

Events page

Please check your bulletin for upcoming events



Youth Stations of the Cross: April 6, 2012 at 5:30pm

Each Good Friday, the youth of our parish re-enact the story of Jesus' passion by portraying the stations of the cross outdoors. Non-verbal parts are assigned to youth who audition several weeks beforehand. Actors needed for the role of Jesus, Mary, Mary of Magdalene, John Joseph of Artmathea, the soldiers, Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica and the crowd. Under the direction of Mrs. Pat Stango, all students rehearse and are given costumes for this popular devotion. Mark your calendars for Good Friday and come support our youth!



Vacation Bible School

August 6-12, 2012 Theme "Barnyard" Bible books



Every summer during the first week of August from 9-12noon, children entering K through 5 are invited to attend our Vacation Bible school. For a minimal fee, children receive a T-shirt, snacks, craft, recreation, learn new songs and perform a concert on the last day of camp for their families. Bible themes are repeated throughout the week in crafts and songs.

Youth counselors volunteer to work with our campers and adults supervise the various stations which include the arts and crafts, snacks and recreation. For those who wish to volunteer, there is ONE planning meeting held in June and adults are asked to take the Virtus diocesan mandated class as a means of keeping all God's children safe.

Mary Crowning

May 20, 2012 after the 10:00am Mass



Each Spring, we honor Holy Mary, Mother of God and our parish namesake, Our Lady of Grace by placing a wreath of silk blossoms on Our Lady's statue. We sing songs and recite a decade of the rosary. All participants receive a fresh carnation to present to Mary. Those who received their First Communion that year are invited to wear their communion outfits. One student is selected for the honor of placing the wreath on Mary's head.

This is a beautiful and traditional devotion which recognizes the coronation of Mary as Queen of heaven and her numerous virtues we all try to imitate.

"PRAYER, PRESENCE PARTICIPATION"



Faith Formation Handbook

OUR LADY OF GRACE R.C. CHURCH

700 ALBIN AVE.

WEST BABYLON, NY 11704

EMAIL: FAITHFORMATION@OURLADYOFGRACE.NET

**CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
1962-2012**

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Photo/ Video Permission Release Form

I hereby grant permission, without reservation, to _____
 And to those authorized by _____. To take photo-
 graphs and to make recordings of my child or children named below,
 and to use them original or modified form in all media now or hereaf-
 ter known, (including, without limitation, websites, bulletins, news-
 letters and promotional brochures) with or without name or informa-
 tion, solely for the promotion, public education, and/or fundraising
 activities of _____. I understand agree that I
 am entitled to receive no compensation for the above.

I release _____, its officers,
 directors, agents, employees, independent contractors, licensees and
 assignees from all claims that I now have or in the future may have,
 relating to the above. I further agree that _____
 will be the sole owner of all tangible and intangible rights in the
 abovementioned photographs and recordings, with full power of
 disposition.

Name(s) of Child/ Children

My Name:

Date: _____

Electronic Devices

It is encouraged that the students leave all electronic devices at home. This
 includes such items as Ipods and MP3 players as well as cell phones. In case
 of emergency your child may use the phone in the Center

Liturgy of the Word with Children

10:00am Mass Sundays



On most Sundays, September through June, children ages 5 - 13 are invited to leave the main worship space in our church for the Liturgy of the Word and proceed to a worship area specifically with the children in mind. Volunteer scripture sharers read the Sunday readings and give a reflection for the age group present. Children return to their parents for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please keep in mind this is not a babysitting service but rather a presentation of the Sunday Gospel for these children.

(Additional Masses are as follows: Sat. Eve. 5:00pm, Sunday 8:00am, 10:00am 12:00pm & 5:30pm)

Safe Environment and Virtus

To protect your children

In September 2003, our diocese of Rockville Centre implemented the Child protection policy. See the "Diocese Child protection policy" at <http://www.drvc.org/efforts-protect-children-young-people>

The "Talk 2 Us" program urges youngsters to take a role in developing a safe environment by becoming active and informed participants in their surroundings. Another program "How can I keep Fuzzie safe?" introduces "Fuzzie", a stuffed animal with a booklet. This is given to all first-grade parents entering our program.

All volunteers in our parish who work with children must take the diocesan mandated 3 hour class called VIRTUS which teaches how to recognize the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse. Once in compliance and having filled out a background check and agreed to the diocesan code of conduct, a volunteer will be issued an ID badge which is to be worn when in the Center.

When a complaint of sexual abuse of a child is reported to any person working for the church, the following should occur: They should inform their pastor or director. Urge the complainant to notify the legal authorities immediately. And notify the diocese Office for the Protection of Children and Young People at 516 678-5800 x 573

Visitors:

If any parent or visitor wishes to pick up their child during class time for Dr. appointments or the like, they must notify the Director and hall monitor ahead of time if possible to minimize the distraction in the classroom.

Please note only registered students are allowed in the classrooms.



A Message from the Directors



We welcome your family to our **Faith Formation program**. It is our hope that by participating in our diverse formation process, both you and your child will come to know the Person of Jesus, become familiar with the practices of our faith, learn the prayers and doctrine of our teaching Church and appreciate the beauty and richness of our Catholic tradition. Here at Our Lady of Grace, we offer a variety of options according to the various grade levels. We hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to share faith with your child by actively participating in all that our process offers as he/she prepares for the sacraments of initiation. We encourage you to become partners with your child's catechist as they strive to reinforce what is being taught and lived in the home (the domestic church) and learn through service what it means to put one's faith into action.

Today more than ever, our young people need Christ in their lives and we are prepared to work closely with you and your child. We can do that most effectively through the community that gathers for Mass each week. An essential part of formation is participating at Sunday liturgy and receiving the sacrament of Eucharist. Since Mass attendance is what is expected of us as Catholic Christians (precept of our church), we presume that your family tries to celebrate the Eucharist regularly. The Body of Christ gives us necessary graces to fulfill our Baptismal promises and helps us to grow in our faith. As conscientious parents who take care of our children's physical needs, it is just as important to oversee their spiritual needs. In the words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "Together we can do something beautiful for God."

Susan Martin

Barbara McGrellis

Directors of Faith Formation

Our Lady of Grace R. C. Church
700 Albin Ave.
West Babylon, NY 11704
631 661-9353
faithformation@ourladyofgrace.net



Our Faith Formation Staff

Secretaries: Lisa Gabriel
Mary Ann Lyons
Directors: Susan Martin
Email: smartin@ourladyofgrace.net
Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6 (pre-requisite to Confirmation)
Vacation Bible School (1st week of August)

Barbara McGrellis
Email: bmcgrellis@ourladyofgrace.net
FHC Levels 1,2 & PEP classes
Confirmation Prep 1 (gd 7) & Prep 2 (gd 8)

Coordinators: Lorraine Bustamante
Special needs program (gd 1—adult)

Joann Coletti
Christian Teen Initiation program
Grades 9-12

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Vincent Rush

Right to Amend

Our Lady of Grace Faith Formation program reserves the right to amend its handbook for just cause. Parent/Catechists will be notified if changes are made.

Dress Code:

We expect all students to dress appropriately. Therefore no clothing with suggestive language or drawings, no bare midriffs, no sagging pants or pajamas, no slippers, no exposed cleavage. Hoods and hats will be removed once inside the building. For safety reasons children may not wear “heelies” (sneakers with skates).

Bathroom:

All students are to use the bathroom before arriving at their Faith Formation class. Class time is valuable thus take care of bathroom needs at home. Of course, exceptions are made in case of emergencies. If your child has a physical condition that might require multiple trips to the bathroom, Catechists and/or Director must be notified.

Student Conduct/Discipline:

We expect courtesy and respect from students at all times. In the case of a student causing disruption in class or displaying disrespectful behavior the following procedure is in place:

- 1st Offense - Verbal warning
- 2nd Offense - Director involvement
- 3rd Offense - Parental involvement

Attendance and Lateness:

Students are expected to attend **all** their grade level classes and to be on time. *For extenuating circumstances, see Director.*

In case of illness and your child is absent, call the Faith Formation office for instructions.

Class Cancellations:

If we need to cancel classes or parent meetings due to snow and inclement weather, please check the TV stations, radio and web for our groups that meet in the Center at the following sites:

Channel 12 TV web: ourladyofgrace.net
WBAB (102.3 FM) WALK (97.5 FM) WBLI (106.1 FM)

Homework:

All grade levels have homework assignments. These reading/writing assignments are expected to be done at home so as to fulfill grade level requirements.

First Holy Communion Level 1 Parent/Child
Grade 1

Commitment & Responsibility:

- Attend Mass
- Work with child in the Level 1 textbook
- Hand in the required 4 Unit review pages
- Parent Enrichment Program (PEP)

Attend Mass:

- Attending Mass each Sunday is what is expected of you as a Catholic Christian.
- Your child is preparing to receive First Holy Communion and needs to have an experience of the celebration.
- Once a month they will collect a puzzle piece after attending Mass. At the end of the year we will have a potluck ice cream party and assemble our puzzle.
- It fosters Community
- It is our greatest prayer

Working in textbooks:

- You will be working with your child throughout the year in the textbook provided.
- Schedule of work is taped in the front cover of the textbook.
- Do not make this feel like homework. Try to make it a special time for you and just the child preparing for the sacrament.
- Do the “Discovery” (icon of Sherlock Holmes on schedule) so that your child can feel comfortable in the church.
- Help your child to complete the 4 Unit review pages throughout the year and hand them in according to the due dates on the schedule. Please make sure your child’s first and last name is on the unit review pages when you hand them in.
- Please do not put or give them in the parish office—Make sure they get to the Faith Formation Office

Parent Enrichment Program: PEP

- 6 week faith enrichment program

Parent/Child Retreats:

- 2 parent/child retreats will be offered throughout the year. Please note: These are NOT MANDATORY
- Retreats are an hour and half and are offered when the children are off from school.
- They are listed on your schedule and you will be sent an invitation.

Newsletter:

- Newsletters will be mailed and addressed to your child quarterly

Food Allergy Action Plan

Place
Child’s
Picture
Here

Student’s Name: _____ D.O.B. _____

Teacher: _____

ALLERGY TO: _____

Asthmatic ___ Yes* ___ No *Higher risk for severe reaction

STEP 1: TREATMENT

Symptoms: Give Checked Medication:

*If a food allergy has been ingested, but no symptoms: EpiPen Antihistamine

*Mouth Itching, tingling, or swelling of lips, tongue, mouth: EpiPen Antihistamine

*Skin hives, itchy rash, swelling of the face or extremities: EpiPen Antihistamine

*Gut Nausea, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea: EpiPen Antihistamine

*Throat = Tightening of throat, hoarseness, hacking cough: EpiPen Antihistamine

*Lung = Shortness of breath, repetitive coughing, wheezing: EpiPen Antihistamine

Heart = Thready pulse, low blood pressure, fainting, pale, blueness: EpiPen Antihistamine

Other: _____: EpiPen Antihistamine

If reaction is progressing (several of the above areas affected), give EpiPen Antihistamine

The severity of symptoms can quickly change. Potentially life threatening.

Dosage

Epinephrine: inject intramuscularly (circle one) EpiPen, EpiPen Jr.

Antihistamine: give _____ medication/dose/route

Other: give _____ medication/dose/route

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Evacuation Plans are posted inside Classrooms doors and Catechist are trained for emergency procedure. Periodic emergency drills will be preformed throughout the year.

Medical Conditions and Accidents

The Catechetical Leader should inform the Catechist of special medical conditions (allergies, asthma, auditory, or visual impairment, seizures, etc.) of any of the children in the class. No medication of any kind may be given to a child by a Catechist.

If an exception has to be made to administer an EPI Pen, the parent must provide the Catechetical Leader with a “Food Allergy Action Plan” authorizing the Catechetical Leader or the Catechist to administer the EPI Pen. A photo of the child must be attached to the “Food Allergy Action Plan”. All EPI Pen administrators must be trained in accordance with law. In the event the person trained is not onsite the parents of the child with a life- threatening allergy must be notified immediately to pick up their child. Disclosure of the allergic condition to staff should be on a “need to know basis.” Under no circumstances should the student’s medical condition be discussed with any parties who do not have an actual “need to know.” The “Food Allergy Action Plan” must be received within the first week of classes.

(Please refer to the following forms: “Food Allergy Action Plan”, and the “Auto Injector Use Agreement Form”).

In the event of a serious accident or incident, these steps should be taken in the following order.

1. The Catechist notifies the Catechetical Leader. The Catechetical Leader calls 911 or the local police or fire department. If the Catechetical Leader cannot be notified, the Catechist calls 911 or the local police or fire department.
2. The Catechetical Leader or Catechist reports the accident to the parent and if the parent cannot be reached, follows the instructions outlined in the student information record.
3. The Catechetical Leader must immediately notify the Pastor.
4. The Catechist fills out the “Parish Incident” form or the “Incident Management and Reporting System” form and gives it to the Catechetical Leader.

First Holy Communion Level 2 Parent/Child Grade 2

Commitment & Responsibility:

- Complete homework BEFORE class
- Attend Parent/Child classes
- Attend Mass each Sunday

Homework:

- Homework should be completed BEFORE class (schedule in front of textbook)
- All work is done in textbook
- Bring textbook to every class

Parent/Child Classes:

- Classes are once a month for an hour and a half. Follow schedule by the school you child attends.
- Parent MUST attend classes with child and stay for the entire class

Attend Mass:

- Attending Mass on a weekly basis is a precept of the Church meaning is what is expected of you as a Catholic Christian.
- Since this part of the Communion process is the immediate preparation for First Communion it is **imperative** that your child have an experience of Mass.
- Mass strengthens our relationship with Jesus, fosters community and is our greatest prayer.
- Once a month your child will collect a piece of their Communion Banner and at the end of the year attend a potluck cupcake party to assemble their banners.



Custody Issues and Orders of Protection

Description of Curriculum for Intermediate

Grade 3: Meets Wed. or Thurs. 4:30 - 5:45pm Fall only

This level introduces the Roman Catholic Church, how we worship and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The Person of Jesus is reviewed and we are introduced to the apostles and the Apostles' Creed. The four marks of the church being one, holy, catholic and apostolic are discussed. Students must memorize the Hail Mary prayer and are given rosaries made by our Rosary makers group in the parish. The sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation are reviewed from last year. Videos/DVD presentations offered on Holy Mary, Pope John Paul II, etc., teaching church tour is given explaining all that is seen in our church, baptismal font, tabernacle, sacristy, vessels, and vestments, and a mass journal is expected to be handed to the catechist. Parent-child retreats!

Grade 4: Meets Wed. or Thurs. 4:30 - 5:45pm Winter only



This level helps us to grow more in relationship with Jesus, our Savior. The Beatitudes as taught by Jesus are introduced. Sin leads us away from God and the types of sin are discussed. The gift of our conscience, how we celebrate the liturgical year, and various saint stories are contained in this level. The Ten Commandments as a means to help us love God and others are to be memorized by our students. We are called to holiness and prayer, the types of prayer, and virtues of faith, hope and love are explained. The cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance are also reinforced by puzzles and chapter tests. Audio - Video is offered on the Ten Commandments which help students to better grasp their meaning. Homework/Mass journal and retreats are expected.

Grade 5: Meets Tues. 6:30 - 8:00pm Fall or Winter sessions

The seven sacraments including the sacraments of initiation, healing, love and service are studied in-depth. Reconciliation is offered for our families at the end of the term. Focus on moral choices, examination of conscience, memorization of the Act of Contrition required. The person of Jesus, in Incarnation and the Blessed Trinity are reviewed. Videos are on the church, sacraments, penance, bullying, etc. Mary - greatest saint, our Blessed Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of our church. Lives of some saints are also introduced as positive role models. Homework/Mass journal is to be completed. Sin, conversion and absolution are discussed.

The Catechetical Leader must inform the catechist regarding any issues related to the custody of a child and orders of protection. If the Catechetical Leader receives an order of protection, a copy must be kept on file. The copy should have the signature of the person who actually saw the original and the date on which the copy was received. If possible, a picture of the person against whom the order of protection was entered should be kept on file.

Where there is an order of protection in effect, the parent or guardian must provide a list of names of those persons allowed to pick up the child. This list must bear a notarized signature of the parent or guardian. Where there is an order of protection in effect, anyone picking up the child must present photo I.D. to the catechist.

If the Catechist sees the person referred to by the Order of Protection, the police should be called immediately.



Special Needs Program

Our program for students with special needs is a one on one or small group program that helps students come to know Jesus in their lives and prepares them to receive the Sacraments. Our program starts in September and we meet weekly until Easter.

On the Second Sunday of each month, we offer a Liturgy for persons with special needs in the church at 1:30pm and encourage our students and families to participate. At Christmas time during our Liturgy the students enact the Christmas story. At Easter our families come together to celebrate the Seder Supper.

Students in grades 1 through 5 meet on Tuesday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:15pm. They are with their individual teacher for 30 minutes and then they come together for prayer, song and the Sunday Gospel reading and reflection. In a separate space, parents are invited to come together to share and help each other.

Students in 6th grade and above who are preparing to receive the Sacraments meet on Mondays from 7:00-8:00pm. They come together as a group from 7:00 - 7:15pm for prayer, song and the Sunday Gospel reading and reflection. They meet with their individual teachers from 7:15 - 8:00pm. Parents are also invited to come together to hear and help each other.

For those students and adults who have special needs and received all sacraments we offer a Monday social group from 7:00 - 8:00pm. At 7:00pm they come together for prayer with the above students and then at 7:15pm, they play games, dance and exercise, have pizza parties, ice cream socials, crafts, and etc..

Christian Teen Initiation Program

Under the direction of Mrs. Joann Coletti, teens/young adults between the ages 13 -18 (those dependent on family for support and minimum maturity level is entering grade 9 of high school, will have an interview to establish readiness and commitment. In level 1, students must have attendance at Sunday Eucharist each week, show by weekly Bulletin, a monthly report on what was heard at Mass (signed by a priest/deacon), complete the Strengths Explorer and participate in three service projects according to their strengths. In Level 2, they continue to participate at Sunday Eucharist as well as meet with the coordinator, Mrs. Coletti regularly. The necessary sacrament(s) may be celebrated any time (except Lent) though usually at Pentecost! Family must register in our parish. If they are not baptized, refer to Mrs. Coletti on serious inquiry. Must follow RCIA pattern which is a multi year formation (adapted from pattern for Catholic youth) and full initiation at the Easter Vigil. Person must register in OLOG parish on becoming a catechumen. For registration and tuition fees please see the schedule in this handbook.

Grade 6 Pre-requisite to our Confirmation program

Meets Thursday eves. 6:45 - 8:15pm

Commitment and Responsibility:

- Students attend all classes
- Students bring textbooks and Bible to each class
- Do well on pre-assessment quiz
- Attend Mass weekly and daily prayer at home
- Must complete 6th grade to enter the Confirmation program

Workshops:

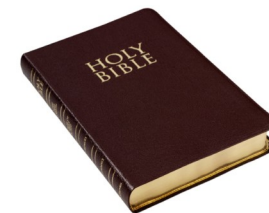
- Parent(s) attend one parent meeting: Mandatory
- Parent(s) attend our parent/child gathering: Mandatory

Independent Work:

- Student **Must** complete the Mass/service journal before the end of term
- Student **Must** complete 4 in home service activities and attend at least 4 Masses and have priest/deacon sign Mass page.

Curriculum includes:

- Introduction to the Old Testament
- Who is God?
- What is the Paschal Mystery?
- Catholic Social teachings
- A teaching Mass
- Review of church teachings and prayers



Confirmation Prep I - Grade 7 Parent/Student Workshops

Commitment and Responsibility:

- Attend Parent/Student Workshops
- Complete assigned Independent Work (schedule taped in front of book) There are 4 assignments to be handed in. 2 Unit Assessments and 2 written assignments.
- Participate in Faith in Action Ministries
- Attend Mass weekly and once a month write and hand in your scripture reflection signed by priest/deacon.

Workshop: Parent/Student

- Parent and student are required to attend **ALL** once a month workshop/assemblies for an hour and a half. The schedule is flexible but you must call the Faith Formation office between 9:00am and 5:00pm to make a change.
- 2 of the 8 workshops are assemblies with guest speakers. *Therefore, dates and times are not negotiable. Please mark your calendar.*
- Textbook and Bible should come to every workshop **Except Assemblies**

Independent Work:

- The student must complete the Independent work BEFORE the workshop.
- There are 4 assignments that should be handed in at the designated workshop according to the schedule.
- Textbook website www.weliveourfaith.com

Faith in Action:

- Your child's community service for this year will be to apprentice through the various ministries we have at the parish. Please follow the schedule and instructions given to you.
- If you need to make changes in the Faith in Action schedule that you have been assigned, you should contact the Faith Formation Office (661-9353), as soon as possible so that you may be rescheduled.

Mass Attendance:

- Parent and child should attend Mass weekly and pray at home
- Once a month scripture reflection signed by priest/deacon
- Mass attendance helps strengthen relationships with Jesus and the larger community and is our greatest prayer.

Strengths Explorer:

- This year your child will have an opportunity to participate in a process of discovering their God - given gifts. This process will be explained in detail at the November assembly.

Confirmation Prep II - Grade 8 Parent/Student Workshops

Commitment and Responsibility:

- Attend Parent/Student Workshops
- Complete assigned Independent Work (please tape your schedule in front cover of your book)
- Participate in Service Project
- Attend Mass weekly and once a month write and hand in your scripture reflection signed by priest/deacon.

Workshop:

- Parent/Sponsor and student are required to attend **ALL** once a month workshop/assemblies for an hour and a half. The schedule is flexible but you must call the Faith Formation office between 9:00am and 5:00pm to make a change.
- 2 of the 7 workshops are assemblies with guest speakers. *Therefore, dates and times are not negotiable. Please mark your calendar.*
- Textbook and Bible should come to every workshop **Except Assemblies**

Independent Work:

- The student must complete the Independent work BEFORE the workshop.
- There are 4 assignments that should be handed in at the designated workshop according to the schedule.
- Textbook website www.weliveourfaith.com

Service Project:

- The confirmation candidate will participate in a service project. In conjunction with our 50th Anniversary tasks of going green, being prayerful and honoring the founding members of our parish the students will participate in creating a green prayer garden.

Readiness Assessment Interview:

- Each Confirmation student is mandated by the Diocese to participate in a Readiness Assessment Interview. Interviews will be given immediately following their January workshop. Copies of Interview will be provided as a study aid.

Mass Attendance:

- Attending Mass on a weekly basis is a precept of the church meaning it is what is expected of you as a Catholic Christian, and extremely important in your child's faith formation. Once a month the student will be required to reflect on Scripture and hand in the reflection with the priest/deacons signature.
- Mass attendance helps strengthen relationships with Jesus and the larger community and is our greatest prayer.

