

Parent Handbook 2009 – 2010

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



374 Boston Post Road
Weston, Massachusetts 02493
781-899-4734

CLASS TIMES

Weston

Grade 1 – 6	Sunday	10:10 am to 11:10 am.
Grade 1 – 5	Monday	2:45 pm to 4:00 pm.
Grade 1 – 5	Tuesday	2:45 pm to 4:00 pm.
Grade 6	Sunday	6:00 pm to 7:15 pm.
Grade 7 & 8	Sunday	6:00 pm to 7:15 pm.
Confirmation	Sunday	6:00 pm to 7:15 pm.

See Confirmation brochure for additional event days and times.

Lincoln

Grade 1 – 6	Monday	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
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FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Weston

Grade 1-6	Sunday, October 4 -	10:10 to 11:10 am
Grade 6, 7&8	Sunday, October 4 -	6:00 to 7:15 pm
Grade 1-5	Monday, October 5 -	2:45 to 4:00 pm
Grade 1-5	Tuesday, October 6 -	2:45 to 4:00 pm
Confirmation	Sunday, October 18-	6:00 to 7:15 pm

The Confirmation Program begins two weeks later than the other classes.

Lincoln

Grade 1-6	Monday, October 5 -	4:00 to 5:15 pm
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CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM

Note that parents are invited to participate in this program with their children.

Weston

Grade 1-6	Sunday, September 27	10:10 am to 11:10 am
Grade 6, 7&8	Sunday, September 27	6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Grade 1-5	Monday, September 28	2:45 pm to 4:00 pm
Grade 1-5	Tuesday, September 29	2:45 pm to 4:00 pm

The Confirmation Program does NOT participate in the Child Safety Program.

Lincoln

Grade 1-6	Monday, September 28	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
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SCHEDULE OF LITURGIES

Weekend Masses

Saint Julia Church:

Saturday Vigil Mass- 4:00 pm

Sunday Masses- 9:00 am, 11:15 am, 5:00 pm
Family Mass – Sunday, 9:00 am
Saint Joseph Church:
Sunday Masses- 7:30 am and 10:30 am

Daily Mass
Saint Julia Church: 7:00 am on Monday – Friday
8:00 am on Saturday/civic holidays
Saint Joseph Church: 9:00 am on Tue., Thu., Fri.

Holiday Masses: As announced for both churches

Pastor
Reverend George P. Evans
781-899-2611
frekans@stjulia.org

Parochial Vicar
Reverend Joseph M. Hennessey
781-899-2611
frhennessey@stjulia.org

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation/DRE
Anne Marie Mahoney
781-899-8434
ammahoney@stjulia.org

Religious Education Assistant and
Lincoln Site Coordinator
Cathy Capizzi
781-259-8364

Religious Education Secretary
Connie Speidel
781-899-4734
cspeidel@stjulia.org

W E L C O M E !

We welcome your family to the 2009-2010 Saint Julia Parish Religious Education Program. We have a full year of activities planned, including two exciting Generations of Faith Sundays and a new weekly Family Mass. Please read through this handbook for valuable information about the program, and please pull-out the calendar and post it on your refrigerator for handy reference. We encourage you to be active members of Saint Julia Parish community. We are ready to assist you and your family on their faith journey.

You may wonder why parish religious education is so important for you and your family. As Professor Thomas Groome, Boston College theologian and educator, suggests, our purpose “is to inform, form, and transform Christian persons and communities as apprentices to Jesus for God’s reign in the world.” As Catholic educators, we are inviting our children to share in the Reign of God. Our goal is to educate them “in the spiritual wisdom of Christian faith, thoroughly grounding them in the whole Christian story- its scriptures and traditions, creeds, code of ethics, and ways of worship.” We are always striving to engage our children “as active learners, encouraging them to think for themselves, to understand their faith, to make it their own, and to choose to live it.” We are guided by God’s love for us and challenged by Jesus’ call to discipleship. Through the grace of the Spirit we are empowered to serve others and grow in faith, hope and love, knowing that God is active among us, permeating every level of human existence.

GRADE ONE PARENTS

We extend a special welcome to our new parents of children in the First Grade. We urge all Grade One parents to attend one of our three *Welcome* sessions which are specially planned to give you an overview of the Religious Education experience. Join us in the Parish Center for one:

Sunday, October 25 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Monday, October 26 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Monday, October 26 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

CHURCH LIFE

Reverent, thoughtful and active reception of the sacraments is important to the core mission of the Religious Education program. Weekly Mass attendance and participation in the sacraments is essential for faith formation. **Because the celebration of the Mass is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, our children and their families are expected to attend Mass weekly.** Becoming an educated and faith-filled Catholic requires the lessons learned in the classroom, but even more, the communal worship experience of the Mass.

We place a special emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well. Children in every grade will be invited to celebrate this sacrament during their Religious Education class time in the season of Lent. The opportunity for individual reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to all every Saturday afternoon from 3:15 pm to 3:45 pm in Saint Julia Church.

In addition, throughout the year parishioners may participate in the collaborative parishes' Advent Reconciliation service and Lenten Mission. Eucharistic adoration takes place every Friday at St. Julia Church from noon to 3:00 pm and every First Friday at St. Joseph Church from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. The parish continues to participate in the successful Archdiocesan spiritual renewal program *Arise: Together in Christ*. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults to meet in small groups to explore and enhance their faith. Please check the bulletin or parish website www.stjulia.org throughout the year for more information on these parish activities.

FAMILY MASS

This year, the 9:00 am Mass in Weston will be a "Family Mass." Children and families will participate together in the ministries of greeter, gift bearer, lector and musician. Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take a special and active role in this Mass during the year. All are invited to mingle with fellow parishioners at coffee and doughnuts following this Mass. Family Masses begin on October 4 and will be celebrated weekly through April. The hosted Masses are:

October 25 – Grade 5	November 1 – Grade 4
November 15 – Grade 3	December 13 – Grade 6
January 31 – Grade 5	February 7 – Grade 6
February 28 – Grade 4	March 14 – Grade 3

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Twice a year Saint Julia Parish sponsors an opportunity for the whole parish community to come together in a multi-generational faith-sharing event. Our two "Generations of Faith" are:

What Makes Us Catholic? on Sunday, November 22
Hollywood vs Faith with actor Frank Runyeon on Sunday, April 11

The program is offered twice on those days at no cost to parishioners and friends. Families may choose to participate from 12:15 to 2:45 or 6:00 to 8:30. A meal is included with each session. Children will have special break-out sessions. Generations of Faith will take the place of their Religious Education class for that week. Watch the bulletin for information about volunteers and sign-up.

CHILD SAFETY PROGRAM

As noted on page one of this handbook, we will begin our Religious Education year with the Archdiocesan mandated child safety program for Grades 1 through 8. This child-abuse-prevention lesson will discuss ways to stay safe at home, on the playground, with friends, and especially when encountering strangers. Parents are welcome to participate in the program.

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is essential to your child's successful participation in the Religious Education program. Our lessons build on one another and a missed class is missed information which is difficult to recapture. While we understand a missed class due to illness or injury, or an unanticipated family commitment, we expect students to attend every session. Students and families must make religious education a priority, along with sports, school activities, and homework. Parents are encouraged to make up missed work with their child. A child who misses too many classes may find it difficult to move forward into the next grade. Students and parents in the sacrament grades who miss too many classes or workshops will not be adequately prepared to receive the sacrament. Parents should contact the Director to make arrangements for any child who has a long term illness or disability.

We discourage early dismissal from class. If a student must leave class early on a particular occasion, a parent must write a note to the teacher and come to the Director's office in Weston or to Cathy Capizzi in Lincoln, to pick up the student. A child may leave the building only with a parent or other pre-designated adult. Students will not be allowed to meet a parent in the parking lot. This rule is solely for the protection of the child.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students who are not bussed should arrive promptly for the beginning of each class. This is particularly important for the older grades that sometimes have a group speaker or activity. Children should be picked up promptly, as well. Please be considerate of the volunteer teacher who may be going to the 11:15 am Mass or rushing home to make dinner.

IN WESTON

To pick up your child, please enter the lower parking lot either from Route 20 or from the Omni parking lot. Park your car and meet your child in the lower lobby of the Parish Center. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons the driveway from Boston Post Road, between the church and the center, will be blocked. We implore parents, during both drop-off and pick-up, to please practice caution and patience in the parking lot. Small children who are running through a lot full of SUVs put themselves and the drivers in danger. Especially during bad weather and the dark evening hours, the parking lot can be a dangerous place.

IN LINCOLN

Please park in the public lot across the street from the church. **Please do not park, idle, or drive through the Ryan Estates property.** This is not church property and creates a hazard for everyone. The spaces beside the church are reserved for our catechists, who may be carrying heavy books and materials. Please pick up your child in his/her class area at the end of the session.

CANCELLATION

In case of inclement weather, we will follow the directions given for the Weston and Lincoln Public Schools for the Monday and Tuesday classes. **If the Weston or Lincoln Public Schools are closed or dismissed early due to weather, Religious Education classes are cancelled. If Weston or Lincoln cancels after-school activities, Religious Education classes will be cancelled as well. We will run an announcement on television Channels 4 and 7 and WBZ AM 1030 radio.** In addition, on Sundays our office staff and catechists will attempt to contact families if classes will be cancelled. A voice-mail announcement will also be placed on the Religious Education telephone: 781-899-4734. Ultimately, parents should judge whether to bring their children to class.

BUSSES TO WESTON CLASSES

It is the practice in the Weston Public Schools to allow students to ride the school bus to St. Julia Parish Center for Religious Education classes on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. It is the parent's responsibility to arrange for their children to take the bus to St. Julia Parish Center on their class day.

When a child will be absent from Religious Education class on a Monday or a Tuesday at the Weston site, it is very important that the parent call our office (781-899-4734) and report that absence. After all the children have arrived for class, we check the attendance and call the parents of any child who is not present and whose absence has not already been reported to us. We want to make sure that every child who should be present in class has arrived safely.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Students who have life-threatening allergies, who are on medication, or who have other health issues, should be identified on their registration form. Teachers will be given this information in order to protect the well-being of the child. Parents may wish to discuss use of an epi-pen or inhaler with a teacher. Parents of children who are on medication for ADHD should choose class times which coincide with the medication cycle or plan to assist in the child's class. Volunteer teachers cannot be expected to handle students during off-medication times.

In the event that we experience a virulent flu season this year, we may have to cancel some classes due to lack of catechists or a large number of ill students. Parents will be notified by e-mail.

TEXTBOOKS

GRADES 1-6

Our Religious Education program uses the Sadlier “We Believe” series for Grades 1 through 6. Each grade level covers core Catholic beliefs, sacraments, prayer and the liturgical seasons of the year, using a grade appropriate theme. The series begins with *God Loves Us* in Grade 1 and continues through *Jesus Shares God’s Love, We Are the Church, God’s Law Guides Us, We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments*, to *We Are God’s People* in Grade 6. Each text is colorful and well written, and it includes ample space for a student’s individual written responses. The pages of the book tear out so your child will be bringing home their lesson or an activity to share with their family. Occasionally children will have a chapter to complete at home because there are not enough weeks to present all the chapters in class.

GRADES 7 AND 8

These grades meet together and will focus on the theme, *Being Catholic: Believing, Praying, Choosing, Serving* this year. These classes will include guest speakers, activities, video, and faith sharing based on this theme. The students will use the new Loyola Press text in their “Finding God” series, *Celebrating Church* along with *Finding God in Prayer: A Backpack Journal for Teens* which they will use for the entire Grade 7 and 8 experience.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

This high school program is built around an array of offerings from which the students choose. There are single sessions with a speaker or special presentation as well as mini-courses and the Youth Group. The program is described in detail in a brochure which every student in the Confirmation program will receive. These students will use the short Loyola Press Confirmation text, *Confirmed in the Spirit*, along with the primary text, *Confirmed in a Faithful Community: A Candidate’s Handbook*. Other resources will vary by mini-course selection.

SNACKS

WESTON

Children who come to Sunday morning classes will not have snacks in class. Children are coming from home or Mass. Class does not begin until 10:10 am to allow children to participate in juice and doughnuts following the 9:00 am Family Mass.

Children who come to class on Mondays or Tuesdays will be given a healthy snack in their class. Catechists will coordinate with parents to rotate the responsibility for snacks each week. **Please avoid bringing snacks with nuts or nut products since many children are allergic to nuts.**

LINCOLN

Children should have had an opportunity to go home and have a snack before coming to class at 4:00 pm. Therefore, students will not have snacks in the Lincoln setting.

DISCIPLINE

We expect students to come to class ready to learn and ready to participate in a thoughtful, respectful manner. Class should be a positive and enjoyable experience for all. Our catechists are volunteers; most are not professional teachers. If a student is disruptive he/she will be removed from the class and required to finish the lesson on his/her own under the supervision of the Director or the Assistants to the Director. If the rude or disruptive behavior continues the parent will be notified and will be required to accompany the child to class.

A student may not bring any items to class that are not of immediate relevance to the lesson. This includes toys, games, portable music players, books, magazines, cosmetics, food and, especially, cell phones. **Cell phones will be confiscated, since texting during class has become a distracting problem.** We make office telephones readily available to students if a parent must be called. No one needs to have a cell phone in class. We can hear the voice of the Spirit only when we welcome silence into our lives.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

BAPTISM

We expect that all children who register for class are baptized Roman Catholics. If a child has not been baptized in St. Julia or St. Joseph Churches we require a copy of the baptismal certificate, which we keep on file in anticipation of the reception of other sacraments.

Children who wish to become Roman Catholic may enter the program. They will require additional instruction and preparation for their Baptism or for a profession of faith. Also, children older than seven or past second grade, if they were baptized Catholics but have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Reconciliation, will require instruction in addition to regular grade level classes. Arrangements will be made to teach these children either individually or in small, age appropriate groups. Parents who wish to inquire about becoming Catholic are invited to participate in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program. Please contact the Pastoral Associate for RCIA, Jean Pelletier, at 781-899-0739 for more information.

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated for our second graders who are prepared on Saturday, February 6 at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. This is a family celebration. (Snow date is Saturday, February 27 at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm.)

Preparation for Reconciliation is incorporated into the second grade class work. In addition, parents must attend one parent meeting and parents with their children must attend the workshop in preparation for the sacrament. A special Reconciliation book will be given to the children to complete.

The Parent Meeting is offered twice:

Sunday, November 15 from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.
Monday, November 16 from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm.

The Parent and Child Workshop is offered once:

Saturday, January 9 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

GRADE SIX MINI-RETREAT: *Revisiting Reconciliation*

Sunday, February 7, from 9:00 Mass to 12:00.

This brief “retreat” is an integral piece of the Grade 6 program. It is an opportunity for these pre-adolescents to gather together to participate actively in the Eucharist and to expand and deepen their understanding and practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through games and group activities the students prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the conclusion of the retreat.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be celebrated in the fall of each year.

St. Julia Parish Confirmation preparation is a program of classes, service, Youth Group, a retreat and other activities. It is planned in accordance with the Archdiocese of Boston guidelines. It is designed to give individual high school students flexibility in completing the stated parish requirements within their busy school and sport schedules. Students may progress at their own pace, choosing from single and multiple session courses, speakers, movie discussions and off-site opportunities. **Every high school student will receive the Confirmation 2009-10 brochure which details the requirements and offerings.**

It is important that students enter Confirmation preparation having already participated in Religious Education in the prior grades. (Accommodations are made for students who attend a Catholic high school. Please consult the Director.) Parents and students of eighth graders will be invited to an informational Confirmation meeting on March 28, 2010. All relevant information and forms will be presented and discussed at that time.

Please note - Confirmation is both an individual and a community-based sacramental celebration. Students who prepare for Confirmation in St. Julia Parish are expected to receive the sacrament here. An emergency situation or exceptional circumstance that could preclude reception of the sacrament in St. Julia Parish can be handled through the assistance of the Pastor and the Director.

EUCCHARIST

First Eucharist for second graders will be celebrated at one of four regular parish Masses in May:

Sunday, May 2 at 10:30 Mass at St. Joseph Church
Sunday, May 9 at 11:15 Mass at St. Julia Church
Saturday, May 15 at 4:00 Mass at St. Julia Church
Sunday, May 16 at 9:00 Mass at St. Julia Church

We make every effort to give families who sign up on time their first choice of Mass day and time. Sign-up will take place at the Eucharist Parent Meeting. Preparation for receiving the Eucharist for the first time is part of the regular second grade curriculum. Students will also complete a special Eucharist book at home. As with the other sacraments, parents and families are an integral part of the preparation process. Parents will attend one of the Parent Meetings which is offered twice and parents with their child will attend one of the Workshops which is offered twice.

The Parent Meeting is offered twice:

Sunday February 28 from 10:00 am to 11:15 am
Monday, March 1 from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm

The Parent and Child Workshop is offered twice:

Saturday, March 13 from 11:00 to 2:30 pm
Saturday, March 27 from 11:00 to 2:30 pm.

The workshops are identical and will include interactive instruction, video, games, individual banner making and a pot-luck lunch. This is a wonderful family gathering where siblings are welcome. We hope that by offering one, expanded workshop twice we will not experience conflicts with March school vacation breaks.

WHAT GIFTS CAN YOU SHARE?

**“There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit,
there are all sorts of service to be done,
but always to the same Lord,
working in all sorts of different ways in different people,
it is the same God who is working in all of them.
The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person
is for a good purpose.
One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him
by the Spirit,
another may have the gift of preaching instruction given
her by the same Spirit,
and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit,
another again the gift of healing through this one Spirit, ...
All these are the work of one and the same Spirit,
who distributes different gifts to different people just as
the Spirit chooses.”**

St. Paul, 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

In faith formation we all come together to share our gifts. In a faith community like Saint Julia Parish we cannot function for the good of the Reign of God without the freely given gifts of the members. You have unique gifts to share with this parish that we invite you to consider prayerfully. Can you help with the Family Mass, set-up coffee and doughnuts, assist in your child's class, organize the food for Generations of Faith, supervise our office during our Sunday sessions or be a table leader for the seventh and eighth graders? If you can offer your time and talent once a year, once a month, once a week, please contact the Director, Anne Marie Mahoney at ammahoney@stjulia.org to volunteer.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail, Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, Oh Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from Thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.