

WELCOME TO OUR 2020-2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR

Dear Parents,

The Religious Education Program for the children and youth of St. Bartholomew's Parish is scheduled to begin on *Sunday, September 19, 2021* for all of our students in grades **KINDERGARTEN** through **Ninth**. Our Home Study meeting will meet (the week before) on *September 12th at the Parish Center at 12:30 pm*. The catechists (Religious Education teachers) join us in looking forward to working with you and your children in this coming year. Also, we are offering a new Religious Education Program for the second year, called "Family of Faith" that meets the same requirements as the traditional and home study programs for your children. Sadie Peterson will be leading the program and there is a description below on page 2.

You are the primary educators of your children, you were their first teachers and continue to teach through word and example. Just as you take your job as a parent seriously and maximize each moment, we catechists understand our commitment as teachers and will strive to work with your children to enrich their lives. Together, working with the Spirit, let us pass on the Catholic tradition to our youth.

This handbook contains valuable information regarding schedules, overview of the program, sacramental guidelines, and policies that will ensure an effective and efficient Religious Education program. Although, changes may occur frequently due to the recovery period of the Pandemic. I will try and update the website as often as possible. Please read the handbook and refer to it throughout the year, especially with respect to classroom discipline, scheduling and attendance.

In order to get through this recovery period, our focus is to attempt to keep all children on track with their religious education so they can continue with the curriculum as before the Pandemic. Patience, Communication, and Prayers will get us through this recovery period.

Mrs. Becky L. Walsh
Director of R.E.

In September you will electronically receive a letter from your child(ren)'s catechist. Their letter will share with you their expectations for the year. This letter will also confirm your child's placement for the year. At the bottom of the letter, there is a tear off for you to **sign and return** after reading the letter and sharing it with your child(ren). Or instead of printing the tear-off, you may send it by email to your child's teacher.

Also included as an attachment will be a grade level appropriate syllabus for you to keep, which shows lessons for each week, in the event your child misses a week and needs to complete the work at home. Also note the dates when there are **NO** classes.

A third attachment will be our Safety and cell phone policy. Please keep this email and refer as necessary throughout the year!

Family of Faith

For our second year, we will be offering a family catechesis program called, A Family of Faith from Sophia Press. This is an opportunity for parents to learn more about their Catholic faith and then transmit that knowledge to their children through a variety of activities. This program uses one adult meeting per month and one community meeting with the children. Parents who have signed up are asked to make an effort to attend every adult meeting together. The community meetings are optional but is meant to foster friendship among families. There is one mandatory community meeting in May where families will present their learning in the form of a scrapbook style "Storybook."

AND From the Pastor's Desk...

My Dear Friends,

One of the first things one notices about this wonderful parish of St. Bartholomew is that we are a parish of families. The families are the fabric of a believing community. The faith is handed on from generation to generation here. One of our strongest assets in this process is our Religious Education Program. It is close to the heart of what we are as a parish.

Come September, classes begin again and our children will progress in their knowledge and love of God. We need your enthusiastic support in this crucial task. We are blessed with an excellent staff headed by Mrs. Becky L. Walsh. I have great confidence in the whole program. We need your involvement, your commitment to guarantee the success of our catechetical efforts.

God bless you,

Fr. Michael Roach

2020-2021 CLASS SCHEDULE AND MEETING DATES

We will try to adhere to this schedule, please consult the monthly E-calendar for any changes or call the office, 410-239-8881
OR EMAIL: becky.walsh@archbalt.org.

*-September 12: Home Study Session 12:30 p.m. in Parish Center (Pick up Home Study materials.) *Home Study is being grandfathered out and was only offered to families who had 2 or more years in the program.*

September 19, 20: **ALL** grades, Kindergarten through Ninth

September 23: Family of Faith September parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

September 26, 27: **ALL** grades, K-9 *Reconciliation Parent Mtg during class times in Historic Church

October 3, 4: **ALL** grades, K-9

October 10, 11: **ALL** grades, K-9

October 14: Practice for Confirmation 7pm in the New Church for 2020 class

October 16: Confirmation 11am in the New Church for 2020 class

October 17, 18: **ALL** grades, K-9

October 24, 25: **ALL** grades, K-9 Last week of classes 7,8,9

October 28: Family of Faith October parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

Oct 31, Nov 1: ONLY grades K-6 Book Due for grades 7&8

Sunday, Oct. 31: Home Study Session 12:30 pm in Parish Center

Grade 9: Confirmation Info Meeting from 1 - 2 pm in Historic Church for students and parents

***Saturday, NOVEMBER 6: Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10 a.m.**

November 7, 8: ONLY grades K-6

November 14, 15: ONLY grades K-6

November ?? (TBD): Family of Faith November parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

November 21, 22: **NO CLASSES WINTERFEST**

November 28, 29: **NO CLASSES THANKSGIVING**

December 5, 6: ONLY grades K-6

December ?? (TBD): Family of Faith December parent meeting 7-8:30pm

December 12, 13: ONLY grades K-6

Sunday, Dec. 12: Home Study Session 12:30 pm

(Adopt Family/Christmas Gifts due at the parish center)

December 19, 20: Only grades K-6 (Christmas Celebration)

December 26, 27: **NO CLASSES: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

January 2, 3: **ALL** grades *Family Life 1-8 and Kinders*
Confirmation classes begins parish center 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

January 9, 10: **ALL** grades *Family Life 1-8 and Kinders*
Confirmation 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

January 16, 17: **NO CLASSES: MLK Family Life Homework (1-8)**

Jan. 23, 24: **ALL** grades *Family Life 1-8 and Kinders*
Confirmation 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

January 27: **Family of Faith January parent meeting 7-8:30 pm**

January 30, 31: **ALL** grades *Family Life 1-8 and Kinders*
Confirmation 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Feb. 6, 7: **ALL** grades *FL 1-8*
Confirmation 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Feb. 13, 14: (Collect FL books) and Kinders
Confirmation 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Decision Point Book Due
Sunday, Feb. 13: Home Study Session 12:30 pm

Feb. 20, 21: **NO CLASSES - PRESIDENTS DAY**

February 24: Family of Faith February parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

February 27, 28 **ALL** grades, K - 8

Confirmation Retreat **Sunday February 27: Confirmation Retreat
11:30 am - 4:30pm**

Mar. 6, 7: **ALL** grades, K-8

****First Eucharist Parent mtg during class times in Historic Church**

Mar. 13, 14: **ALL** grades, K-8

Mar. 20, 21: **ALL** grades, K-8

March 24: Family of Faith February parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

Mar. 27, 28: **ALL** grades, K-8

April 3, 4: **ALL** grades, K-8 Last week of classes 7, 8

April 10, 11: ONLY grades, K-6 and Book due for 7, 8

April 17, 18: **NO CLASSES: HAPPY EASTER**

April 24, 25: ONLY grades, K-6 (Last week of Classes)

Sunday, April 25: Home Study Session 12:30 pm

April 28: Family of Faith February parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

****April 30: FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION 11 am**

Practice Friday, April 29 at 6 pm in New church

**Sacrament of Reconciliation dates/info.*

***Sacrament of Eucharist dates/info.*

May 8: May Procession 11:30am Mass

May 26: Family of Faith February parent meeting 7-8:30 pm

DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Students are expected to maintain and exemplify Christian attitudes and values, especially while they are physically present in our buildings.

Students are expected to listen and respond respectfully to their teachers and all volunteers. Catechists will explain their classroom procedures and expectations the first week of class and students are expected to follow these regulations.

Students unable to follow these guidelines will be asked to leave the room and report to the R.E. office. The R.E. coordinator or assistant will speak with the student about their behavior or attitude and encourage the students to correct the problem without parental involvement, since this is a first offense.

If the student continues to be disrespectful or uncooperative, the students will be asked to report to the office a second time. At this time, the parent will be notified of this reoccurrence and asked to discuss the problem at home with their child.

If the problem continues, the parent will then have two options, the first is to accompany the student to the remaining classes to ensure proper discipline or to become an active participant in the Family of Faith program, attending the monthly sessions and completing the curriculum at home with their child.

During the year, we ask that you show your respect and support for the work and dedication of our Religious Education volunteers and staff.

FAMILY LIFE CATECHESIS & CHILD PROTECTION EDUCATION

In compliance with Archdiocesan policy, we will be incorporating Catechesis in Family Life and Child Protection education into our weekly curriculum for students in grades one through eight. This comprehensive presentation of family life and morality is in keeping with the teachings of the bishops of the United States and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Benziger Family Life textbooks and materials will be available for parent previews during the month of September and throughout the year in the R.E. office. Also available are *Frequently Asked Questions about Family Life Catechesis and Child Protection Education* handouts. Also, check out Benziger's website: rclbfamilylife.com. Parent Username: flfamily Password: flrclbf01

Family Life curriculum will begin in January in grades 1-8. Please review your child(ren) syllabus to see the schedule of these in-class lessons as well as weekly homework assignments: completing the Unit Reviews at home with your child(ren), then initialing the Unit Review page.

If you would like your child to *opt out* of this program, please *request a written waiver* from the R.E. office.

POLICIES

1. All students attending the R.E. program must be (re)registered each year through the R.E. office before they are admitted to class.
2. Parents should complete all necessary forms and return them with the tuition fees prior to opening day of classes or a deadline date, if one is given.
3. Combined fees (tuition and books) are \$100.00 for one child in Nursery through Grade 9; \$150.00 for two children in these grade; \$200.00 for three students; \$250.00 for four.
(\$25.00 discount for re-registration prior to May 31st. Partial payments may be arranged.)
4. The student's Baptismal certificate must be seen and verified in the office at the time of the initial registration.
5. **Regular attendance of Mass** as a family is extremely **important** and Religious Education classes should not take the place of Mass. The Mass is very important to our faith, without adequate experience of Mass your child is at a distinct disadvantage in understanding our Catholic tradition. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to attend Mass with your child weekly. It is SO IMPORTANT that your children attend Mass weekly to hear the Word of God, for nourishment through our worship and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, in addition to attending Religious Education classes.

Student preparing for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation are *required to attend weekly as part of their preparation.*

6. We require that students enrolled in R.E. classes attend promptly on a regular basis. Students *should arrive five to 10 minutes* prior to class time. Late arrival disrupts the class as well as put your child at a disadvantage as he/she has to catch up with the group and often times is embarrassed by arriving late. Parents please, please try to be prompt with arriving and dismissal. If someone other than a parent or legal guardian is picking up your child, please send a written note granting permission to that named person for dates that apply.

7. Religious Education is extremely important for the "total formation" of your child. We have come to understand how sports/activities has taken a front seat in our children's lives. If you have to miss class due to a tournament or game or other commitment, we are asking that the assignment be made up immediately that week in order to keep up with class. Any absence from class due to illness, death in the family, or extreme emergency will be given more time to make up the assignment. Any assignments or class work should be completed at home with parents. Families will be emailed with the lessons missed, please complete, prior to returning. Every child will be given a folder which will have a syllabus, to assist parents with lesson, meetings and no classes dates. ***Please note:** If your child **misses 50%** or more of the classes and/or the teacher is unable to evaluate due to absences or not turning in assignments, they will be asked to complete a final assessment before placement in the next grade level and if necessary complete make-up over

summer. We would like to have a fair assessment of every student, so they have an understanding of our Catholic Faith.

8. All students must come to class prepared with their textbooks and their folder, which assists in communications between home and church. Parents please check the folder for handouts or communications **weekly** and the text for lessons.

9. Parents dropping-off or picking-up their children:

We will have a vehicle drop off/pick up at the door as the only option. No one is permitted to walk up to the Parish Center for Sunday School class for everyone's safety. Vehicles are to line up with grades 1 – 5 at the downstairs doors and 6 – 8 at the upstairs door (Signs to guide everyone will be posted.) You may arrive 10 minutes early to drop off, but no earlier as teachers will not be in their classrooms.

To avoid unnecessary delay, Vehicles with children in grade 6 – 8, please enter from the Park Avenue (Historic Church) side. Vehicles with children in grades 1 – 5 please enter from the High Street (Back entrance) side. If parents have children in both levels, please start with the Park Ave entrance, drop off the older students and then drive down to the lower level to drop off the younger students. It's okay if you come in on a different side, just remain in the line and continue through until you get to the proper destination. Please be patient with the line. Even though this is a 'Drive thru' setting, it is not for speed, it is for safety. We will know who is in the building at all times and we will be able to see each child go home with their parent/guardian. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up the student, please call the Parish Office to let us know and please let your child know to avoid any miscommunication. If there is any doubt, your child will not be able to leave, until we can contact you. With that in mind, please make sure all phone numbers and email addresses are up to date.

10. For safety and security, doors will be locked 5 minutes after classes begin, please use the front entrance of the Parish Center to enter, through the office area, during class times, for early dismissal or for late arrivals. (All doors have panic bars to allow for exit.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

The office of Religious Education is in the Parish Center, upper level. The Parish Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during scheduled R.E. classes. We

strongly believe in effective communication and invite your questions, concerns or comments at any time. Our phone number is 410-239-8881. Mrs. Becky L. Walsh, becky.walsh@archbalt.org is the Director of Religious Education, and Mrs. Christina Gambrell, Christina.Gambrell@archbalt.org is the R.E./Parish Administrative Assistant.

Visit our website: www.StBartholomewManchester.org

Each year worldwide, the Church celebrates the beginning of a new catechetical year together. Catechetical Sunday is September 19th and this year's theme is "Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed".

Class Sessions and Times

Session A: 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., Sundays

Session B: 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon, Sundays

Session D: 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mondays

Ninth Grade: Sundays from 1 pm – 3 pm

Session H: Home Study (For historical families only) Pre-Registration is required

Session F: Family of Faith (see next page for dates) Pre-Registration is required

HOME STUDY

Pre-registration required

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021	12:30 p.m. Welcome and Distribution of materials
Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021	12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021	12:30 p.m. Christmas; Adopt a Family gifts due
Sunday, Feb. 13, 2021	12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 24, 2021	12:30 noon Turn in completed texts and binders

Home Study is being grandfathered out. The only Families that can continue Home Study are the ones who have successfully completed 2 or more years in the past of Home Study. We are still offering Traditional Sunday School and the new program, Family of Faith.

All families are expected to attend **a minimum of 4 meetings** throughout the year as well as turn in completed materials to be evaluated at the end of the year. If you are unable to attend any of these dates, please call the R.E. office to make an appointment to pick-up monthly materials, and for your child's progress to be monitored. After successfully completing these requirements, students will be placed appropriately for the following year.

During the year, if you are unable to complete the home teaching requirements, your child may be transferred to a traditional class, as available, in order to advance to the next grade. Also, transferring from traditional classes to our Family of Faith Program during the R.E. year will be approved on an individual basis. Questions, concerns, please call the office, 410-239-8881 or email: becky.walsh@archbalt.org

FAMILY OF FAITH
Pre-registration required

Parent meetings will take place once a month on the fourth Thursday evening from 7-8:30 pm. Please see the calendar for details. Community meetings will be held once a month after Saturday 4:00 pm Mass or Sunday 11:30 am Mass. See calendar for details on times and locations.

SUPPORT OF THE PARISH AND R.E.

We ask that you support the Religious Education Program and your parish through sharing your Time, Talent and Treasure. In order to maintain our programs, we need **every** family to use Parish envelopes weekly and support our R.E. collections, by using the green envelopes, received in your regular collection envelope box, or you may donate electronically through our website: Parish Giving link, Religious Education. We also ask that you are **ACTIVELY** involved with Winter Fest. Ways to volunteer will be coming home with your child, please volunteer and encourage family and friends to attend. Care and Share ladies also welcome new members to their Wednesday morning meetings, no special talents needed. Together we can accomplish great goals that will benefit RE. **Special thanks to the Care and Share Group for their year round work and support of R.E.**

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations of classes, meetings or events, because of inclement weather...Posted on our website: www.stbartholomewmanchester.org. Families will be notified by emails, if possible AND the catechists will be notified of class cancellations and when time permits, they will contact their students by telephone. Please notify the office of any contact info. so we may be able to reach your family. Also, a recorded message in the R.E. voice mailbox #2 will announce cancellations, whenever possible. Also, if Carroll County Schools are cancelled *due to weather* on a Monday, then there will be no Religious Education classes that Monday. **Please complete the missed lesson due to class cancellation at home with your child(ren) in grades 1-9.**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

A newsletter will be sent home electronically the first of every month. Please read it and refer to the monthly calendar, as it will used as a direct line of communications with parents. Each student will receive a folder the first class, please **look** through the papers in the folder **WEEKLY**, after each class. As often there will be communications sent home that need a response or just "For Your Information" correspondence. There is a schedule of classes and meetings included in this handbook, however, please check the monthly calendars to verify all dates/possible changes.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Requirements for all Sacramental programs:

1. All students should have had regular attendance in a religious education program for at least one year prior to entrance into the program for immediate catechizing of the sacrament.
2. Parents, who have children ready to receive a Sacrament, are required to attend the parents' sessions on immediate catechizing for the Sacrament. Please mark these dates from the schedule in this handbook on your home calendar and make these meetings a priority.

NO make-up meetings are planned.

3. Students are expected to attend all sessions, during immediate preparation as well as practices for the celebration. If your child misses a class, please send in a written note explaining the absence. Each student will be assessed on their readiness to receive the Sacrament. Parents will work directly with their child on a separate “homework” book and with prayers or any particular need their child may have while preparing.

Reconciliation

The beauty, peace and healing of the Sacrament is presented in a very joyful, loving, peace-filled way. We urge all parents to renew their appreciation of the blessings of this much misunderstood and much "under used" sacrament.

Ordinarily first sacramental confession should precede the reception of First Communion (cf. Canon 914; NCD, 126; and Manual of Policies for Christian Formation #2.14). In keeping with these policies, our preparation for First Reconciliation begins in the second grade, with the parent's assistance and approval.

Our program requires parents to attend **one** Reconciliation session designed for parents, the **meeting** is during class times in the Parish Center on Sept. 26/27. Along with attending this session, the parents are asked to assist with catechizing and complete a “homework” book with their child or they may request that the Sacrament be delayed for their child.

Immediate preparation for Reconciliation begins in the week of Sept. 19 and continues through Monday, November 1st. The sacrament will be celebrated in the church on *Saturday, Nov. 6th* or by appointment. Request forms will be given to each family at the Sept. 26/27 meeting.

Eucharist

Eucharist is the center and heart of Catholic life, what we are and do. We strongly encourage all parents to examine their own appreciation of and involvement in the weekly Sunday Mass. We try to guide all the students to a deeper understanding of the most important of all Sacraments, but, if this is not reflected in the home, 75 minutes a week in class will not give anyone a true appreciation of the importance of the Mass and reception of His Most Precious Body and Blood of our lives. “Children Learn What They Live”

Parents are asked to attend **one** immediate preparation session for Eucharist. This meeting is during class times in the Historical Church on **March 6/7**. In the event of bad weather, the meeting will be rescheduled. This meeting is adult oriented, and it is not necessary for the students to attend. The students begin their immediate preparation the week of Feb. 27th and parents will be asked to reinforce lessons at home using a Eucharist textbook for homework lessons. These completed books

will be collected April 24th and 25th.

The Sacrament of Eucharist may be celebrated as the parents choose (select one).

1. Special Parish celebrations with classmates and their families.
Scheduled for **April 30th**
2. During any regularly scheduled parish Mass.

We pray that this First Reception of Eucharist is only the beginning of the faith journey for your child and that he/she will continually be refueled by Jesus' Body and Blood.

CONFIRMATION

After the completion of their ninth-grade curriculum, students as well as those older, in High School, that have not received the Sacrament are invited to attend **with** their parents an informational meeting, please attend on October 31st from 1 – 2 pm in the HISTORIC CHURCH. After prayer, considerable thought and discussion, the students are asked to return a letter indicating their intention about receiving the Sacrament. Those that are requesting acceptance into the immediate preparation for the Sacrament, begin their free-standing preparation program weekly beginning January 2nd through February 27th with make-ups due to inclement weather to be scheduled as needed.

Throughout the program, the students will be involved in class work, homework, service projects, working with their sponsors, prayer celebrations and a one-day retreat, February 27th. There is a program fee to defray the cost.

The celebration of the Sacrament will be determined by the Bishop's schedule.

Please bear in mind that this is a free-standing program and not a requirement for all ninth grade students. Any eligible Confirmation candidates will be notified annually of this program throughout their high school years.