

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

School of Evangelization - Faith Formation

Religious Education Office

1956 Batchelder Street - Brooklyn, New York 11229

Telephone: 718-758-4143 www.goodshepherdbrooklyn.org

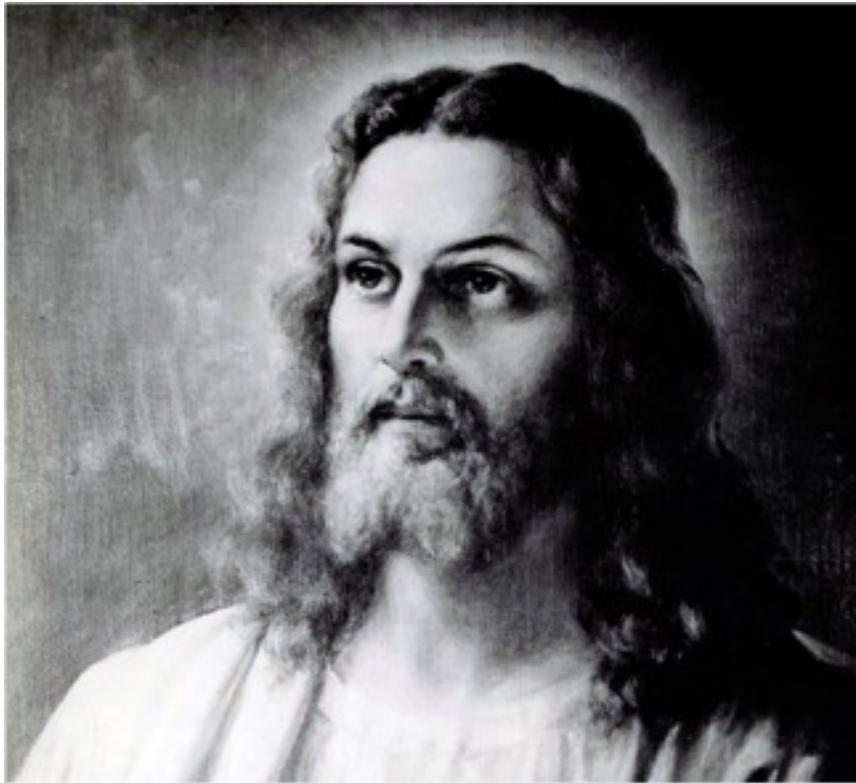
Religious Education for Grades 1 to 8 Registration Agreement 2017 ~ 2018



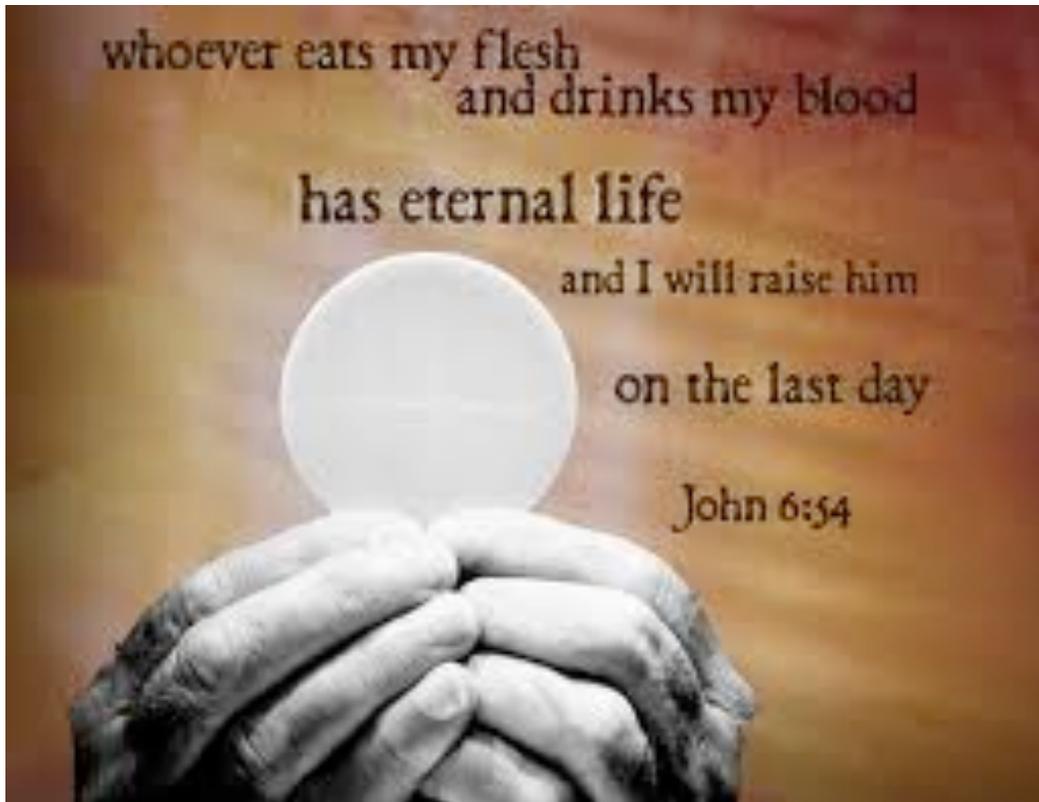
*“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
(John 10:11)*

**OUR
MISSION
COMMITMENTS
POLICIES & PROTOCOLS
RITE OF COMMITTAL
AUTHORIZATIONS**

“Who do you say that I AM?” (Luke 9:20)



“My Lord, and My God.” (John 20:28)



Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. (John 6:53)



***“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me. (John 14:6)***

DIRECTORY

Catechetical Staff

Rev. Thomas V. Doyle, Pastor

Mr. Robert A. Ruggiero, Pastoral Associate

Ms. Mary Sorrentino, Secretary Ms. Janet Subrizi, Secretary

Ms. Katherine Orihuela, Online Coordinator

<i>Ms. Rosemary Clifford</i>	<i>1-1</i>	<i>Ms. Maria Farrell</i>	<i>5-1</i>
<i>Ms. Deborah Tepedino</i>	<i>1-2</i>	<i>Ms. Melissa Wagner</i>	<i>5-2</i>
<i>Ms. Kimberly Rios</i>	<i>1-3</i>	<i>Ms. Bernette O'Connor</i>	<i>5-3</i>
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<i>Ms. Angela Edel</i>	<i>2-2</i>	<i>Ms. Dina Desiderio</i>	<i>6-2</i>
<i>Ms. Angela Clancy</i>	<i>2-3</i>	<i>Ms. Marianne Perrone</i>	<i>7-1</i>
<i>Mr. Kenneth Whelan</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>Ms. Neva Patick</i>	<i>7-2</i>
<i>Ms. Joann Marinelli</i>	<i>3-1</i>	<i>Ms. Judy Fleming</i>	<i>7-3</i>
<i>Ms. Kathy Dwyer</i>	<i>3-2</i>	<i>Mr. Robert A. Ruggiero</i>	<i>8-1</i>
<i>Ms. Diane Mittica</i>	<i>3-3</i>	<i>Ms. Joann Wright</i>	<i>8-2</i>
<i>Ms. Marguerite Zehmisch</i>	<i>4-1</i>	<i>Ms. Roseme Rodriguez</i>	<i>8-3</i>
<i>Ms. Kristin Strehle</i>	<i>4-2</i>	<i>Ms. Julianna Bono</i>	<i>Aide</i>
<i>Ms. JoanMarie Sapienza</i>	<i>4-3</i>		
<i>Ms. Maryann McGuiness</i>		<i>Special Assistance</i>	

Note: Catechists and Classes subject to change.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Online Classes Available for Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7
Location: www.goodshepherdbrooklyn.org
Note: Grade 8 is not available Online.

Onsite Wednesday Classes Grades 1 - 4
Class Starts/Ends: 3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.
Location Good Shepherd Academy

Onsite Wednesday Classes Grades 5 - 8
Class Starts/Ends: 6:30 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.
Location Good Shepherd Academy

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Arrival time to class is 15 minutes prior to Class time.

All students in Grades 1 to 4 should meet their Catechists in the Church.

All students in Grades 5 to 8 should meet their Catechists in the Academy Hall.

Dismissal of Grades 1 to 8 will be in the parking lot of the Academy (Batchelder Street). Grades will be released in numerical order.

For safety and security measures no unauthorized person(s) will be permitted into the Academy or classrooms or beyond the drop-off point, rear doors to the Academy.

No food or beverages are permitted into the Academy or any parish building.

Notices about classes being cancelled will delivered via Email Blasts and on the parish website, please go online to www.goodshepherdbrooklyn.org

For updated news about Religious Education please go to www.goodshepherdbrooklyn.org and click on RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATES.

Good Shepherd Church
School of Evangelization - Faith Formation Office

~ Letter of Welcome ~

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On behalf of our pastor, Rev. Thomas V. Doyle and the Pastoral and Catechetical Staffs we welcome both you and your child(ren) to a brand new and exciting year in the Faith Formation - Religious Education Program. We are pleased to continue to offer two options for religious education, namely: Onsite Wednesday Classes for Grades 1 to 8 and Online Religious Education for Grades 1 to 7. We are proud to continue to be a pioneering parish in the Diocese of Brooklyn to offer Online Religious Education provided by ***My Catholic Faith Delivered***. We encourage that if you anticipate conflicting schedules that you opt for Online Religious Education so that your child may not loose out on any religious education content. These are the most important years in our faith formation as what we learn and how we develop is who we will become as practicing Catholics.

This year, the Church will **celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.** The 2017 theme will be ***"Living as Missionary Disciples."*** Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

As we embark upon a new year in our faith formation - religious education we will gather together on ***Catechetical Sunday, September 17th 2017 at the 10:00 A.M. Holy Mass***. At this time we will participate in the ***Rite of Committal*** thus beginning our commitment to the new Faith Formation Year. We look to deepening our Catholic Faith and to celebrate our faith with deeper love and commitment. On behalf of the Faith Formation Team we wish you and your child(ren) every spiritual blessing and prayer. ***"Be Not Afraid"*** (St. John Paul II).

Sincerely yours in Jesus and Mary,
Robert A. Ruggiero
Pastoral Associate

Rev. Thomas V. Doyle
Pastor

MISSION

We are the Roman Catholic Church. Past. Present. Future.

The Faith Formation at Good Shepherd Church is focused on Jesus Christ, centered on the traditions and foundations of His Church, and driven by the eternal Truth of His Holy Gospel. As we enter this new year of religious education and new Jubilee Year it is important that we, our children, and all the faithful—our Church—are given these Truths without compromise. Because “wholeness” is a requisite to “Holiness.” The Catholic faith is the faith of wholeness, fullness, fulfillment, completion, and life. It is that faith, in its fullness, which we are devoted to sharing, and teaching with each other and our children.

The Past

For 2000 years the Church has maintained a tradition of teaching what was called “the Christian learning” to children of all walks of life. Even in times of great tribulation, war, famine, the Church continued this tradition of handing down the faith to Christ’s youngest disciples; helping them to grow in knowledge, and helping them to grow in love of Christ, and of His Church. The Church gave this teaching not in part. Not with exceptions. But entirely, in its fullness. Because one will not follow what one does not love. And one cannot fully love what one is not fully taught. Today, we are all a part of that tradition. We are all the result of that tradition, and at Good Shepherd, we continue that tradition especially following the foundational teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ...

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

The Present

We are all part of the lineage of apostles, disciples, saints, and martyrs. What was true for them is true for us today.

- The Catholic Church is the Mystical Body of Christ.
- God reveals Himself through His Son. He further reveals Himself through the Holy Gospel, and only the Catholic Church, being Christ’s Mystical Body, guided in a unique way by the Holy Spirit, given its authority by Jesus Christ Himself, is its only authoritative interpreter.
- What is right and wrong is not relative. ***“Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it.”***

St. Augustine of Hippo.

These truths are fundamental. But in modern culture, and modern society, our children and we live in a world that teaches them and us otherwise; they are taught the opposite of the truth. Many of them and us grow to be seduced by the lies of a culture lost in moral relativism. Consequently many fall away from the faith, the Catholic Church, and from Jesus Christ, subjecting them not only to a life of confusion and despair, but also risking the very salvation of their eternal souls. We hope to avert this by setting our children's feet and ourselves on a firm foundation; the full integrity of the Catholic Faith, setting them on the firmest foundation. This foundation is made of many parts. The Church's Moral Teachings. Her Social Teachings. The Sacramental Life. Prayer and Spirituality. Self Sacrifice. Integrity and Accountability. Dignity and Honor.

The Future

Our children are the future of the Catholic Church. Therefore, the future of the world. We are committed to developing their minds, empowering their spirits, and developing their identities as Catholics, members of an ancient, timeless, and beautiful tradition, members of Christ's Mystical Body. As we enroll our children into the Faith Formation - Religious Education Program here at Good Shepherd we the parents and guardians of our children must take the first step and answer the question Jesus asks, ***"Who do you say that I AM?"*** (Luke 9:20). Together, as members of His Body our only and one response is ***"My Lord, and My God."*** (John 20:28) as Jesus is Lord above all lords and the Creator and Author of life making all things possible for us. So as we and our children prepare to embark upon our spiritual journey together we must remember that as parents and guardians our first duty is to reinforce the faith at home because ***we are not only guardians of their lives, but also guardians of their faith, and guardians of their Catholic identity.*** Our catechetical team is preparing for a strong and dynamic formative year but we need your help. We are called to the witnessing and sharing of the Church's official teachings and her rich and vast traditions rooted in the orthodoxy of our Faith and in Truth as handed down to us from her founder, Our Lord Jesus Christ. While our catechists will do all they can to teach and introduce catechesis, pastoral, and spiritual challenges to our children each of us must also journey and take part in our children's formation by reinforcing the Catholic Faith in our homes. How do we do this? By ensuring your child(ren) is taken to his/her religious educational classes each week. By ensuring you and your child(ren) is at Holy Mass each and every weekend including the Holy Days of Obligation. By ensuring both you and your child(ren) are participating frequently in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

By ensuring you and your child(ren) is deepening your prayer life at home – asking our Lord Jesus Christ to be present in our lives at the start of each day, fill us with His peace so as to overcome all the raging storms that may confront us. As we embark upon this new year in religious education and celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy we journey together in mercy and charity.

On behalf of the entire Pastoral Staff we offer our very prayers and blessings that both you and your child(ren) may experience Jesus Christ, ***“I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life...”*** (John 14:6). May Mary, the Mother of God and the Perfect Disciple be your guide as you and your child(ren) discover who Jesus is in your lives.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his handmaid’s
lowliness;
behold, from now on all ages will call me
blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their
thrones
but lifted up the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”^f**

Luke 1:46-55

OFFICIAL DIOCESAN POLICIES AND OVERVIEW



School of Evangelization Guidebook
Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn



Children's Catechesis

How can my child be formed/educated in the faith?

Overview

The uniqueness of the Church is reflected in the uniqueness of each local parish. Mindful of this diversity and in light of local needs, each parish is encouraged to develop a religious education program.

Education and formation in the Faith is not only in preparation for the Sacraments; it is ongoing. Children and teens should be participating in Catholic education and formation from at least kindergarten through grade twelve. Every grade level is important as it builds on a child's or teen's previous knowledge and experience. Following Confirmation, it is essential that the newly-confirmed continue to learn more about our Faith and participate in programs of youth ministry that include components of academic learning as well as spiritual growth opportunities. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, as well as regular reception of the Sacraments, is a priority in the life of a Catholic.

Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation

The New Evangelization invites us to catechize those who are part of our Church and all persons of good will. The manner by which we are prepared for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, and how we continue to receive them over a lifetime, is critical to our life of Faith. This is especially true for our children; those who attend our Catholic Schools/Academies, those who are enrolled in our religious education programs (including those who are home schooled, as well as those who are not in any organized program at this time).

It is a long-standing diocesan policy that all children must receive at least two full years of catechesis, including academic instruction in the Faith, before they are permitted to receive First Penance and First Eucharist. However, we know that the faith formation of our children involves more than academic instruction. Each child must be gradually formed into the full image of the Lord Jesus by developing a mature life of prayer, culminating in full, conscious, and active participation with the parish community at Sunday Eucharist. Since such participation is usually not possible without the cooperation of their parents and guardians, faith formation must also involve every child's family, school community, and the entire parish community in prayer, witness, and celebration. For this reason, parish catechetical leaders are called to assist parents by providing four to six proximate preparation sessions before each Sacrament that bring together families from the schools/academies and parish programs.

As a family of families, the parish remains the ideal home for Catholic families to join together, not only at the spiritual birth of their children at Baptism, but also to be nourished by the Holy Eucharist each Sunday. It is our diocesan policy that each family's home parish remains the privileged place for celebrating a child's First Penance and First Eucharist. These norms reflect this policy by directing families to celebrate the Sacraments of First Penance and First Eucharist in the parish where they usually celebrate their Catholic faith every Sunday.

Human Sexuality and Family Life

Parents/Guardians are the first and most important educators of their children. They clearly educate by word and example. Their role is irreplaceable. Many Catholic parents and guardians look to the religious education programs and resources of the Catholic School/Academy and parish religious education program for assistance, particularly in the areas of education in human sexuality and family life.

For this reason, the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation has prepared a Curriculum Guide of standards and outcomes for parents, catechists and students. The purpose of this Curriculum Guide is to offer an understanding of basic life issues that is consistent with Catholic teaching. For example, family and sexuality education in a Catholic context seeks to foster family values, to promote the right to life and the dignity of each human person, to stress the importance of wholesome relationships and personal responsibility, to teach the value of conscience formation, and to give inspiration for living lives that are moral and chaste.

Proximate Preparation for the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation

Parishes provide opportunities for parents to actively participate in four to six sessions before a child receives First Penance, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. These proximate preparation sessions begin or end with Sunday (Saturday Vigil) Mass and are meant to bring together families from the parish to explore certain themes. For specifics, please contact your local parish.

Special Needs Religious Education

Every child encounters Christ in a different way. Some children have special needs that can be addressed on the parish level. Currently, the School of Evangelization is collaborating with various parish leaders to enhance special needs offerings. Please contact your parish leaders first to see if a special needs program is available locally. (School of Evangelization Guidebook 46 - 47)

FAITH FORMATION OVERVIEW

Online Program Option or Onsite Program Option.

Attendance at Holy Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation at a Roman Catholic Church is mandatory. All students who are parishioners of Good Shepherd Church that attend either Public Schools and Catholic Academies in Grades 1 to 8 are required to attend Holy Mass each Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation. Holy Mass Attendance Cards are to be signed by a priest/deacon at the end of Holy Mass. If you forget your Mass Attendance Card get a copy of the bulletin signed. No more than 5 absences from class is permitted. We will no longer be using Sunday envelopes.

Monthly Enrichment Sundays. Enrichment Sundays is each 4th Wednesday of the month. Please refer to the Faith Formation Calendar. All students who are parishioners of Good Shepherd Church that attend either Public Schools and Catholic Academies and preparing for the Sacraments in Grades 2 & 8 are required to attend. Location is Good Shepherd Academy Hall.

COMMITMENTS

Currently, the faith formation at Good Shepherd Church is comprised of all newly developed religious educational programs, namely:

- **Online Education Program**
Grades: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. Currently, we cannot offer Grade 8 online.
Location: www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com
All lessons must be completed in order to be promoted to the next grade level and before receiving a sacrament. Students are required to complete each lesson. We encourage parents/guardians to monitor their child's work but please do not do their work for them.
- **Onsite Wednesday Program**
Grades: 1 to 4
Location: Good Shepherd Academy
Class Duration: 3:30 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

- **Onsite Wednesday Program**
Grades: 5 to 8
Location: Good Shepherd Academy
Class Duration: 6:30 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.
- **Special Needs Program**
Every child encounters Christ in a different way...we provide that special way. Please speak with us today! This service provides catechesis for children with special needs and guides them in faith formation and preparation for the reception of the Sacraments.
- **Children-Youth Faith Formation**
This program is designed to serve students that are baptized but did not make First Penance and Holy Communion in the second grade. Therefore, it is necessary to include them in a specially designed program known as RCIC that prepares them for the reception of the Sacraments.
- **Children-Youth RCIC**
Any child between the ages of 8 to 16 that has not received the Sacraments of: Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation must be enrolled in Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) catechesis for a minimum of 3 consecutive years and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.
- **Proximate Preparation for First Penance, First Communion, and Confirmation**
Parents/Guardians and their child(ren) actively participate in four sessions before a child receives First Penance, First Communion, and Confirmation. These proximate preparation sessions are meant to bring together families from the parish to explore certain themes. The Proximate Preparation program is mandated by the Diocese and all parents and children in Public School and Catholic Academies are required to attend all sessions.
- **Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Programs**
Adult Faith Formation serves the youth that are 16 years of age+ and adults who have not completed the Sacraments of First Penance, Holy Eucharist, or Confirmation. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) serves those who are not baptized seeking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil.

NOTE: as per Diocesan Regulations every child enrolled in religious education classes is obligated to attend approximately 30 class sessions at 1.5 hours per class of catechesis per year (minimum of 45 hours).

POLICY CODES

- #1 Any child between the age of infancy and 7 years old should be immediately baptized.
- #2 Any child between the ages of 8 to 16 that has not received the Sacraments of: Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation must be enrolled in Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) catechesis for a minimum of 3 consecutive years and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.
- #3 The Sacrament of Confirmation is administered during the year of Grade 8. The date of Confirmation is subject to the Bishop's Calendar.
- #4 Parents/Guardians understand they are obligated as practicing Catholics to reinforce the Catechetical content and material taught in classes especially daily prayers, The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary, The Glory, Act of Contrition.
- #5 Parents/Guardians and their child(ren) who are preparing for a Sacrament are required to attend all sessions of the Proximate Preparation Program. This includes a all parents and children that attend either Public School or Catholic Academies.
- #6 Online/Onsite Students in Grades 1 to 8 (are required to attend Monthly Spiritual Enrichment Wednesdays (see Religious Education Calendar for specific dates).
- #7 Parents/Guardians understand they will be called upon to take a proactive role in their own religiosity and expected to lead their child(ren) as their First Teacher who is a model Christian by attending Holy Mass weekly, Holy Days of Obligation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, retreats/spiritual presentations etc.
- #8 Parents/Guardians are expected to support the Propagation of the Faith and by identifying themselves as strong and exemplary Catholics that advocate their Faith openly with courage, hope, and love.
- #9 Parents/Guardians understand that all students except Grades 1 & 2 are to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly throughout the liturgical year.
- #10 Parents/Guardians understand that all students are mandated to attend Retreats and Spiritual Presentations as regulated throughout the formation year.
- #11 Students are expected to take a proactive role in the pastoral life of the Church by becoming members of the youth choir, altar servers, junior ministers of hospitality, youth ministry, charitable drives, etc.

- #12 Students in Grade 8 preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are mandated to fulfill Christian Service Project(s) 20 hours before the Sacrament of Confirmation date (recommend 10 hours during Grade 6 and 10 hours during Grade 7).
- #13 Students in Grade 6 will have the opportunity to begin their Christian Service Project allowing ample time to complete their Christian Service Projects. A more definitive outline on Christian Service Projects will be available to students in Grades 6 & 7.
- #14 Students preparing for Confirmation are required to complete a 2 page report based on their chosen name from a Patron Saint. The report is to be written by the student in his/her words not copied from a website. An original report is required.
- #15 Students are required to arrive promptly on time to each class. All students in Grades 1 to 8 are to go to the Academy Hall (or Parking lot) on Batchelder Street and meet their Catechist. No student will be permitted to class 15 minutes passed the start of the class hour. This results in a recorded absence.
- #16 Excessive absences results in serious loss of catechetical content. **Please be very conscientious of this.** Promotion to the next grade level is contingent upon completing all catechetical lessons and assignments. **Maximum number of absences from class permitted is 5 days.** Please be forewarned if your child exceeds absences you will receive a letter from the pastoral office for you to remit an explanation in writing. We will assess whether your child will be permitted to continue in the program.
- #17 Students who absent from class are required to provide to their catechist a parental note explaining their absence.



- #18 Students are expected to continue their catechesis throughout eight consecutive years of faith formation. *There is no such program as sacramental.* In order to grow in their Catholic Faith children require consistency in faith formation and to undergo all grade curriculums thus providing the fullness of Catholic catechesis and development of their Catholic identity.
- #19 All students who are parishioners of Good Shepherd Church that attend either Public Schools and Catholic Academies in Grades 1 to 8 are required to attend Holy Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. Holy Mass Attendance Cards are to be signed by a priest/deacon at the end of Holy Mass. If you forget your Mass Attendance Form get a copy of the bulletin signed. We will no longer be using Sunday envelopes.
- #20 No cellular phones, iPods, iPads, etc. are permitted to remain on including vibration mode during class time or at any liturgies, retreats, etc.
- #21 Students are to bring their textbooks, notebook, Rosary Beads, and any additional materials the catechist may instruct each week to class.
- #22 Students are responsible for all homework and projects assigned to them.
- #23 Plagiarism is not permitted. Any student plagiarizing will receive a failing grade.
- #24 No food or beverages are permitted in the Academy, or in Church at any time by any child (or adult).
- #25 At no time will any student be tolerated for misbehaving, such as: disrespectful to teachers, faculty, peers, or compromising the safety of anyone or anything.
- #26 Absolutely no bullying will be tolerated by any student. Students that commit said infractions may be expelled from the program.
- #27 Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and Christian charitable manner(s).
- #28 All students are to respect all property and personal effects within the Academy and all Parish properties.
- #29 All students, parents/guardians, faculty, et al. are obligated to the Child Safety Regulations issued by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. As presentations/meetings, materials, information, etc. become available students and parents/guardians, etc. will be notified.
- #30 Religious Education information will be communicated via parish website, emails, student handouts/fliers, parish bulletin, etc.
- #31 Please retain a copy of the Faith Formation Calendar at www.goodshepherdbrooklyn.org

- #32 Parents/Guardians consent to the release of utilizing their child(ren) photo (and audio) in parish brochures, bulletins, website, videos, and all intellectual properties for the purpose of the Propagation of the Faith. In so doing you are permitting Good Shepherd Church and anyone it authorizes to use, produce, and reproduce my child(ren) photo, audio, etc. No personal identification will be incorporated along with photos (such as: home, email addresses, telephone numbers etc.) as to explicitly identify any child. I acknowledge that neither my child(ren) nor I will not be paid any form of compensation for production or reproduction of said content. All content materials remain the (intellectual) properties of Good Shepherd Church.
- #33 I understand that my registration fee covers the cost for textbooks, resources, online program, Catechists' training, retreats, proximate preps, sacramentals, etc. but does not include additional costs for the Sacramental Applications (Baptism, First Penance, First Communion, and Confirmation). Such fees will be paid at the time of sacramental preparation(s). Furthermore, any loss of textbooks or resources will incur additional costs for replacements and solely the responsibility of the parents/guardians.
- #34 Requests for early release. Please speak with Security at the front desk (enter Main Door of Academy on Brown Street). In order for a student to be released early from class (or from any parish property building) parent/guardian must show photo ID and sign an authorization release form. This is extremely important for safety measures. At no time will any student be released to an adult from class (or from any parish property building) without signing an authorization release form. Photo identification will be required.
- #35 Excessive requests for early release jeopardizes a student's loss of content. The student is fully responsible for completing all catechetical lessons and assignments.
- #36 Requests for early release should be due to an extraordinary need. Issues, such as: attending practices and games for sports does not come before Faith Formation.
- Our Lord and Our God, Jesus Christ comes first!***
- #37 At no time will any adult be permitted to walk through the Academy building (or any parish property) without proper authorization and accompaniment. Please be very respectful of this for the safety of all children and adults. Any inquires can be made at the Security front desk. (main door to the Academy on Brown Street).
- #38 For the safety of all children the administration cannot accept telephone/verbal approvals to release your (under-age) child to go home by him/herself or to attend any potential field trips (outside the parish plant). Written approval from the parent/guardian is mandatory.
- #39 I will notify in writing (to the administration) that my child will be picked up by someone other than myself - the parent/guardian.
- #40 Parents/Guardian authorizing their child(ren) in grades 1 to 4 to walk home by him/herself will require written authorization.

- #41 Parents/Guardians and their child(ren) are to kindly follow all safety instructions as issued.
- #42 Students contact information is essential, please be sure you keep the administration informed of any updates.
- #43 Students contact information is shared with our catechists. On occasion your child's catechist may reach out to you.
- #44 To best serve our students we encourage catechists and parents to maintain dialogue with one another.

CHURCH PROTOCOL

Parents/Guardians and students are reminded about the appropriate and expected behaviors while on Holy Ground, in Church:

- #1 No gum, candy, food, beverages of any kind is to be brought into Church at any time. No cellular phones, iPods, iPads, or any electronic media devices are to be left on, no texting, or emailing – TURN PHONES OFF.
- #2 Proper attire is expected at all times. Immodest attire is not permitted.
- #3 Please maintain silence throughout Holy Mass and Sacred Liturgies.
- #4 Be on time to Holy Mass and the Holy Mass ends once the ministerial procession leaves the Church and not after the reception of Holy Communion.
- #5 The reception of Holy Communion is reserved for only practicing Catholics and Catholics who have received First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. In addition, no Catholic is to receive Holy Communion while in a state of mortal sin this includes missing Holy Mass without justifiable cause, such as being ill.
- #6 When receiving Holy Communion: you are reminded that you are to bow before receiving Holy Communion. You are permitted to either receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in your left hand (your right hand is to be placed under your left hand thus creating a throne). The minister will say, “The Body of Christ (The Blood of Christ) and our response is “Amen.” If you are receiving Holy Communion in your hand, please place the Body of Christ into your mouth and do not walk off with the Body of Christ. You are also reminded that Holy Communion by Self Intinction is not permitted by the laity (dipping the Body of Christ into the Blood of Christ).
- #7 You are encouraged to receive under both Sacred Species, The Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ, when made available. In so doing we share in the fullness of the Holy Eucharist.
- #8 Holy Communion under both Sacred Species is offered at First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and all Masses.
- #9 On special liturgical occasions, such as: First Holy Communion and Confirmation the Church may provide professional video/photography services. The purpose why the Church might provide these services is to assure proper dignity and reverence while in Church and provide professional services for our parents/guardians and their child(ren). No other professional photographers or videographers hired by a parent/guardian will be permitted into the Church during liturgies. In addition, parents/guardians, and relatives are restricted from using flash photography and limited to taking photos from their seats. After Holy Mass has ended flash photography may be used in Church but only after Holy Mass has ended.

- #10 We remind our parents/guardians that a child receiving Baptism, First Reconciliation & Holy Communion, and Confirmation (as well as any Sacrament) is the essence of the Sacred by which Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted in His One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church and by which He pours out His graces through these Sacred Rites and Signs. The reception of Baptism, First Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation (and other Sacraments) is not a social event or to be perceived, equated, or reduced as a secular rite of passage.
- #11 To be permitted to prepare for and receive a Sacrament is the personal desire to journey with Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ and deepen our personal love and faith in Him and in His One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. In observance of such a Sacred Rite we remind parents/guardians due diligence when making preparations to celebrate a Sacrament. Such preparations are to be made in Holy Simplicity. That is in modesty. Therefore, elaborate and ornate displays competes with the Sacred and we begin to lose the real focus and purpose, which is always Jesus Christ Who glorifies God the Father and wills the Holy Spirit to sanctify souls through His Sacramental Church.

SACRAMENTAL PROTOCOL

The Sacramental protocol for all liturgies at Good Shepherd Church observes and fully complies with the General Instructions of the Roman Missal and rubrics, and all The Rites of the Roman Catholic Church. Orthodoxy and tradition is the Church's premise when celebrating Holy Mass and all Sacraments of the Church.

Holy Mass and all liturgies are celebrated with reverence and solemnity. As instructed from the Roman Missal we celebrate Holy Mass and liturgies offering praise and thanksgiving to God the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord with the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

Sign - In

1. Please be sure your child is signed in. Your child will receive a name tag (in the shape of a sheep). We ask that each parent/guardian hold onto the child's name tag.
2. One pew has been reserved for each child's family. Each pew is tagged with your child's name. All names are in alphabetical order. Both child and parent/guardian will sit together.
3. You will find in each pew your child's First Reconciliation - Penance Certificate. Please take the certificate home.

Individual Confessions

1. Our catechists will guide each child to an available priest.
2. The parent/guardian will be guided to a Penance Pew. As your child is at confession we ask each parent to support his/her child by reciting these prayers for your child(ren):

O loving and merciful God! Help my child to make a good Confession. Help him/her to examine his/her conscience, that he/she shall be able to tell the priest what sins he/she has committed and how often. Let him/her feel a deep sorrow for all his/her sins and give him/her the grace to firmly resolve not to sin again.

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, my child's dear Guardian Angel, and all the blessed Angels and Saints in Heaven, pray for me and my child, that he/she shall make a good Confession, and from now on lead a good life, so that we shall join you in Heaven to praise our dear Lord, forever and ever.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

3. When your child is finished at confession he/she will join you in the Penance Pew (which will be tagged) so that your child may recite his/her penitential prayer(s). When your child is finished with his/her prayer(s), please proceed to the rear of the Church (where the Good Shepherd banners are posted). At this time you will submit your child's name tag and receive a pin-prayer card. You may leave the Church at this time.

Church Protocol

We appreciate your cooperation as to assure reverence throughout our liturgy in support of our children who are about to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation - Penance. Your attention to please observe the following:

- Turn off all cellular phones and communication devices.
- *Please refrain from unnecessary talking. **This is extremely important as we need absolute quietness and do not want to disturb our liturgy and children during their confessions.***
- Please remain in your seats. Our catechists will guide your child to an available priest and point out to the parent/guardian (only) a Penance Pew (tagged in RED).
- Flash photography is not permitted during Sacred Liturgies.
- We encourage all to participate in responding.
- Kindly follow the instructions of the Church Ushers.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Communicants: all children will be seated together as a class in the front pews of the Church.

Church Seating: one pew per family will be reserved in alphabetical order. Upon entering into the Church, please look for your child's First Holy Communion Banner, which will be posted to a pew. At the end of Holy Mass, please take home the banner.

First Communion Banner: please return to your child's teacher. Please design your child's first name on the front of the banner (see illustrations in kit's box)). On the back of the banner clearly print your child's first and last names. Kindly use only the banners that have been issued to you.

First Communion Attire: traditional white attire is encouraged. However, appropriate attire is mandated:

Young Ladies must wear a dress and may use a white head veil.

Young Gentlemen must wear a suit and may use a First Communion Armbow.

No gloves are permitted. Flower bouquets maybe presented after Mass not during Mass. Hands need to be free of any articles.

No gloves may be worn.

Wrist Corsage and flower lapel may be worn.

Video/photography: a professional video/photographer may be available and a DVD/ photo might be distributed. One DVD per family, may be made available a few weeks after the ceremony at the academy and parish offices. Photos may be available on our website. Photos are permitted by family. No professional photographer hired by a parent will be permitted into the Church. Photos can be taken from side aisles only, no one will be permitted to enter into the sanctuary or cross the transept. Kindly follow the instructions of the Church Ushers. Flash photography is not permitted during Holy Mass. There will be an opportunity for children to be photographed with Parish Priests after Holy Mass.

Rite of Communion: is under both Sacred Species - The Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Holy Communion will be distributed to children first then to the congregation.

Church Protocol: We appreciate your cooperation as to assure solemnity throughout our liturgy in support of our children who about to receive the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Your attention to please observe the following:

- Turn off all cellular phones and communication devices
- Please refrain from unnecessary talking
- Please remain in your seats
- Flash photography is not permitted during Holy Mass
- We encourage all to participate in responding and singing during Holy Mass (Program Booklets will be available)
- Kindly follow the instructions of the Church Ushers

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered during the year of Grade 8. The date and time is subject to the bishop's calendar. Announcement of date and time will be issued when available.

Candidates & Sponsors: to be seated in the front pews of the Church.

Church Seating: there are no tickets required for entry into Church and no reserved seating except for Candidates and their Sponsors.

Attire: Appropriate attire is mandated. No sneakers, flip flops, jeans, or sweats are to be worn by either candidate or sponsor.

Video/photography: a professional video/photographer may be available and a DVD may be distributed. One DVD per family, will be made available a few weeks after the ceremony at the academy and parish offices. Photos may be available on our website. Photos are permitted by family. No professional video/photographer hired by a parent will be permitted into the Church. Video/Photos can be taken from side aisles only, no one will be permitted to enter into the sanctuary or cross the transept. Kindly follow the instructions of the Church Ushers. Flash photography is not permitted during Holy Mass. There will be an opportunity for children to be photographed with Parish Priests after Holy Mass.

Rite of Communion: is under both Sacred Species - The Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Holy Communion will be distributed to children first then to the congregation.

Church Protocol: We appreciate your cooperation as to assure solemnity throughout our liturgy in support of our children who about to receive the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Your attention to please observe the following:

- Turn off all cellular phones and communication devices
- Please refrain from unnecessary talking
- Please remain in your seats
- Flash photography is not permitted during Holy Mass
- We encourage all to participate in responding and singing during Holy Mass (Program Booklets will be available)
- Kindly follow the instructions of the Church Ushers

**PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATIONS VIA
REGISTRATION APPLICATION**

- 1) I give consent for my child(ren) to participate in the annual Diocesan Child Lures Prevention Presentation:
 Yes No
Note: if you choose to opt for “No” you will need to complete the Diocesan Opt-Out Form. Parents please keep your child(ren) home on this day - absence will be waived. If you do not indicate your option the decision will default to “Yes” and your child will participate in the presentation. If you opted for “No” and should send your child(ren) to class on the day of the Diocesan Child Lures Prevention Presentation, please understand that you will be over-riding your own authorization and your child(ren) will be participating in the presentation.

- 2) I will notify in writing (to the administration) that my (under-age - Grades 1 to 4) child(ren) will be permitted to walk home alone after being dismissed and/or picked up by someone other than myself - the parent/guardian.
Note: for the safety of all children the administration can not accept telephone/verbal approvals to release your child to go home by him/herself. Written approval from the parent/guardian is mandatory.

- 3) I consent to the release of utilizing my child(ren) video/photo (and audio) in parish brochures, bulletins, website, videos, and all intellectual properties for the purpose of the Propagation of the Faith. In so doing you are permitting Good Shepherd Church and anyone it authorizes to use, produce, and reproduce my child(ren) photo, audio, etc. No personal identification will be incorporated along with video/photos (such as: home, email addresses, telephone numbers etc.), etc. as to explicitly identify any child(ren). I acknowledge that neither my child(ren) nor I will not be paid any form of compensation for production or reproduction of said content. All content materials remain the intellectual properties of Good Shepherd Church.

- 4) I understand that as my child(ren) First Teacher I will lead my child(ren) by striving to be a living example of the faith by attending Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Days with my child(ren) including the Sacrament of Reconciliation, devotionals, etc.

- 5) I understand that my child(ren) is required to attend Sunday Holy Mass (and Holy Days of Obligation) each week at a Roman Catholic Church and have his/her Mass Attendance Card signed (in Grades 1 - 8) after Holy Mass by a priest/deacon. The Mass Attendance Card is to be submitted to my child’s catechist at the end of each month or dropped off at the Rectory or School of Evangelization Offices.

- 6) I understand that my child(ren) regardless of the program (online or onsite) I selected is required to attend Monthly Enrichment Wednesdays (Grades 1 to 8).
- 7) I understand and agree that my child(ren) will be taught the full teachings of the Catholic Church, "...even if we are living a way of life that is contrary to those teachings."
- 8) I understand and agree that my child(ren) will be taught: family and sexuality education in a Catholic context, which seeks to foster family values, promote the right to life and the dignity of each human person, to stress the importance of wholesome relationships, and personal responsibility, to teach the value of conscience formation, and to give inspiration for living lives that are moral and chaste. Applicable in Grades 5 - 8.
- 9) I understand that excessive absences from class (beyond 5 absences) and Holy Mass results in significant loss of catechetical/spiritual content and may result in failure to be promoted to the next grade level. I understand that should my child(ren) exceed 5 absences that I will receive a letter from the pastoral office and will need to provide a written explanation. I understand that the pastoral office will assess whether my child(ren) will be allowed to continue in the program.
- 10) I understand that should I select Online Religious Education my child(ren) is required to complete all lessons in order to be promoted to the next grade level and before receiving a sacrament. Students are required to complete each lesson. We encourage parents/guardians to monitor their child's work but please do not do their lesson(s) for them.
- 11) I have read and agree to all the terms in Good Shepherd's Registration Agreement. I understand its contents and will strive to comply with all guidelines and policies contained within the Registration Agreement and any future appendages to be adopted. I understand that there are no exceptions to any rules or guidelines and no refunds on registrations once I sign this registration application.

~ **RITE OF COMMITTAL** ~

Please fill out the information below and submit with your child’s application.

In summation, I _____
PRINT – Parent/Guardian Name

PRINT – Student/Child Name

promise Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar to be faithful to His One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church by attending His Holy Mass each Sunday, Holy Days of Obligation, and Monthly Enrichment Wednesdays (Grades 1 to 8) thereby deepening my Faith in Jesus Christ Who is **“My Lord, and My God”** (John 20:28) through His Sacramental Church’s Teachings and Traditions.

I understand that I have a role as the parent/guardian **“...we are not only guardians of their lives, but also guardians of their Faith, and guardians of their Catholic identity.”** In so doing I am hereby committed to supporting the School of Evangelization in Faith Formation - Religious Education at Good Shepherd Church and its Pastoral Staff and Catechetical Team in the development of both myself and my child(ren) as we journey together to (re)discover our lives in Jesus Christ and His One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church.

I further understand that any breech of this Rite of Committal may result in the failure of my child(ren) not being promoted to the next grade level and jeopardizes that he or she may not receive a designated Sacrament of the Church. I hereby acknowledge that I have reviewed the School of Evangelization in Faith Formation Registration Agreement for the Religious Education Program at Good Shepherd Church. I understand the policies, rules, and regulations stated within the Registration Agreement. I further pledged that I and my child(ren) will abide by all the guidelines and policies and any and all future adoptions. Lastly, I understand that there are no exceptions to any rules or guidelines and no refunds on registrations once I sign this committal.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student/Child Signature: _____

Dated: _____