

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12*



WE ARE THE HANDS
OF CHRIST ON EARTH ...

Religious Education

Our mission is to educate the youth of our Parish in our Catholic faith and traditions. We offer a comprehensive Religious Education Program for children in Pre-K through 10th grade.



My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? *James 2:14*

St. Francis de Sales Parish
614 Route 517
Vernon, NJ 07462
www.stfrancisvernon.org

Share Your Faith ... by Sharing Your Time

Our teachers and aides are partners with parents in providing a firm foundation of our Catholic faith. In essence we try to plant the seeds of faith that will grow through the years, and allow the youth of our parish to grow into adult Catholics and enjoy a lifetime of belief in, and commitment to our Catholic ways and traditions.

It is our duty as Christians to share the Good News of Christ, and there is no better way to do this than through volunteering in our Religious Education Program.

Time Required:

Preschool and Kindergarten: Facilitate a 1-hour class during Advent and Lent. Music, story and crafts are used to teach important lessons and traditions about these holy seasons. Classes are held on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 AM Mass.

Summer Vacation Bible School Program: The hot and hazy days of July are a great time to help lead little ones to know God through music, games, crafts and bible stories. We always need new adult volunteers to help with this fun program that draws young children from age 4-12 from the community. If you have a flexible summer schedule, consider helping out!

Grades 1 through 8: Facilitate a class once a week from September to April. The time commitment for most grades is approximately two hours per week. Attend the General Meeting for teachers and aides in August and other scheduled department or grade level meetings approximately a few times per year. Spend time each week in lesson planning and preparation. If you feel that God could be calling you to this special ministry, contact our office and make an appointment to come in and talk about what is involved. We provide training and assistance with lesson planning to help you to become comfortable with your role as a teacher or classroom aide.

Talent:

If you have been blessed with the gift of faith, consider using your talents to help others receive that same gift.

Check out the many websites devoted to Catholic Catechists to get a feel for the many resources available to people in this ministry. Additionally, we have a video training series called "Echoes of Faith" that you can watch. Mentoring is also available from fellow catechists and the Religious Education Coordinator.

The Religious Education Resource Room is dedicated to the support and enrichment of the core curriculum. There are videos, music and games available and each teacher is provided with a manual for lesson planning.

As an adult working with the youth of the parish, the Diocese of Paterson requires every volunteer (steward) to attend the Protecting God's Children Workshop and undergo fingerprinting and a criminal background check.

Catechists are asked to participate in the Diocesan Certification process.

Facilitator:

Jane Kurzweiler — 973- 827-8300 Ext. 327
jane@stfrancisvernon.org