

## Saint Rose of Lima Adolescent Faith Formation

August 1, 2017

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 we will focus on the Gospels and other New Testament writings as we strive to help our young people better understand the teachings of Jesus and how they apply to our lives today.

**Our theme for the year is “Rock Solid”** – which refers to the following Gospel passage from Matthew: *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Mt 7:24).* This passage illustrates the importance of having a strong foundation based on faith. Our goal is to help our young adolescents navigate the challenges of their middle school years with Jesus as their role model and guide, and to help them grow in faith and virtue. We also hope to be a resource to you, our parents, as you deal with the pressures of raising a teenager in this hectic and uncertain time.

Enclosed you will find 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. Enclosed is a sign up form for these activities. Also enclosed is a copy of the “Student Contract” which we ask each student and a parent read and sign.

Please return both forms by the first class session which is Monday/Tuesday September 11/12. **(PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SPECIAL ONE-HOUR SESSION TO WHICH PARENTS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND WITH THEIR CHILD.)** You may fax it to 973-379-5356, scan and email it to [middleschool@stroseshorthills.org](mailto: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.

At this time I am also pleased to introduce the newest member of our Adolescent Faith Formation team, Regina Furlan, who has been a long-time parishioner, cantor, volunteer, and Confirmation catechist. Regina will be replacing Patty Nascone who served faithfully for the past 9 years. We wish Patty well in her new position at Seton Hall Prep, and welcome Regina. We both look forward to a wonderful year serving our families and young people. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me or Regina by email at [middleschool@stroseshorthills.org](mailto:middleschool@stroseshorthills.org), or by phone at 973-376-1960, x3503 or x3971.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Tracy Ricciardi  
Director of Adolescent Faith Formation  
[tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org](mailto:tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org)

Cc: Fr. John McCrone, Pastor

Saint Rose of Lima Parish 7/8 Grade Religious Education

## 2017/18 CALENDAR/REQUIREMENTS

### MONDAY

September 11\* \*SPECIAL ONE-HOUR SESSION WITH PARENT\*  
September 25  
October 9  
October 23  
November 6  
November 20  
December 4  
December 18  
January 15  
January 29  
February 12  
February 26  
March 12  
March 26  
April 16  
April 30

### TUESDAY

September 12\*  
September 26  
October 10  
October 24  
November 7  
November 21  
December 5  
December 19  
January 16  
January 30  
February 13  
February 27  
March 13  
March 27  
April 17  
May 1

*Special Closing Session: May Procession on Monday, 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 11 OR Saturday, December 9 from 8:30am-11:30am

#### **RETREAT**

Monday, January 15 or Tuesday, January 16 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 BOLD Youth Ministry nights
- ❖ Lessons & Carols during Advent
- ❖ 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: **ROCK SOLID!**

## 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 SEPTEMBER 8**

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**

### **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. Absolutely NO 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. Students who violate these policies will be first warned and on subsequent occasions the parents will be called to bring a change of clothes.

### **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC ITEMS**

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.

### **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. A child is to be released only to parents or adults listed on the Car Pool Permission Form. **NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO A SIBLING.**

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.