
1	September 29	Cyber Ethics
2	October 6	Love
	October 13	NO CLASS
3	October 20	Care and Compassion
4	October 27	Generosity and Hospitality
5	November 3	Forgiveness
6	November 10	Peace
7	November 17	Faithfulness

SPRING 2016		
Event	Date	Session Topic
8	January 26	Honest and Integrity
9	February 2	Courage and Endurance
10	February 9	Respect for Human Dignity
	February 16	NO CLASS
11	February 23	Respect for Creation
12	March 1	Service
13	March 8	Justice
14	March 15	Program Summary

MIDDLE SCHOOL (FAITHWAYS) PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Our middle school religious education program, known as *Faithways*, has three learning opportunity components: academic (classroom), liturgical formation (non-classroom) electives, and a community service.

The academic component of *Faithways* is a three-program faith formation process approved by the *United States Council of Catholic Bishops* and geared toward adolescents in Grades 6, 7, and 8. We cover each of the three programs within a three-year cycle in sequential order, one program a year. Each program consists of 14 sessions during a school year—the first seven sessions in the Autumn (September – November) and the next seven sessions in the Spring (February – April). We offer our program on two different evenings, Sunday (6:00 - 7:30 pm) and Tuesday (6:30 - 8:00 pm). All classes will have a balanced mixture of students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 and are 1-½ hours in length.

Faith-In-Action is the community service component of our *Faithways* program designed to broaden student awareness and understanding of our Catholic tradition of service. Each service event will be chaperoned/supervised by an adult (21 or over) and engage students in service with established entities that serve the needs of the parish or local community. Students are expected to perform 4 student-selected service opportunities and submit feedback forms documenting their service experiences each year. A separate document outlines the approved community service opportunities.

Liturgical Formation is the non-classroom elective component of our *Faithways* program designed to broaden student awareness and understanding of our Catholic worship tradition. Students are expected to complete 2 student-selected electives and submit feedback forms documenting their liturgical formation experience each year. A separate document outlines the approved liturgical formation electives.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (FAITHWAYS) PROGRAM-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Goal: Assist parents in their sacred responsibility to educate and form their children in the faith, through structured presentation of approved course curriculum, to help make the faith a living and growing part of their lives. Our program is designed to compliment, not replace, the instruction provided by the parents and meet the 30-contact hour requirement for faith formation/religious education programs established by the Bishop of Syracuse.

Objectives: *Faithways* has three objectives: (1) provide youth an enriching faith formation experience that promotes a deeper personal relationship with God and neighbor; (2) transition youth in through a three-year faith formation process, building upon learned knowledge, skills, and attitudes, and (3) increase youth awareness and involvement in living their Catholic Faith by providing and engaging youth in parish-based community service opportunities.

Parent / Guardian Participation: All parents are strongly encouraged to ensure their child attends all sessions each school year and volunteer to help **at least once** during the school year. We encourage parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's religious growth. Families are expected to be weekly participants in the worship community. The gift of faith to your child is God's gift to give, but the nurturing of that gift goes on in the day-to-day living of family life. To be a Catholic parent means to nurture the faith in the child and share it in the family. Children learn by example. Be a living example to your child. Religious education builds on the family religious experience. We encourage parents to set an example by participating in adult education.

Communication: Communication requires the participation of both teachers and parents. Please feel free to talk to your child's teacher. Parents are always welcome in the classroom. Please voice any questions, concerns or comments to the RE office or one of the board members listed on the previous page. Parents are invited to meet the teacher by coming to the classroom on the first day of classes.

Safety: The safety of our children is paramount to our program and we have taken all reasonable measures to produce a safe learning environment. Parents support our safe environment by picking up their children at their classrooms, reminding their children not to run up or down the stairs or in the hallways, exercising caution in the parking lot and on Church grounds. OLGC cannot guarantee adult supervision beyond ten minutes before or after class. Please be prompt as possible in picking up your child.

Expenses: We ask families with children in our program make a donation to cover the cost of books, materials, and other expenses. The requested donation is \$15.00 per student with a maximum of \$40.00 per family for parishioners. Non-parishioners are asked to donate a minimum of \$20.00 per student with a \$50.00 per family limit. These are donations, rather than fees, and are tax deductible. Inability to make a donation is never a barrier to a child's participation in our program. Teachers are asked not to donate money as their donation of time and energy is immeasurable.

Textbooks: We issue a ***Student Bible*** to each student entering the program for the first time. Students are expected to attend class each week with their Bible and any home assignments. We ask parents to help us by making children responsible for and respectful of their Bibles.

Discipline: It is impossible for teaching or learning to take place in a classroom unless respect and order are maintained. We need the cooperation of all students and parents to maintain order. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which reflects courtesy and respect for everyone. Normal problems will be handled by the classroom teacher; however, if a problem continues, students will be sent to the office and parents will be notified. A third or subsequent offense may result in home instruction by parents or parents attending RE classes with their child.

Attendance: We expect students to attend class regularly and be on time. Please call us before class if your child will be absent or late. Students should make up any missed work. We will call you if there is any concern about attendance.

Cancellations: ***Sunday Classes:*** We will notify all teachers as soon as we determine weather conditions make it unsafe or unreasonable to conduct classes. In turn, your child's teacher will contact you. Our goal is to notify you no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled class start time. ***Tuesday Classes:*** Whenever the *Union-Endicott School District* closes school for the day (that is, declares a "snow day") or closes early and cancels after school activities for the day due to weather conditions, all our RE classes are also cancelled for that day. Please consult the local media outlets (TV, radio, etc.) for school and after school cancellation notices. Weekday cancellations are announced via radio as soon as possible; listen to WMXW 103.5 FM, WGRG 101.7 FM, and WAAL 99.1 FM.