

Saint Rose of Lima Adolescent Faith Formation

To the parents of our 7/8 Grade Faith Formation children,

Summer greetings everyone! I pray these weeks off from school have been a time for rest and refreshment for both you and your children. Here at the parish we are busy preparing for another year of Faith Formation for our young people. This year we will focus on the Gospels and other New Testament writings as we strive to help our young people better understand the teachings of Jesus and how they apply to our lives today.

Our theme for the year is “Rock Solid” – which refers to the following Gospel passage from Matthew: *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Mt 7:24)*. This passage illustrates the importance of having a strong foundation based on faith. Our goal is to help our young adolescents navigate the challenges of their middle school years with Jesus as their role model and guide, and to help them grow in faith and virtue. We also hope to be a resource to you, our parents, as you deal with the pressures of raising a teenager in this hectic and uncertain time.

Enclosed you will find the calendar of required activities, the “Student Contract” which we ask each student and a parent read and sign.

Please return both forms by the first class session which is Monday/Tuesday September 23/24. **(PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SPECIAL ONE-HOUR SESSION TO WHICH PARENTS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND WITH THEIR CHILD.)** You may fax it to 973-379-5356, scan and email it to teenfaith@stroseshorthills.org, or mail or drop-off to the Devine Center.

We are still in need of a few more catechists and ask that you prayerful consider this opportunity. Each catechist will be assigned a small group of approximately 12 students and classes meet every other week. If you are interested in (or know of someone else whom I might contact) please let me know as soon as possible. You may share the duties with another catechist if you prefer. Catechists receive a full-tuition discount and co-catechists receive a 50% discount.

On behalf of myself, Regina Furlan, and our entire parish staff I thank you for allowing us to partner with you in helping to form our young people, and we look forward to serving you and your children throughout the year. In the meantime if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at the email below, or Regina at rfurlan@stroseshorthills.org, or by phone at 973-376-1960.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Tracy Ricciardi
Director of Adolescent Faith Formation
tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org

Cc: Fr. John McCrone, Pastor
Regina Furlan

Saint Rose of Lima Parish 7/8 Grade Faith Formation
2019/20 CALENDAR/REQUIREMENTS

MONDAY

September 23*
October 7
October 21
November 4
November 18
December 2
December 16
January 7
January 20
February 3
February 24
March 9
March 23
April 13
April 27

**SPECIAL ON-HOUR
SESSION WITH PARENT*

TUESDAY

September 24*
October 8
October 22
November 5
November 19
December 3
December 17
January 8
January 21
February 4
February 25
March 10
March 24
April 14
April 28

Special Closing Session: May Procession on Monday, May 4

CLASSES MEET FROM 7:00PM-8:30PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

All 7/8 graders are required to participate in the following:

SERVICE TRIP TO COMMUNITY FOODBANK (Saturday morning)
November 16 OR December 7, OR January 11 from 8:30am-11:30am

RETREAT

Monday, January 20 or Tuesday, January 21 from 6:00pm-9:00pm

PARISH EVENTS

In addition to sessions/activities listed above, all 7/8 graders are required to participate in one parish event during Advent and one during Lent:

- ❖ Lessons & Carols (Advent) – December 8
- ❖ Family Advent Breakfast ~ December 1
- ❖ Fridays in Lent – Way Walkers Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross
- ❖ Living Stations of the Cross – Friday, April 3

Saint Rose of Lima 7/8 Faith Formation: **ROCK SOLID!**

STUDENT CONTRACT/CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission/objectives of our 7/8 grade program are to help our students grow in character and virtue through a deeper understanding of the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ; to help them face worldly challenges and pressures with a solid grounding in their Catholic faith; to empower them to become servant leaders and to live out their baptismal call to discipleship. This requires a shared commitment from our parish staff, volunteer catechists, parents and students.

All students are expected to adhere to a "Code of Conduct" as outlined below. A more detailed explanation of each can be found on the reverse of Contract. **Both students and parents should read everything carefully and sign the agreement below.**

- All students are expected to behave in a cooperative and respectful manner towards their catechist, fellow classmates and all parish volunteer and staff members at all times. This includes proper behavior while entering and exiting the building, and in the carline during pick-up.
- Students are expected to dress appropriately for all activities as detailed on the Dress Code.
- Cell phones and other electronic items must be turned off at all times.
- All students must successfully complete all required activities as listed on Calendar.

WE HAVE READ THE STUDENT CONTRACT ABOVE AND AGREE TO COOPERATE
AND ABIDE BY THE POLICIES THEREIN:

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE SIGN RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 8

50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078
Phone: 973-376-1960 Fax: 973-379-5356
Email: teenfaith@stroseshorthills.org

Saint Rose of Lima 7/8 Faith Formation

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS

NO more than 3 excused absences are allowed. Parents **must** send an email to the Faith Formation office at rfurlan@stroseshorthills.org, OR send your child with a signed note. **7th & 8th graders must complete make-up assignments for each week missed, by the next class.** Excessive absenteeism will require a meeting with the family and the Director of Adolescent Faith Formation to determine an appropriate program of action.

It is the parents' responsibility to insure that your child arrive on time and stay through the entire class. Obviously, there are situations beyond your control that cause parents and children to be late sometimes. However, it should never be a continuing occurrence as it is very disruptive to the class.

EARLY PICK-UP OF A STUDENT: Please make every effort to schedule other appointments at times that do not interfere with your child's faith formation. If there is an instance that requires early pick-up you must put the **request in writing and email it to the office in advance.** Your child will be escorted to the carline at the appointed time. A child is to be released only to parents or an adults as indicated on the written request from the parent. **NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO A SIBLING.**

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN, NO PARENT OR UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE BUILDING AND PICK UP A CHILD AT THE CLASSROOM DOORS AT ANY TIME.

CARLINE RULES AND PROCEDURES

In general, it only takes 10 minutes to dismiss all students from sessions. For the safety of all our students your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated with the following:

Drivers are expected to stay in their cars and utilize the carline. It is dangerous for our students and parents to walk in front of the cars to pick up. If you must pick them up on foot for some reason, please park in the back of the lot near Short Hills Avenue and walk on the Short Hills Avenue sidewalk and not in between the cars lined up. Students waiting for their rides will wait on the brick walkway by the rectory until their ride arrives and remain attentive and respectful. No horsing around, climbing, or running around on the grounds is permitted.

DRESS CODE

One of the main goals of our 7/8 grade program is to help our young teens grow in virtue. This includes the virtue of modesty. While popular styles and fashions tend to push boundaries, we expect our students to come to class, Mass, and other related activities dressed appropriately. Casual clothing is permitted, however irreverent or revealing clothing is NOT acceptable. Absolutely NO short shorts or skirts (shorter than mid-thigh), no tank, halter, or see-through tops, or spaghetti straps. T-shirts with inappropriate pictures or wording are also not permitted. No hats or caps are to be worn indoors. Students who violate these policies will be first warned and on subsequent occasions the parents will be called to bring a change of clothes.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC ITEMS

If a parent needs to reach their child during class they should call the Devine Center phone at 973-376-1960. The night receptionist will find an adult supervisor to handle the situation. Students found with their phones on during class will be asked to surrender them for the remainder of the class session. All other electronic items are also not permitted (iPods, games, etc.) Abuse of these policies will result in the removal of the item.