

St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish PREP Family Handbook 2025-2026

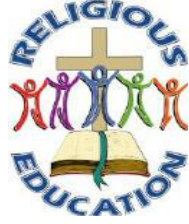
The mission of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish Religious Education Program is to assist parents and guardians in the religious, moral and spiritual formation of their children. Parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children, teaching by word and example. Our parish Catechists support parents, guardians and students by providing quality religious education in a nurturing faith-filled environment. Through the cooperative efforts of parents, guardians, Catechists, and students, children will grow in their love for God and knowledge of their Catholic faith.

“Catechesis describes the essential ministry of the (Catholic) Church through which the teachings of Christ have been passed on to believers throughout the ages....Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes the teaching of Christian doctrine” of the Roman Catholic Church. (National Directory for Catechesis, no. 1, USSB). Keeping in mind that all the baptized have a right to catechesis, every person, however limited is capable of growth in holiness, (General Directory for Catechesis, no. 189). Catechetical and Sacramental programs are inclusive of all parishioners and may need to be adapted for those with disabilities.

KNOW YOUR FAITH...GROW IN FAITH...GO IN FAITH

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St. Cyril Of Jerusalem
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PREP office: 215-343-3139
www.saint-cyril.com

September 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to welcome you to St. Cyril of Jerusalem's Parish Religious Education Program. On behalf of our Catechists and assistants, I thank you for choosing our program. But more importantly, for choosing to educate your children in the Catholic faith as Jesus directed all His followers to do.

I want to assure you that we have an extremely competent team of Catechists, assistants and support personnel who are dedicated to their faith and your children and committed to teaching and preparing them for their lifelong journey as followers of Jesus Christ.

We always strive to have open communication with you and most certainly welcome your ideas, concerns and suggestions. Should you have any questions or concerns about PREP, please do not hesitate to contact me.

+ God's blessings on your family,

Mrs. Lorraine Bigony

Mrs. Lorraine Bigony, MSN
Director of Religious Education
lbigony@saint-cyril.com

Nurturing, Developing, Guiding God's Children in the Ways of Faith

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Parochial Vicar: Rev. Timothy Buckley

Director Religious Education: Mrs. Lorraine Bigony 215-343-3139 lbigony@saint-cyril.com

PREP Assistant: Ms. Cathy Milnik 215-343-1288 cmilnik@saint-cyril.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word Coordinator and Youth Minister: Danielle Kelly

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Admission Policy

It is the policy of St. Cyril of Jerusalem to admit individuals who are of any race, nationality, ethnic origin or physical challenge and grant them the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to all individuals. All aspects of the program, including admittance, administration, curriculum development, policies, etc. are conducted free of any discrimination.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem embraces all its children regardless of academic, physical or other special needs. We make every effort to accommodate the needs of participants and provide them with an inclusive environment in our programs. If your child has a special need, you are encouraged to contact the Director of Religious Education to discuss your concerns and enrollment options.

Religious Education Program

St. Cyril of Jerusalem is committed to helping students develop as persons who recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the gift of God's love in their life. It is our objective to assist parents and guardians who are the primary educators in matters of their child's faith, by teaching the truths of the Catholic Church, enabling students to claim them as their own; lead students to the realization that Catholic Christian living is our response to God's covenant relationship with His Church; and encourage families to celebrate the Lord's presence in life and liturgy.

Our program provides Catechist instructed classes for students from Level 1 through Level 7. Each program level has a specific core curriculum which is in compliance with the curriculum guidelines and requirements of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Office of Catechetical Formation.

In accordance with the Archdiocesan policy, students receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist in Level 2 and the Sacrament of Confirmation in Level 7. In preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, it is required that a two-year preparation is completed.

Sacrament Preparation Guidelines

1) Archdiocese of Philadelphia Policy for the reception of Sacraments;

- A student must attend **two consecutive years** of Religious Education to be eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Penance), Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Each parish within the Archdiocese prepares their own sacramental program within the guidelines promulgated by the Archdiocese.
- Children are required to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) in the parish in which their family is registered.

2) St Cyril of Jerusalem Policy for the reception of Sacraments:

- Children must be baptized in accordance with the Trinitarian formula
- Family registration in St. Cyril of Jerusalem parish is required
- Parents/guardians should be active participants in the Catholic faith and regularly attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Parents/ guardians participation in the preparation process is critical and they are expected to assist their children with the preparation materials sent home as well as to attend parent meetings.
- A child's desire to receive the Sacrament is reflected in his or her positive attitude toward the preparation process. Consistent attendance and appropriate behavior are expected.
- At St. Cyril of Jerusalem children usually receive First Penance in the Winter of Level 2, and First Communion in the Spring of Level 2. Confirmation will be received in the Spring of Level 7.

PREP Levels vs. Elementary School Grades

When registering your children for PREP classes please be aware that there is no correlation between the elementary school grade system and the PREP levels. The elementary school system is a grade format based on the intellectual learning ages of children and their ability to grasp numerous subjects at a particular age.

The PREP "Level" system is not an age-based system nor based on the child's ability to grasp a variety of subjects. It is focused on the child's progression in their Religious Education. For example, a child may be in the second grade in an elementary school but has not participated in any formal Religious Education. This child would be assigned to Level 1 in the PREP program. Thus, we use the term "level" rather than "grade."

A Note About Homeschooling:

Homeschooling Religious Education deprives a child(ren) of the ability to experience fully the fellowship of other Catholic children. Therefore, PREP homeschooling is reserved for those students with special needs only who are not capable of attending class in the traditional setting.

Alternative Programs for Sacrament Preparation

Alternative programs are designed for children who have been baptized but have not participated in a structured religious education program and have not been prepared for reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

Children are accepted into these alternative programs on an as needed basis depending on individual and family circumstances. Please contact the PREP office at 215-343-3139 to discuss your child's situation and the development of a specific individualized program.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is celebrated during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass from mid-September through early May. CLW is the proclamation of the Word of God designed for children from kindergarten through the fourth grade in Catholic or public schools. After the opening prayer of the Mass, and before the Scripture readings, the children are called forth by the leader and taken to the chapel. The children experience the Liturgy of the Word as they listen to God speak, reflect on who God is, and how they respond to God. The children return to their families during the preparation of the gifts for the remainder of the Mass.

PREP REGISTRATION

PREP registration is conducted electronically through Parish Giving. Existing PREP families are notified with an email from Parish Giving in April for the Fall program. Existing families are able to access their account, update their demographics, and pay the fee through the following email notification- info@parishgiving.org

Fee (*No child will ever be denied enrollment in PREP for financial difficulty*) please contact Mrs. Lorraine Bigony @ lbigony@saint-cyril.com PREP fees are reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary to meet program expenses. The fee covers the cost of facilities, student's text books, folders, supplies, audiovisuals, resource materials, etc. as well as the administrative expenses of the program. An additional fee is charged for all children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This fee covers materials used especially for Sacrament preparation including parent meeting speakers, retreats, practices, Confirmation robes, crafts, refreshments and photography services for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Fee Waiver: Parents/guardians who volunteer as a full time Catechist or assistant will have the full PREP fee waived regardless of the number of children in the program.

Class Day & Time

- Monday afternoon (4:45PM - 6:00PM)

CLASSROOM SECURITY/ ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

To ensure the safety of our children and PREP staff and to maintain a secure environment, we cannot allow access into the classroom buildings directly. Only PREP staff and students are permitted to enter the buildings where classes are conducted. If you have the need to drop off your child after the start of class (after 5:00PM) please take him/her to the Parish office. The procedure for early class dismissal requires pick up of the child in the Parish office as well. Sample forms for Permission for Early Dismissal and Carpooling are at the back of this handbook.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURE FROM ALMSHOUSE ROAD:

1. Upon entering Church property, turn right into the lane heading toward the end of the property. Follow it, and then turn left into a lane that will allow you to park closer to the building where your child(ren) class is located. *NOTE: Parents/guardians authorized to transport several children to and from PREP are responsible to ensure the safety of these children and to escort all the children to the entrance of the building where the specific class is conducted.*
2. Yellow chains will designate the areas of **no through traffic**. No one is permitted to take down or remove a chain to gain access to these traffic areas. This will keep a safe and orderly flow throughout the parking lot.
3. Parents/Guardians/Designated drivers are required to park their vehicle and escort the child(ren) to the **drop off/pickup area** for each building as follows:
 - **Church**- the area outside the doors under the overhang. Please do not enter the Church.
 - **Rectory**- the area at the top of the basement steps. Please do not enter the Rectory.
 - **Social Hall**- the area in front of the main doors, the steps and the driveway in front of the building. Please do not enter the Social Hall
4. Parking is prohibited in spots designated for disabled individuals, in the spaces along the side of the Social Hall, or the Portable classroom side and in the circle between the Rectory and the Church.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURE FROM MEETINGHOUSE ROAD:

1. Enter from Meetinghouse Road and proceed to the parking lot entrance on the left. Vehicles are not permitted to drive in front of the Social Hall due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic. To ensure the safety of children and PREP staff during class times all

entrances will be locked once classes have commenced. Doors in every building are equipped with a panic bar permitting egress.

- PREP staff must be present in the classroom at least 10 minutes prior to the class starting time
- Students are required to be on time but should not be dropped off more than 10 minutes before the start of class. Do not leave a child(ren) in an unattended classroom. Someone from our PREP staff should be there to greet them.
- The doors in each building will be locked 15 minutes after the start of class
- Please have your child(ren) use the bathroom *before* PREP arrival. Bathroom breaks waste valuable instructional time are disruptive and a safety concern and should be requested only when necessary.

DISMISSAL/PICKUP- class dismisses at 6:00PM on Monday afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE: NO CHILD(REN) SHOULD BE CROSSING THE PARKING LOT UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT. CHILDREN MUST NOT BE SUMMONED ACROSS THE PARKING LOT AT DISMISSAL TO MEET A PARENT/GUARDIAN. THIS IS A DANGEROUS PRACTICE AND WILL BE MONITORED!

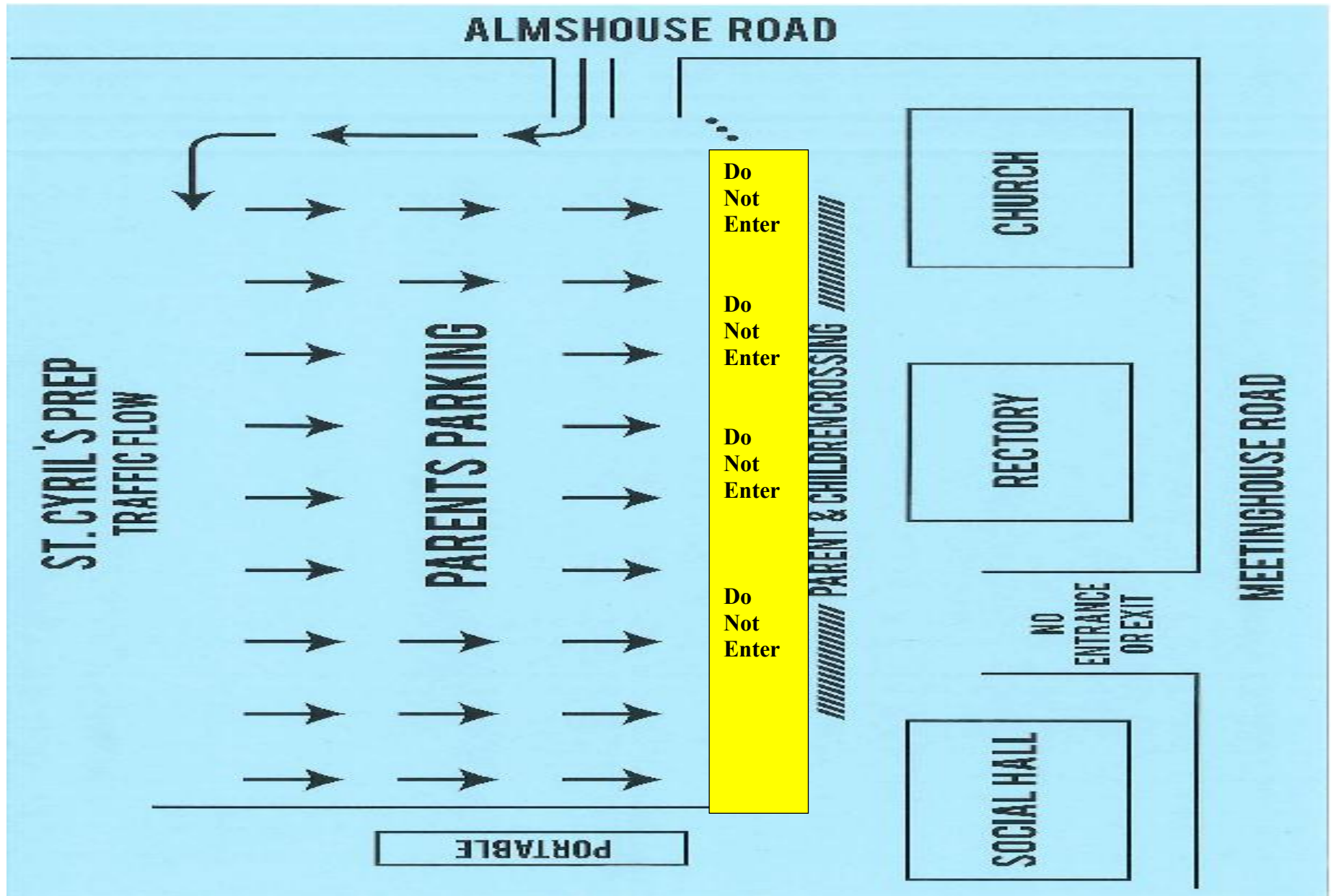
SINGLE LOCATION PICKUP FOR FAMILIES WITH MULTIPLE CHILDREN IN THE PROGRAM

- 1) The oldest child(ren) will be dismissed to the youngest child's classroom.
- 2) A **FAMILY SINGLE LOCATION PICKUP PERMISSION FORM** must be filled out and submitted to the youngest child's Catechist.
- 3) At dismissal, all children will be dismissed from the youngest child's pickup point.
- 4) A blank form is at the end of this Handbook.

CARPOOLING AND RELEASE

- 1) The parent/guardian must list the name of each student participating in the carpool.
- 2) The parent/guardian must indicate the name of the carpool driver.
- 3) The parent/guardian acknowledges their awareness that the driver is not working in the role of Catechist or assistant or in any other position in St. Cyril PREP at the time of transporting.
- 4) Sign a statement releasing SJOC Parish and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from all responsibility and any liability.
- 5) Sign and date the **CARPOOLING PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM** and submit it to the PREP office. A blank form is at the end of the Handbook.

15 Miles Per Hour Only in Parking Lot



PREP SCHEDULE & EMERGENCY CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The PREP schedule is established in consideration of the Central Bucks School District yearly schedule but **does not follow ALL of the holidays** observed by the Central Bucks School District. When the district announces a day off, this does not necessarily mean PREP will be closed.

For occurrences of inclement weather that may jeopardize the safety of the children, family members and staff, the Director of Religious Education in consultation with the Pastor, will render a decision to cancel PREP class. If Central Bucks School District is closed or has dismissed their students early due to inclement weather, PREP is closed.

A PREP closing announcement will be disseminated via e-mail and through Flock Note system.

ENROLLMENT & ATTENDANCE POLICY

A forty (40) hour program of religious instruction is recommended by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Office of Catechetical Formation. To ensure compliance with the Archdiocesan policy, the following has been developed and will be strictly enforced. Provisions of the policy are as follows:

- 1) Children are expected to attend all classes including the times when the class goes to the Church for special services such as Prayer, Holy Mass, Reconciliation (Penance), etc.
- 2) Parents should notify the PREP office if their child is going to be absent, especially if it affects carpooling.
- 3) Should a long-term absence (2 weeks or longer) be necessary due to an illness or a family situation, the parent must contact the Director of Religious Education to discuss the situation and to arrange for a suitable plan to complete the grade level requirements.
- 4) Should a child incur four (4) absences, the parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss the reason for the lack of attendance and their intention of remedying the attendance issue. Excessive absence, that is greater than 5, may result in the failure of the student to be promoted to the next PREP level. Parents/guardians are encouraged to meet/contact the Catechist for missed class work.
- 5) The faith formation provided in our program involves incremental learning. Each year builds upon the learning of the previous year. Therefore, it is essential that students remain enrolled in the program consistently from year to year.
- 6) Any student who voluntarily leaves the program for a period of one year will be required to make-up the missed year upon re-enrollment into the program. (e.g. a student leaves the program for a period of one year after completing level 3 and re-enrolls when they are in school grade 5, will be placed in PREP level 4.) There is no level skipping in PREP.
Please note: If you child(ren) discontinues their Religious Education before being confirmed he/she is not fully initiated in the Catholic Church. Therefore, he/she will be unable to be a Baptismal sponsor (God parent) or Confirmation sponsor as an adult.

DRESS CODE

Dress is casual however it should be appropriate for class or Church. Tank tops, half shirts are not acceptable. Shirts advertising alcoholic products, offensive language or suggestive words are unacceptable.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE POLICY

Due to many students having various food allergies, we are making reasonable accommodation to lessen the potential of exposure by restricting the distribution of food and beverages for consumption in the PREP classrooms. For occasions of a seasonal or special celebration, the food or beverage should be prepared for the student to take home at the time of dismissal. There is to be no consumption of food or beverages in the classroom. Parents should refrain from sending food or beverage to be consumed in the classroom. This policy will enhance the classroom experience and protect children with food allergies.

WELLNESS POLICY

Parents/guardians are the best judge of a child's health, and we trust that a sick child will not be brought to PREP, for the benefit of the child, and in consideration of other children and faculty. Contact with the Catechist for missed material/make-up work is advised. However, if during PREP a child becomes ill with fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, unknown rash etc., the parent/guardian will be called to take the child home. The PREP program **MUST** have an **emergency contact number**, and the parent/guardian is expected to respond immediately. No medication will be administered to any child while in PREP class.

Minor illness/ injuries such as scrapes, scratches, (Band-Aid treatable), nose bleeds, etc. can be evaluated and treated by the PREP staff if appropriate. In the case of a medical condition, illness, injury that is not immediately life-threatening but still needs possible medical assessment, there will be an attempt to contact parent/guardian first. If the parent/guardian is not able to come to the building within a reasonable amount of time, and it is determined that immediate medical assistance is required, emergency services will be called to secure medical care for the child. If a life-threatening condition is present, emergency medical services (911) will be activated, and parents/guardians will be notified.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Raise your hand to speak. Do not interrupt others.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Use encouraging words.
- Treat all adults and classmates with respect and kindness.
- Stay in your assigned seat.
- Do not abuse the classrooms, restrooms, or other's property.
- Chewing gum is not permitted.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

The Catechist, and/or classroom Assistant, supported by the DRE, will discuss the consequences of inappropriate behavior with the child(ren) in general terms. The following behaviors are considered contrary to Catholic faith and morals, including, but not limited to: ongoing acts of obstinacy, fighting, physical, emotional and psychological intimidation, vandalism, theft, demeaning behaviors such as name calling, obscene language or gestures, and harassment. At all times, the Catechist/Assistant will attempt to administer warranted discipline with dignity for the child in mind. The following is the procedure to be followed if it is necessary for the Catechist/Assistant to take action to control behavior that is disruptive.

1. Two (2) warnings will be given to the child.
2. Parents will be notified if a child does not respond to the warnings.
3. If a third notification is required, the name of the child will be given to the DRE for follow up.
4. If further action is necessary, parents and the child will meet with the DRE to attempt to determine the reason for the child's inability to follow the Code of Conduct.
5. Repeated misbehaviors and violations of the Code of Conduct may require a parent/guardian to accompany their child in class to remain in the program.
6. Physical fighting that could result in injury to another student will require a meeting with the Pastor, DRE, parent and student.

Most behavior problems can be resolved between the Catechist and the parents if there is a spirit of cooperation and collaboration present that the child can sense. The goal is the same – to create an atmosphere in which optimal learning occurs.

CELL/TECHNOLOGY PHONE POLICY

1. Students are permitted to bring cell phones to PREP.
2. Students must turn off cell phones upon entrance onto Parish property and until they are no longer present on Parish property.
3. If in the case of an emergency, a student must make contact with a parent/guardian, he/she must do so in the presence of a Catechist/Assistant or PREP staff person.
4. A Catechist may collect phones prior to the beginning of class and distribute them to students at the end of class.
5. A student may not:
 - a. Photograph or videotape another student, Catechist or PREP Faculty member or Parish staff during the PREP session.
 - b. Post pictures or videos taken during a PREP session to social media sites such as but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Tumblr, TikTok, Ask.fm, SnapChat, Vine, Kik or Yik Yak.
 - c. Use any form of cyber bullying towards another student(s).

- d. Post or publish derogatory, defamatory, false, inaccurate, profane or abusive comments or online threats to another person at any time as he/she represents St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish.

PARENTAL CUSTODY AGREEMENT

In situations of marital separation or divorce, both biological parents of a student participating in PREP must submit to the PREP office the most recent “Custodial Order of Custody Agreement” document.

In the event changes occur to the agreement during the PREP year, a revised custody agreement must be submitted. At the beginning of each PREP year, both parties of the custody agreement will be requested to present the most recent “Order of Custody Agreement Document.”

Our program abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, our program will provide the non-custodial parent with access to the records and other program related information regarding the child. If there is a court order specifying there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the program director with an official copy of the current court order.

If a court order prohibits releasing a child into the custody of a non-custodial parent, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the program director with an official copy of the court order or custody section of the divorce decree.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS/PROGRESS REPORTS/ ASSESSMENTS

- At the discretion of the Catechist, take-home assignments may be given in the form of written work, activities or study. As those primarily responsible for the faith formation of their children, parents/guardians are expected to supervise the completion of these assignments.
- Assignments for students who will be receiving a Sacrament are outlined in the parent’s guide for the specific Sacrament.
- Faith formation is not an academic exercise. Nor is it totally intellectually based. Faith is God given and must be nourished, experienced, witnessed, and lived.
- The Catechist, to assess the understanding and formation progress of the students may use appropriate review materials and assessments.
- Progress Reports are prepared to provide parents/guardians with information regarding the faith formation of their children and are issued at mid-year in January. The reports are based on the following criteria: *Knowledge of Religion, Effort, Appropriate Conduct, Knowledge of Prayers, and Attendance*. The evaluation system is as follows: *E=Exceeds Expectations; M=Meets Expectations; N=Needs Improvement*.

- Parents/guardians are expected to read the report, sign it, and return it the following week of class. End of year progress reports do not need to be returned.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Continue their personal ongoing faith formation through prayer and adult education and by sharing of time and abilities in the ministries of the parish, especially PREP.
- Review and enrich what has been presented in class each week, including weeks when your child has been absent.
- Assist your children with homework assignments and projects and share your own faith experiences with them.
- ***Attend Mass weekly and pray with your children often.***
- Be an example of a faithful and committed Catholic and do not let anything or anyone interfere with your relationship with God.

COMMUNICATION

- Communication is essential for the effective administration of any program, venture, or project. It is the responsibility of the PREP staff to communicate quickly, accurately and frequently. It is the responsibility of parents/ guardians to read any communication on a timely basis, all means of communications distributed to them, take required action when necessary, and express any issues/concerns, or suggestions related to the communicate.
- Students are supplied with a two-pocket folder at the beginning of the PREP year. This folder will serve as the Communication Folder for weekly assignments, and other important announcements. Parents/guardians should check this folder after each weekly session to view any fliers, bulletins, assignments, etc. that may be sent home. Parents/guardians are also able to use this folder to send any communiques to their child's Catechist.
- All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to discuss any concerns, issues, situations and requests with the Director of Religious Education, the administrative staff, or the Catechist. Contact the PREP Office at 215-343-3139 or lbigony@saint-cyril.com
- Parents/guardians are provided with a yearly calendar at the beginning of the PREP program year. This calendar is tentative, and subject to change during the course of the year. Parents/guardians will be notified of changes by the program director.
- A monthly calendar will be e-mailed to each family highlighting significant events throughout the year.

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem PREP attempts to communicate effectively and frequently with parents/guardians using the following means: email, SCOJ parish website www.saint-cyril.com under the heading PREP, the Sunday Bulletin, and the US Postal Service.
- Parents/guardians are requested to provide the PREP office with cell phone numbers and email addresses to enable effective communications.
- Parents/guardians are urged to read what is communicated to them, which will enable them to be aware of PREP happenings and to ensure their children are prepared for important dates, are aware of meetings, special liturgies (Mass), Confession, student activities (Prayer Services, Living Stations, etc.)
- Catechists are provided with a class list containing family contact information. In turn, parents/guardians should request the email address and contact information of their child's Catechist if not provided.
- At the time of registration, parents/guardians should provide IEPs, or any special needs for their child(ren). This information will help to ensure a successful PREP experience. The DRE is available to discuss in person. All information will be treated as confidential.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has a Safe Environment policy in place. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is committed to the implementation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Office of Child and Youth Protection assists parishes in the on-going development of safe environment programs in the school, religious education program and all parish ministries which involve children.

The Safe Environment Program includes but is not limited to:

- obtaining the background checks of all archdiocesan personnel, including clergy, religious and laity, as well as volunteers who regularly encounter children
- providing educational programs for students who attend Archdiocesan elementary and secondary schools and parish religious education programs
- providing training to clergy, parish personnel, catechists, teachers and volunteers regarding their responsibility, under civil law, as mandated reporters. This training also pertains to Archdiocesan personnel who are working in social services and educational ministry.

One Safe Environment lesson per year is taught during a regularly scheduled PREP session. You may view these lessons (Kid Talk) online prior to it being taught at

<https://phillyocf.org/safe-environment-2/> Parents/guardians may opt out of this lesson for their child by contacting the PREP office in writing prior to the published date on which the lesson will be taught. Alternative PREP content will be taught to those children who have opted out during this class time.

PREP CURRICULUM

LEVELS 1 TO 6

We are utilizing Our Sunday Visitor “*Alive in Christ*” catechetical series as our religious education program. *Alive in Christ* is intentional in its focus on the life, mission and saving work of Jesus Christ. This lays the foundation for a lifelong relationship with Jesus. The series also builds knowledge of, and reverence for, Sacred Scripture. Sacred Scripture from both the Old and New Testament is presented in ways that encourage students to learn about the people and stories of the Bible and listen to the voice of God. *Alive in Christ* provides a comprehensive and systematic presentation of the Catholic faith. Key themes of Catholic teaching are repeated each year through a grade-level lens, building on the child's knowledge of the faith at each developmental stage. The *Alive in Christ* series employs as its Scope and Sequence the following topics:

- Revelation
- Trinity
- Jesus Christ
- The Church
- Morality
- Sacraments
- The Kingdom of God

Each year these topics are expanded upon and developed with age-appropriate learning. Each lesson begins with God's invitation through Sacred Scripture and leads children to reflect on his Word, study it in Sacred Tradition, and respond with a lived faith. Written by a team of experts in child psychology, education and theology, *Alive in Christ* incorporates the most trusted research on how children learn and communicate. Faith concepts are presented at important developmental "windows"—ages when research in child development tells us that learning about a particular topic would be most effective. Activities and questions throughout each lesson prompt children to relate knowledge of our faith with their life experience so they can apply the many ways we worship, live, pray, and serve together as Catholics.

The "Family + Faith" page, and an extensive website give families the needed tools to know what their children are learning, talk about their Catholic faith, and recognize ways they can apply it to their daily lives. Additional Family + Faith resources can be accessed at the website aliveinchrist.osv.com to support and enhance parents/guardians involvement in their child's religious education from the comfort of home.

LEVEL 7

Level 7 prepares students for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation celebrates the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Church. The Spirit of Jesus, the same Spirit that transformed the apostles, comes upon the members of the Church. According to the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, through Confirmation Catholics are “more perfectly bound to the Church” and are “as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread the faith by word

and deed". Confirmation seals believers in the Spirit, anointing them and empowering them to carry on the mission of Christ.

To that end, our program utilizes *Call to Celebrate: Confirmation* and *the Morality* series of Confirmation preparation by Our Sunday Visitor. *Call to Celebrate: Confirmation* embodies the principles that preparing young adolescents is a two-part process; a process of initiation and a process of liturgical catechesis. *Morality* presents a guide for the adolescent to recognize how faith matters in everyday life. Adolescents acquire the knowledge needed to understand their faith, participate in activities to live their faith, and ultimately come to love their faith, as they grow in their relationship with God.

Call to Celebrate prepares young people through Scripture, prayer, and in-depth content and age-appropriate opportunities with reflective and active experiences. *Morality* helps ready students for the next phase of their lives as Catholics.

PRAYER GUIDELINES

Level 1

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Grace Before Meals

Level 2

- Grace After Meals
- Short Act of Contrition
- Morning Offering
- Guardian Angel Prayer

Level 3

- Ten Commandments
- The Seven Sacraments
- Mass Responses for Introductory Part of the Mass

Level 4

- Apostles Creed
- How to Pray the Mysteries of the Rosary
- Hail Holy Queen/ Fatima Prayer
- Beatitudes

Level 5

- Angelus
- Acts of Faith, Hope and Love
- Come Holy Spirit

Level 6

- Nicene Creed
- Memorare

“The desire for God is written in the human heart.”

May 2020



Traditional Prayers for Catholic Children

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are 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 O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give you thanks for all your benefits, Almighty God who live and reign forever. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

PRAYER TO MY GUARDIAN ANGEL



Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love entrusts me here. Ever this day be at my side to light, to guard to rule and guide. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

ACT OF FAITH



O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in Three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your Divine Son became Man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, Who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

ACT OF HOPE



O my God, relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

ACT OF LOVE



O my God, I love You above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because You are all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and worthy of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The Five Joyful Mysteries are:

- 1. The Annunciation**
- 2. The Visitation**
- 3. The Birth of Our Lord**
- 4. The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**
- 5. The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple**

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries are:

- 1. The Agony in the Garden**
- 2. The Scourging at the Pillar**
- 3. The Crowning with Thorns**
- 4. The Carrying of the Cross**
- 5. The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord**

The Five Glorious Mysteries are:

- 1. The Resurrection of Our Lord**
- 2. The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven**
- 3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles**
- 4. The Assumption of Our Blessed Mother into Heaven**
- 5. The Coronation of Our Blessed Mother in Heaven**

The Five Luminous Mysteries are:

- 1. The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan**
- 2. The Wedding at Cana**
- 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom**
- 4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord**
- 5. The Institution of the Eucharist**





FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls into Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER THE ROSARY

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that, meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our Life, our Sweetness, and our Hope. To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To Thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show us the Blessed Fruit of thy Womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



COME HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



REGINA COELI (Easter Time)

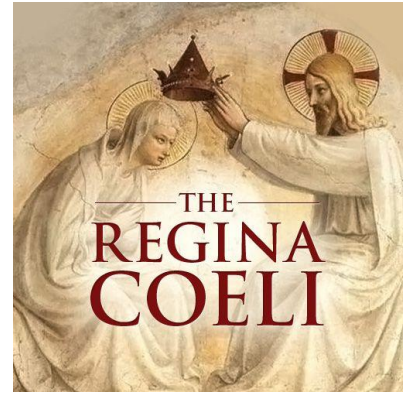
All: Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom it was your privilege to
bear, alleluia. Has risen as He said,
alleluia.

Leader: *Rejoice and be glad, Virgin Mary,
alleluia!*

All: For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All: O God, who, through the Resurrection
Of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, didst
vouchsafe to fill the world with joy;
grant, we beseech Thee, that, through
His Virgin Mother, Mary, we may lay
hold on the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.



THE ANGELUS

Leader: *The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:*

All: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary....

Leader: *Behold the handmaid of the Lord:*

All: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary . . .

Leader: *And the Word was made Flesh:*

All: And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary . . .

Leader: *Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, (cont'd)*



All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: *Let us pray:*

All: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

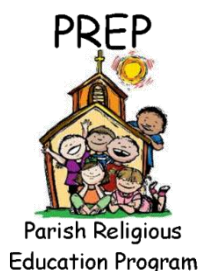


THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit He was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried, rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



The following guideline is to assist St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish families in the selection of the Summer PREP program for their child(ren)'s method of Religious Education.

What is the Summer PREP Program?

The Summer PREP program is an intensive one-week Religious Education program that is an alternative to the traditional weekly program. Total class hours are similar to the traditional program. There will be 30 hours of onsite learning, with an additional requirement of 5 Faith based activities throughout the year.

Dates and Times of the Program

Summer PREP will be offered from 8:30AM to 3:00PM, Monday through Friday. Dates in June to be determined and are dependent on the availability of Central Bucks school teachers.

Requirements for Successful Completion

- **Must be present for all five days of onsite class time.** Due to the intensity of the program, and the amount of material covered, child(ren) will not be permitted to arrive late and/or leave early. Illness or emergency absence will invalidate attendance in Summer PREP, and the child(ren) will need to be enrolled in the traditional weekly program to complete the PREP level. There will not be any makeup sessions or work to substitute for attendance.
- Attendance at Advent and Lenten PREP Confessions -**Levels 2 through 7** (date TBD).
- Sacramental preparation levels (**Levels 2 & 7**) **will be required** to attend a certain number of weekly classes, as the reception of the Sacrament draws near. Therefore, Level 2 will have a weekly class requirement leading up to the reception of First Reconciliation in January, and the reception of First Holy Communion in April. Level 7 will have a weekly class requirement leading up to reception of Confirmation, dates to be determined. The Confirmation Saint project will be required for all Confirmation candidates. Families will know well in advance which weekly classes are required for Sacramental candidates.

Attendance at all Sacrament retreats and practices is mandatory.

- In addition to the one week intensive, 5 Faith based activities must be completed throughout the year and before the start of the subsequent Summer program. Failure to complete these requirements will prohibit registration in the Summer program going forward. In order to track these activities, a short reflection will need to be submitted to the PREP office. Families will be provided with a standardized form. One form per activity. There is an expectation that families attend Mass weekly, and on Holy Days of Obligation, so these are not eligible for the Faith based activities. Attendance at a funeral, wedding, First Communion/Confirmation liturgies or Baptisms cannot be used. A list of suggested activities is contained at the end of this guideline. Faith based activities should be reflective of a family's participation in the life of St. Cyril Parish. For activities outside of the Parish, the DRE should be consulted to determine the activity's eligibility.

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the Summer program, families must be registered St. Cyril of Jerusalem parishioners. Current child(ren) enrolled in St. Cyril PREP, and in good standing, are eligible for registration. Class sizes will be limited, so acceptance will be on a first come, first serve basis. There will be only one class of each level, 1 through 7. Once a class is filled, registration for that level will be closed.

Program Staffing

The St. Cyril of Jerusalem Summer PREP program will be staffed by professional teachers, and parent/guardian volunteers. Professional teachers will serve as Catechists, and parent/guardian volunteers will be in an assistant capacity only.

Fee Structure (subject to change)

The Summer PREP fee reflects an increase over the traditional program. Summer PREP is staffed by professional teachers, and the fee charged reflects this increased cost. There is no hardship allowance for the Summer PREP fee. The traditional weekly program is available in the event of financial hardship.

1 Student- TBD (2025- \$275)

2 Students- TBD (2025- \$525)

3 Students- TBD (2025- \$625)

As with the traditional program, registration will be electronic through Parish Giving. Registration for the Summer program will be opened in February, date TBD, and families will be notified via email and the Parish bulletin.

There is a fee discount for those parents/guardians volunteering their time in the Summer program. It will be prorated based on the hours of service.

If a family decides to pull students from the Summer program the week before the program commences, the fee **WILL NOT be refunded** unless the reason is due to serious illness or death in the family.

Additional Considerations:

- There are no food services in the program. Families will need to provide a peanut free lunch, snack, and water bottle daily.
- All policies contained in the SCOJ PREP Family Handbook will apply to the Summer program, such as student code of conduct, arrival/dismissal procedures, dress code, parental custody agreements, cell/technology policy, etc.
- Child(ren) may dress comfortably but appropriately during the Summer PREP week, except for the following: no tank tops, midriff tops, extremely short shorts, and flip flops. Dress should be appropriate for participation in Church activities such as Mass, Adoration, Church tour, etc.
- Safe Environment lessons (KidTalk) will be presented to all levels during one of the class days. This is an Archdiocesan requirement. Families will be given the opportunity to opt-out of this small portion of class time, just as in the traditional program.
- The selection of classrooms is based on the ability to utilize air-conditioned space. Every effort will be made to keep both the Faculty and students comfortable, so that there is an optimal atmosphere for learning.

Faith Based Activity Suggestions for Families:

Attendance at daily Adoration. (Mon.-Fri until noon; Wed. evening 7:30PM -8:30PM)

Parish 40 Hours Celebration

All Soul's Day Mass

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Memorial Day Mass

Advent Giving Tree Gift Organization

Attendance/ or Participation at the Live Nativity

Participation in the Christmas Eve Tableau, 3:30PM Liturgy

Ash Wednesday Service

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Living Stations of the Cross Attendance /or Participation

Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday

Good Friday Service

May Procession

Rosary Rally on Parish grounds in October
40 Days for Life signup at Planned Parenthood
A Baby's Breath Run for Life in Tyler Park
Mass Greeters (one month of Sundays)
Missalette Maintenance in Church & Cry Room after Masses (one month of Sundays)
Manna Bag for Nutritional Development Food Sorting
Thanksgiving Drive Food Sorting
Altar Server Training
Monthly Snack Bag Assembly
Any other activity not listed that is sent throughout the year by the DRE

