

6TH GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: BE MY LIGHT!

August 1, 2018

Dear 6th Grade Parents,

I hope this finds you and your family well and enjoying the remaining weeks of summer. It is my pleasure to officially welcome you and your child to our new 6th grade Religious Education program: Be My Light! The focus of this year will be on the Liturgy and the Liturgical year as we strive together to help our young people grow in faith through a greater appreciation of the Mass and other liturgical celebrations throughout the year, and to encourage their active participation in the life and mission of the Church.

Included in this Welcome Packet is the Calendar/Requirements for the coming year. Classes meet on Monday or Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm (concurrent with the 7/8 grade program). Our first gathering is on Monday/Tuesday, September 17/18. The other dates on the calendar reflect the additional required activities throughout the year. You will note that on some months the 6th graders will meet on other days/times to correspond with Holy Days/Liturgical celebrations or special events planned for them.

Included in this Welcome Packet is a Student Contract and the Parish Policies and Procedures for Religious Education. Please read these over with your child and submit a signed copy of the Contract by the first day of class. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me by email or by phone. I am happy to meet in person as well if you prefer.

Sr. Sandy and I are very excited about taking this new journey with you and your child and look forward growing together as a community of faith. Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer.

Blessings and peace,
Tracy Ricciardi
Director of Adolescent Faith Formation
tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org
973-376-1960, x3503

Cc: Fr. John McCrone, Pastor
Regina Furlan, x3971, rfurlan@stroseshorthills.org

2017-2018 CALENDAR & REQUIREMENTS

Class Dates

MONDAY

September 17
October 1
October 15
October 29
November 12
November 26
January 21
February 4
March 25
April 8
April 22
May 6

TUESDAY

September 18
October 2
October 16
October 30
November 13
November 27
January 22
February 5
March 26
April 9
April 23
May 7

(Classes Meet from 7:00pm-8:30PM)

SPECIAL EVENTS

All 6th Graders are expected to participate in the following activities:

- Advent special event on Friday, December 7
- Epiphany Session with parent on Sunday, January 6
- Ash Wednesday Session on Wednesday, March 6
- 6th Grade Retreat on Friday, February 1 or 22 (choose one date)

6th Grade – BE MY LIGHT!

STUDENT CONTRACT/CODE OF CONDUCT

The mission/objectives of our 6th grade religious education program are to help our young people grow in faith through a greater appreciation of the Liturgy and the Liturgical year, and to encourage their active participation in the life and mission of the parish and the universal Church. 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 in all required activities as list 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 THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078

Phone: 973-376-1960 Fax: 973-379-5356

Email: middleschool@stroseshorthills.org

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS

NO more than 3 excused absences are allowed. Parents must call the Religious Education office at 973-376-1960, x3971 to report a child's absence as early in the day as possible. 6th 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 bring it to the office in advance. You will pick up your child at the office, not the classroom.

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. We do not want students walking in front of cars. If you must pick them up on foot for some reason, please 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.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC ITEMS

Cell phone use is not permitted during class sessions and other planned activities. If a parent needs to reach their child during class they should call the office phone. 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.

DRESS CODE

One of the goals of our 6th grade program is to help our young people grow in faith and 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 and in a manner that reflects virtue. Casual clothing is permitted, however irreverent or revealing clothing is not acceptable. Please 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.