



ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

NEWS

JANUARY 2018



Dear Faith Formation Families,

Welcome 2018! Welcome to the second half of the Elementary Faith Formation year! Liturgically, the Christmas season continues through January 8th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, after which we again welcome Ordinary Time.

ADVENT OUTREACH THANKS

Thanks to our families who practiced Stewardship during Advent! You shared “treasure” in many ways. You purchased toys for the Sacred Heart toy store, supported the parish “giving tree”, and brought baby gifts to the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass. God bless you all!!

IMPORTANT - HONEYWELL INSTANT ALERT

Thanks to families who have taken the time to register for the Honeywell Instant Alert system and to those who updated their contact information. Please note that we will use Honeywell exclusively to inform you of emergency class cancellations. We will also use this efficient method to send meeting reminders, etc. Honeywell can contact you in numerous ways: home/work phone, cell phone, text message, home/work email, etc. It couldn't be easier!!! Questions? Call Mary Lou at 667-2440, ext. 346.

REMINDERS

- Homework is assigned every week; it reinforces the class lesson. Parents should assist with and participate in this and sign their student's work.
- Consistent weekly class attendance is important. If a student will be absent a phone call or email to the EFF office is required. The EFF program allows 4 absences per year. Families with extenuating circumstances must dialogue with the Director.
- Students who need to leave class early must submit a note to their catechist. Parents meet their child at the EFF Office, never the classroom.
- Dismissal – two options only
 1. Parents meet their child at the classroom
 2. Parents meet their car pool in the 1st floor hallway where Mrs. Lympers stands
- Cell Phones – Cell phone use is not permitted during EFF class. Cell phones should not come to EFF.

COL PARISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

COL will host a complimentary pancake breakfast after all morning masses on January 28. You are invited to enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage and more prepared by the KOCA chefs (Knights of Celestine Association) in the school cafeteria.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be distributed as follows:

Gr. 1-6, Monday, January 22nd

Gr. 1-4, Tuesday, January 23rd

Gr. 5-6, Wednesday, January 24th

Students are evaluated on attendance, completed homework assignments, classroom decorum, and test grades for levels 5-6. Please review your child's report and discuss the grades and catechist comments. If you have any questions regarding your son/daughter's report, call the Office of Elementary Faith Formation, 667-2440 x347. All Progress Reports must be returned the following week with a parent/guardian signature.

COMING EVENTS

Monday classes:

Jan. 8 – Parent Visitation for Gr. 3 at 5:15p.m. – Sacrament activity

Jan. 15 – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – NO CLASS FOR GRADES 1-6

Jan. 22 – Gr. 5 Church Tour

Feb. 5 – Grade 1 Baptism Demonstration

Feb. 19 – PRESIDENT'S DAY – NO CLASS FOR GRADES 1-6

Feb. 26 – Parent Visitation for Grade 4 at 5:15p.m.

Tuesday classes:

Jan. 16 - Parent Visitation for Grade 3 classes at 5:15p.m.

Feb. 6 – Gr. 1 Baptism demonstration

Feb. 20 - Parent Visitation for Grade 4 at 5:15p.m.

Wednesday classes:

Jan. 17 – Mid year tests for Grades 5 and 6

Feb.14 – Wednesday Fifth and Sixth grade students and parents attend 7:30p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass

Feb. 21– Grade 5 church tour

Sunday Activity

Jan. 7 – COL Music Ministry Christmas Concert at 3 p.m.

CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word)

Are your children participating in CLOW during the 9:00a.m. or 11:00a.m. Sunday Mass? If so you understand the format. For others who have not yet participated in CLOW here's what happens: children are escorted by adult facilitators from the main body of the church to the Ministry Center where two groups are formed; those who have already celebrated their First Communion and those who have not but are 5 years of age or older. The children hear the day's readings in language appropriate to their age and participate in an interactive homily. They return to their families at the Offertory.

Any adult interested in becoming a facilitator can contact Mary Lou at 856-667-2440, ext.346.

NOTE: CLOW is not babysitting. Children younger than 5 should remain with their parents /guardians during the Liturgy of the Word (Readings & Homily).

LIVING IN THE LIGHT: SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST UPDATE

This year Christ Our Light families will prepare 80 children to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. Eucharist preparation events have been scheduled for January, February, and March. All event registration forms were due to the EFF office by December 22, 2017. January Events are: Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6pm OR Sunday, Jan. 14, 1pm.

IN CASE OF SNOW

If Cherry Hill schools cancel classes and after school activities due to snow/inclement weather on an Elementary Faith Formation day/evening, we are cancelled too. .

Families will receive notification through the Honeywell Instant Alert system.

Mary Lou, our dedicated volunteer catechists, and I wish you health, happiness, and God's peace in 2018.

Blessings,

Ginny

“Christmas Is Forever”

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart.*

