

Saint Rose of Lima Adolescent Faith Formation

August 1, 2018

To the parents of our 7/8 Grade Religious Education children,

Summer greetings everyone! I pray these weeks off from school have been a time for rest and refreshment for both you and your children. Here at the parish we are busy preparing for another year of Religious Education.

This year our focus will be "Life in Christ Jesus," which invites our young people to better know Jesus, understand his message, and follow his ways. Our theme is "TransFORMED", which is inspired by the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans: *Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.* (12:12). Our lessons will explore the principles of virtue, holiness, and moral living through teaching, witnessing, discussion and experiential activities.

Following is the calendar of required activities, which in addition to class sessions include a service trip to the Community FoodBank, an evening mini-retreat, and parish events throughout the year. Signups for these activities will be sent by email as the date approaches.

Also enclosed is a copy of the "Student Contract" which includes our parish policies and our "codes of conduct." Please look these over with your child, sign and return by the first class session which is Monday/Tuesday September 17/18. You may also fax it to 973-379-5356, scan and email it to middleschool@stroseshorthills.org, or mail or drop-off to the Devine Center.

We are still in need of a few more catechists and ask that you prayerful consider this opportunity. Each catechist will be assigned a small group of approximately 12 teens and classes meet every other week. If you are interested in (or know of someone else whom I might contact) please let me know as soon as possible. You may share the duties with another catechist if you prefer. Catechists receive a full-tuition discount and co-catechists receive a 50% discount.

If you have any questions at this time or throughout the year do not hesitate to contact me or Regina Furlan by email or phone.

Thank you and God bless.

Tracy Ricciardi
Director of Adolescent Faith Formation
tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org
973-376-1960, x3503

Cc: Fr. John McCrone, Pastor
Regina Furlan, x3971, rfurlan@stroseshorthills.org

Saint Rose of Lima Parish 7/8 Grade Religious Education
2018/2019 CALENDAR/REQUIREMENTS

MONDAY

September 17
October 1
October 15
October 29
November 12
November 26
December 10
January 7
January 21
February 4
February 25
March 11
March 25
April 8
April 22
May 6

TUESDAY

September 18
October 2
October 16
October 30
November 13
November 27
December 11
January 8
January 22
February 5
February 26
March 12
March 26
April 9
April 23
May 7

CLASSES MEET FROM 7:00PM-8:30PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

All 7/8 graders are required to participate in the following:

SERVICE TRIP TO COMMUNITY FOODBANK

Saturday November 17, December 8, or January 5 from 8:30am-11:30am

RETREAT

Monday, January 21 or Tuesday, January 22 from 6:00pm-9:00pm (includes dinner)

PARISH EVENTS

In addition to sessions/activities listed above, all 7/8 graders are required to participate in at least 2 of the following parish events:

- ❖ Friday Middle School Youth Ministry nights
 - ❖ Lessons & Carols
 - ❖ Family Advent Wreath Making
- ❖ Fridays in Lent – Way Walkers Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross
 - ❖ Palm Sunday– Living Stations of the Cross

Saint Rose of Lima 7/8 Religious Education: *TransFORMED!*

STUDENT CONTRACT/CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission/objectives of our 7/8 grade program are to help our students grow in character and virtue through a deeper understanding of the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ; to help them face worldly challenges and pressures with a solid grounding in their Catholic faith; to empower them to become servant leaders and to live out their baptismal call to discipleship. This requires a shared commitment from our parish staff, volunteer catechists, parents and students.

All students are expected to adhere to a "Code of Conduct" as outlined below. A more detailed explanation of each can be found on the reverse of Contract. **Both students and parents should read everything carefully and sign the agreement below.**

- All students are expected to behave in a cooperative and respectful manner towards their catechist, fellow classmates and all parish volunteer and staff members at all times. This includes proper behavior while entering and exiting the building, and in the carline during pick-up.
- Students are expected to dress appropriately for all activities as detailed on the Dress Code.
- Cell phones and other electronic items must be turned off at all times.
- All students must successfully complete in all required activities as list on Calendar.

WE HAVE READ THE STUDENT CONTRACT ABOVE AND AGREE TO COOPERATE
AND ABIDE BY THE POLICIES THEREIN:

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE SIGN RETURN BY THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078
Phone: 973-376-1960 Fax: 973-379-5356
Email: middleschool@stroseshorthills.org

Saint Rose of Lima 7/8 Religious Education

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS

NO more than 3 excused absences are allowed. Parents **must** call the Religious Education office at 973-376-1960, x3971 to report a child's absence as early in the day as possible. **7th & 8th graders must complete make-up assignments for each week missed, by the next class.** Excessive absenteeism will require a meeting with the family and the Director of Adolescent Faith Formation to determine an appropriate program of action.

It is the parents' responsibility to insure that your child arrive on time and stay through the entire class. Obviously, there are situations beyond your control that cause parents and children to be late sometimes. However, it should never be a continuing occurrence as it is very disruptive to the class.

EARLY PICK-UP OF A STUDENT: Please make every effort to schedule other appointments at times that do not interfere with your child's faith formation. If there is an instance that requires early pick-up you must put the **request in writing and bring it to the office in advance.** You will pick up your child at the office, not the classroom.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN, NO PARENT OR UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE BUILDING AND PICK UP A CHILD AT THE CLASSROOM DOORS AT ANY TIME.

CARLINE RULES AND PROCEDURES

In general, it only takes 10 minutes to dismiss all students from sessions. For the safety of all our students your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated with the following:

Drivers are expected to stay in their cars and utilize the carline. We do not want students walking in front of cars. If you must pick them up on foot for some reason, please walk on the Short Hills Avenue sidewalk and not in between the cars lined up.

Students waiting for their rides will wait on the brick walkway by the rectory until their ride arrives and remain attentive and respectful. No horsing around, climbing, or running around on the grounds is permitted.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC ITEMS

Cell phone use is not permitted during class sessions and other planned activities. If a parent needs to reach their child during class they should call the office phone. Students found with their phones on during class will be asked to surrender them for the remainder of the class session. All other electronic items are also not permitted (iPods, games, etc.) Abuse of these policies will result in the removal of the item.

DRESS CODE

One of the main goals of our 7/8 grade program is to help our young teens grow in virtue. This includes the virtue of modesty. While popular styles and fashions tend to push boundaries, we expect our students to come to class, Mass, and other related activities dressed appropriately and in a manner that reflects virtue. Casual clothing is permitted, however irreverent or revealing clothing is not acceptable. Please short shorts or skirts (shorter than mid-thigh), no tank, halter, or see-through tops, or spaghetti straps. T-shirts with inappropriate pictures or wording are also not permitted. No hats or caps are to be worn indoors.