

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (GRADES 1-6): PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

School Year 2017-2018

SCHOOL MODEL	HOME GROUPS
<p style="text-align: center;">Open to children grades 1-6: Class sessions are held on: Sunday morning - 10:45AM – 12:15PM Tuesday afternoon - 4:00PM -- 5:30PM Wednesday afternoon - 4:00PM -- 5:30PM</p> <p>School Model classes start with a 20 minute opening activity and prayer service in the auditorium. Then students spend approximately 50 minutes in their classrooms with a volunteer catechist and then have a brief closing prayer in the auditorium. Class sizes are small so that students can benefit greatly from this program. All parents are asked to take Protecting God’s Children and to volunteer as a Hall Monitor. We encourage parents to pray about becoming a catechist. We have a training process in place. Parents are also welcomed to volunteer as substitutes and classroom aides. Registration remains open throughout the summer.</p>	<p>Open to children grades 1-6: Many families throughout the parish establish Home Groups for religious education in a home setting. Home Groups are established by the catechist and meet once a week. There is a five (5) person minimum for each Home Group. All parents of children in Home Groups are required to take Protecting God’s Children. Every parent that will teach the Home Group anytime during the year must attend all of the catechist training sessions put on by the Religious Education office. All prospective Home Group leaders must complete an Interest Form by March 1st. Registration for this option closes on March 23rd.</p>
WHEN FAMILIES GATHER (WFG)	SUMMER PROGRAM
<p style="text-align: center;">Open to children grades 1-6: Sessions are held on: Sunday morning – 10:30 AM -12 PM Monday evening – 6:30 PM – 8 PM</p> <p>This model welcomes families who desire to grow in the wisdom of their faith and deepen their spirituality in a family setting. At home each month, the parents teach three chapters from the textbook. The children are then required to complete online homework at the end of each chapter. This commitment should take approximately 2 hours per month. These chapters are then presented at a monthly When Families Gather Large Group session where there is time for food, prayer, teaching, and family activities. The program will explore what we believe as Catholic Christians and how to live out those beliefs in our everyday family lives. When Families Gather affirms and strengthens families as the “Church of the Home”. Our program is at full capacity this year, and we will accept new families based on availability when registration begins. Registration for this option closes on March 23rd.</p>	<p>Open to children grades 1-6: The Summer Program runs for 7 days in the summer (late June-early July) from 2:00-5:30PM and four family retreat days during the school year with one of those school year retreats being 3 ½ hours on a Saturday morning and the other 3 retreats will be 90 minutes long for this year only. Next year we will go back to a 9 day Summer Program and 3, 90 minute school year retreats. The dates for the Summer Program vary year to year depending on when the schools in Ridgewood let out for the summer. It will start either the day after school finishes or the following Monday. The program sometimes takes off an extra day for the July 4th holiday depending on which day of the week the holiday. Each daily session includes instructional lessons, art, music, and prayer. Children will attend the grade they are entering in the fall. The retreat days during the year are an Advent session, a Lenten session, and a large group speaker session in the spring. <u>One parent must attend these sessions with the child.</u> Parents of the children who participate in this program must volunteer for 2 full days per child during the nine day program. Parents are given choices as to where they would wish to volunteer but ultimately, volunteers are placed where they are most needed. Every child must attend all nine sessions for the full three hour, 15 minute class. A family registering a 1st grader into the summer program must be registered in the parish for six months before their child will be permitted into the summer program. <u>No one will be accepted for the Summer Program after the final registration meeting which is March 15th.</u></p>