

SAINT HIPPOLYTE CHURCH

FAMILY
FAITH
FORMATION
PARENT HANDBOOK
2024-2025

“SAY THE WORD AND MY SOUL SHALL BE HEALED”

It is the mission of
Saint Hippolyte Parish
to fully, consciously and actively
grow as a family centered in Christ
ministering to the entire Christian community.

COMPONENTS OF CATECHESIS

“Like other pastoral activities, catechetical ministry must be understood in relation to Jesus’ threefold ministry. It is a form of the ministry of the word which proclaims and teaches. It leads to and flows from the ministry of worship, which sanctifies through prayer and sacrament. It supports the ministry of service, which is linked to efforts to achieve social justice and has traditionally been expressed in spiritual and corporal works of mercy.”

National Catechetical Directory, #32

- **COMMUNITY: Belonging to the Church**
a sense of belonging in the parish community and in the church at large
- **WORSHIP: Personal and liturgical prayer and faith**
becoming more conscious of God’s presence and more responsive to him in our daily living; praying with scripture; praying with and for one another; active participation in liturgical celebrations, especially the Eucharist
- **SERVICE: Justice and love in action**
use of talents and gifts in the service of others, especially the poor, the needy, the elderly and the disadvantaged
- **MESSAGE: Knowing the Catholic Christian tradition**
a basic knowledge of the faith; a basic understanding of Christianity; a deepened awareness of the person of Jesus; the teachings found in scripture; the role of the church in continuing the mission of Jesus to make known the Father’s love

VISION STATEMENT FOR CATECHESIS DIOCESE OF ERIE

We, of the Erie Diocese, believe all people to be unique and gifted individuals created by God and therefore challenged to grow toward an owned faith. All persons of the Body of Christ are vital members called to encounter Christ and to celebrate their lives in harmony with His message. This message proclaims the Reign of God evidenced through living communities of faith, gathered in worship, and sent forth in service. Only when all the members engage their gifts from the Spirit can the Church effectively bring Christ's light into the world.

PARISH FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Faith Formation Program of Saint Hippolyte establishes policy to ensure that all parishioners have appropriate and sustained opportunities to grow in faith.

VISION STATEMENT

Saint Hippolyte Faith Formation Program will enlighten the human and spiritual dimensions of each parishioner regardless of age or vocation.

PARISH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Faith Formation Program of Saint Hippolyte to catechize all parishioners in the faith of the Catholic Tradition in order to grow as a Christian community centered in Christ.

VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the Faith Formation Program of Saint Hippolyte that each parishioner will have the opportunity to grow in awareness, knowledge and practice of their faith.

PROGRAM GOALS

Saint Hippolyte strives to be a Christian community faithful to the Gospel and the Catholic Tradition. The parish is, in reality, a community of communities: students, faculty, farmers, townspeople, commuters, all united in the endless struggle and search to know, love and serve God, self and one another. The unique diversity of the parish offers at once a challenge and a rich resource for learning. The goals of our catechetical program are:

- To provide a program of formal religious instruction for the adults, children and youth of the parish.
- To support parents in their role as primary educators of their children.
- To offer sacramental preparation to children, youth and adults.
- To help youth discover the richness and challenges of Scripture and the teachings and tradition of the Catholic Church.
- To build a strong Catholic identity among the youth of the parish.
- To allow you to experience Church as a community.
- To deepen the prayer life of children and youth.
- To motivate youth to live lives rooted in charity and justice based on the moral teachings of the church.
- To expose students to the liturgical and sacramental richness that is part of the Catholic Tradition.
- To enable parents to become responsible, self-reflecting, loving and praying individuals.
- To make program that meet diverse spiritual needs available to adults of the parish.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENT(S)

It is the role of the parish to assist parent in nurturing the faith of their children. Parent(s) who enroll their children in the parish catechetical program will be assisted and enabled in their role as the primary educators of their children. Parent(s) are encouraged to approach the staff with ideas to meet specific needs in raising healthy and holy Catholic children and youth.

At the same time, it is essential that parents cooperate with the parish and work with those who are the designated leaders of the parish program. Parents are asked to fulfill the following expectations in order to promote the faith growth of the children and youth and to ensure a quality program.

A parent(s) who would like their children to attend the program:

1. Must be a registered member of the parish.
2. Is responsible for providing the parish with information regarding the child(ren)'s baptism and other sacraments, if applicable.
3. Attends Mass weekly with their child(ren).
4. Takes responsibility for their role as primary educator.
5. Collaborates with the catechists in the program by sharing faith with the child(ren) at home and by making sure the child(ren) does any required follow-up to the lessons taught in class.
6. Teaches the child(ren) the traditional prayers of the Church at home.
7. Maintains an open line of communication with the child(ren)'s catechist.
8. Brings the child(ren) to Mass and class at the prescribed time and picks them up promptly at the conclusion of class.
9. Makes sure the child(ren) enters the building where classes are held and goes to the classroom.
10. Brings the child(ren) to class dressed appropriately and ready to participate.
11. Attend parent meetings when requested
12. Is supportive of the catechist, especially in the area of discipline.
13. Reads this handbook, completes and turns in the forms necessary for registration.
14. Informs the religious education leader of the rights of the non-custodial parent in the case of separation/divorce. This is essential to ensure that the program acts in the best interest and safety of the child(ren).
15. Informs the religious education leader of any pertinent medical and emergency information.

ADMISSION POLICIES

Saint Hippolyte faith formation program does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, physical or mental challenges.

Any family that is registered in the parish of Saint Hippolyte may enroll their children in the catechetical program. In order for their children to be admitted, the family must complete the appropriate registration and student information forms and indicate that they have received and accept the policies contained in this handbook. Parents are also required to complete a medical release form for each of the children they wish to enroll in the program.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

Families with children who were not baptized at this parish are requested to bring a copy of the baptismal certificate, along with any other sacramental records for their child, when they enroll their child in the program. Children who have not been baptized will be accepted into the program provided the family intends to have them baptized and the parent(s) attend the required baptismal preparation program.

PARENTS AND CATECHISTS

Catechists that teach the classes in the Faith Formation program are volunteers. The parish has made every effort to screen them to insure that they are capable of handling the responsibility involved in this ministry. The diocese also offers training courses that increase the skills needed for the catechists to be successful. The faith formation leader supervises the catechists in order to help them fulfill their responsibility. As parents, you are asked to recognize the challenges involved in being a volunteer catechist and to support them in whatever ways possible. If any problems arise, however, please first contact the catechist to discuss the situation. If that does not lead to a satisfactory resolution, please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator. All parishioners have the right to final recourse from the Pastor of the parish.

CLASSES

ATTENDANCE

Children who are enrolled in the parish catechetical program are expected to be in attendance for each scheduled class session as well as attend Mass weekly. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to insure their presence. If your child is to be absent, you are asked to contact the Faith Formation office in advance. Attendance will be taken weekly for both classroom and Mass attendance.

MISSED CLASSES

Each class session builds on the material covered in preceding classes. Students with six (6) or more absences will have to make up the material covered in the missed classes. If this missed material is not made up the student must repeat the grade level.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Parents are asked to bring their children before the start of classes. Supervision will be provided for students during the stated class times. The program is not responsible for supervising children arriving more than 15 minutes early, or for the activity of children 15 minutes after dismissal. Please do not drop off children more than 15 minutes before classes are scheduled to begin and please pick up your child promptly at the end of class. Children are to be picked up only by the parent(s) or their designee. Parents are to notify the Faith Formation Coordinator if someone other than the parent or designee is to pick up their children. While all reasonable attention will be given to car-pools and the like, the police will be notified immediately if a child is seen leaving in a car not recognized by the faith formation leaders or catechists.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes are held at Saint Hippolyte on Sunday morning from 9:15am until 10:45am for students in grades Pre-School through 8. Confirmation Class (grades 9) meets on Sunday at 12:00 pm till 1:30 pm. The calendar given to parents each year provides the individual dates of the scheduled classes.

CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic devices or cell phones are permitted in any classroom or event sponsored by the church. Catechists are to hold these devices for their students until the end of the class or event.

CLASSROOM VISITS

Parents are permitted and encouraged to visit their child(ren)'s classroom at any time.

HOMEWORK

Catechists are encouraged to assign work for the children to do at home with the assistance of their parent(s). Parent(s) are encouraged to ask their children about homework after each class period.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parent(s) will be sent a progress report for each of their children twice a year. The reports will be sent in December and at the end of the school year. Please remember when testing for religious education that faith cannot be measured.

STUDENT RECORDS

Copies of registration forms, medical release forms and class attendance are kept in the Faith Formation Program office.

CURRICULUM

Saint Hippolyte follows the Diocese of Erie *Curriculum Guidelines*. Textbooks and other materials used in the classrooms are in conformity with the teachings found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and have been selected to most closely match the Diocesan Curriculum. They have been chosen because they offer catechists the resources necessary to conduct classes, which include all the elements of the ministry of catechesis.

These text materials have been evaluated and found acceptable by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Catechism of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Parents who would like to examine the text material should contact the Director of Faith Formation or the Pastor.

Pre-School	Seeds	published by Pflaum
K & 1	Good News	published by Pflaum
Grade 2, 3	Promise	published by Pflaum
Grade 4, 5	Venture	Published by Pflaum
Grades 6, 7, 8	Edge	published by Life Teen
Grade 9, 10	Purpose	published by Life Teen
Grade 11, 12		Small group mentoring

HOME SCHOOLING

Some parents, especially those who home-school their children, may choose to offer catechetical instruction to their children at home. Because the pastor is responsible for all forms of catechesis in the parish, it is the parent's responsibility to communicate with the Faith Formation Coordinator and the Pastor that they wish to offer catechesis to their children at home. Parents who choose to catechize their children at home are required to use the same textbooks as used in the parish religious education program and follow the Diocesan guidelines. After 6th grade they must be enrolled into the Edge Program or the Purpose program in preparation to being Confirmed.

SACRAMENTS

FIRST RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is first celebrated by children in the spring of the second grade provided the child has been enrolled in our faith formation program or that of another Catholic parish for one year prior to second grade. Students who have not participated in a Faith Formation program will be provided with the opportunity for private instruction for the sacramental preparation.

Attendance at class and Mass is essential. If a student misses 3 or more classes they will be evaluated and reception of the sacrament may be delayed. Attendance at parish functions is highly encouraged.

Parents of children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation are required to attend the parent sacramental preparation session/family retreat day and are also required to participate in the preparation of their children for this sacrament. The parent session/family retreat and other important dates appear on the yearly calendar.

Children attending a Catholic school are to celebrate the sacrament in their home parish and must fulfill the above requirements.

FIRST EUCHARIST

The Sacrament of Eucharist is first celebrated in the third grade provided the student has been enrolled in our faith formation program or that of another Catholic parish for one year prior to second grade. Students who have not participated in a religious education program will be provided with the opportunity for private instruction for their sacramental preparation.

Attendance at class and Mass is essential. If a student misses 3 or more classes they will be evaluated and reception of the sacrament may be delayed. Attendance at parish functions is highly encouraged.

Parents of children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist are required to attend the parent sacramental preparation session/family retreat and are also required to participate in the preparation of their children for this sacrament. The parent session/family retreat and other important dates appear on the yearly calendar.

Children attending a Catholic school are to celebrate the sacrament in their home parish and must fulfill the above requirements.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the 9th and 10th grade. Confirmation students must have previously participated in faith formation classes on a regular basis in our parish or that of another Catholic parish. Students who have not participated in a faith formation program will be provided with the opportunity for private instruction for their sacramental preparation.

Attendance at class and Mass is essential. If a student misses 3 or more classes they will be evaluated and reception of the sacrament may be delayed. Attendance at parish functions is highly encouraged.

Students in the Confirmation Program must be committed to attend every class, attend and participate in Mass, and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis. Students are also required to complete several service projects; each consisting of at least one and one half hours in length, involving their community, their family and their church. Students are required to attend one retreat each year during their three year preparation process.

Confirmation students, their parents and their sponsors are required to attend the parent meetings, sponsor meetings and any other sacramental preparation sessions as scheduled on the yearly calendar.

CHILD PROTECTION MANDATED REPORTER COMPLIANCE CHILDLINE: 1-800-932-0313

The list of adult mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse include: all state-licensed professionals; employees of health care facilities; school employees; **members of the clergy or other spiritual leaders**; child-care providers; social service workers; **any individual (paid or unpaid) who accepts responsibility for a child as part of that individual's role in a regularly scheduled program or activity and has direct contact with children**. The pastor, faith formation coordinator and all adults are required by law by the PA Revised Code and the Diocesan Policy on Child Abuse to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.

Annual in-service videos for *Safe Environment Training* in an age appropriate manner are presented to the students enrolled in our parish's faith formation program. Dates of these training sessions are provided on the Faith Formation calendar. Parents who refuse to allow their child(ren) to participate in this training are required to sign a form and will receive information to train their child(ren) at home. Please contact the Faith Formation director with questions or for a copy of the refusal form. The Diocese of Erie's *Policy for the Protection of Children* is posted on the bulletin board at Saint Hippolyte Church.

DISCIPLINE

Everyone involved in the program is challenged by the words and example of Jesus to respect each person's right to be treated now only with dignity and respect but also with love. In order to provide for a safe and well-ordered program in which students and catechists can learn to follow Jesus' call to love, some rules for behavior are necessary. Students are expected by their behavior to make the classes safe and positive experiences for themselves and their classmates. The program exists for student growth and in turn students are expected to carry out the following responsibilities:

1. Show respect to catechists, other students and program personnel.
2. Treat the property, good name and physical safety of others with respect.
3. Be present only in the areas of the building for which they have permission as a specific time.
4. Act in a safe manner in and around the building.
5. Use voice and display actions in a manner appropriate for a classroom.
6. Be respectful of the study time of others.
7. Use of and/or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is strictly prohibited. Such items will be seized and parents notified immediately. The child will be immediately removed from the environment

Good disciple is self-discipline and is always aimed toward growth. We recognize that children may make mistakes and the role of the catechist at times will be one of guiding and correcting those mistakes in a positive manner. These corrections will always be done with the best interest of the child in mind and at no time will Saint Hippolyte accept the demeaning or intimidation of children in the name of discipline.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

At the time of the first correction, the student will be warned. Students whose behavior becomes a continual problem in the classroom will be sent out of class to the faith formation leader. If the student's behavior continues to be a problem, the student will be removed from class and the parent(s) will be contacted. At this time the parent(s) may be asked to sit in on the class for a few weeks to observe their child and his/her interaction with the catechist and other students.

WEAPONS POLICY

In order to ensure a safe and Christian environment, it is forbidden for anyone to possess a weapon or any object/material/substance that could be used as a weapon or confused with a real weapon by any reasonable person (toy guns, etc.) in the buildings, or within the geographic boundaries of Saint Hippolyte, or in any location used by the parish to conduct any catechetical

activity, or in any conveyance providing transportation to or from an activity related to the Faith Formation program.

Weapons or potential weapons will be confiscated by the Faith Formation leader when this action does not place the Faith Formation leader in danger. If the student has used a weapon against another person or will not surrender the weapon or offending object/material/substance immediately and willingly, the local police will be called first, followed by notification of the parent(s). This is a zero tolerance policy.

Any student who violates this policy will be subject to immediate parish disciplinary action over and above any civil/criminal action brought by injured parties. The student will be removed from the Faith Formation class and an alternative method of education will be negotiated with the parent(s) for the remainder of the year. Judgments about re-admittance to the program for the following year will be made on a case by case basis and this decision is at the sole discretion of the pastor.

THREATS OF VOILENT BEHAVIOR

As a community of believers who value patience over aggression, and love above all else, it is inconsistent with our basic values to tolerate an environment of threat or fear. Threats of harm made against another individual or group of individuals are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

This policy recognizes that in any community of people there will always be some conflict. Students will always be encouraged to manage their conflict in a positive, non-aggressive manner. Behavior such as cursing, pushing, or fighting will not be tolerated.

In cases which are deemed by the catechist or faith formation leader to be “minor” (meaning: no reason to believe the situation would lead to physical harm) the students will be separated and encouraged to work out their differences after a “cool-down” period.

If the catechist regards the altercations as “serious” (meaning: reasonable expectation that the conflict will lead to physical harm) the students will be immediately separated, the faith formation leader will be notified, and the parent(s) of the students will be called. The faith formation leader must determine that the conflict is resolved before the students will be re-admitted to the program.

Students are expected to report to their catechist or faith formation leader any threat made by a student which mentions the killing of any person. Such threats will be immediately reported to the police for investigation. The student making such threats will be suspended from the program until such time as the police investigation is completed and the appropriate authorities are satisfied that there is no real threat of harm. In such a case, judgments about re-admittance to the program will be made on a case-by-case basis and this decision is at the sole discretion of the pastor.

HARASSMENT

Respect for the dignity and work of each individual is a basic precept of Catholic doctrine and therefore of Saint Hippolyte. Each person is entitled to work in an environment free from discriminatory practices such as any form of harassment based on race, sex, creed, color, age, or disability, including sexual harassment. Parish leadership wishes to be vigilant regarding harassment whether between or among catechists and/or parish leaders, among students, or between catechists/parish leaders and students. Such behavior will not be tolerated and if persistent harassment is proven, the offender will be dismissed when this is appropriate. Harassment in all forms is illegal as well as immoral and individuals will be encouraged to seek legal protection when necessary.

The term *harassment* refers to behavior that is not welcome, that is personally offensive and that fails to treat others with dignity and respect. It includes treating someone unfavorably because of their race, sex, creed, color, age or disability. Harassment may take the form of discrimination, unwelcome or critical comments or action. Harassment on the basis of sex might include unwelcome sexual advances, requests or demands for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct, including, but not limited to:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, intimation or comments.
- Visual contact such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures.
- Physical contact such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movements, or interfering with work, studies or play because of sex.
- Retaliations for having reported or threatened to report such harassment.

The term *sexual harassment* refers to harassment based on the gender of the offended individual when the people involved are of different “levels” within the parish. It involves threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of employment, grades or other benefits or to avoid some other loss of benefits in return for sexual favors. It also means creating a hostile environment for the student or employee such that it is an unfit environment for learning or work. Examples include, but are not limited to repeated unwelcome sexual advances, repeated sexually explicit jokes or comments, or the display of sexually inappropriate materials.

Allegations and complaints of any type of harassment must be reported as soon as possible. Parent(s) who become aware of incidents of sexual harassment should report them immediately to the pastor, faith formation coordinator or faith formation site leader.

WEATHER AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

CANCELLATION OF CLASS

Classes may be cancelled from time to time because of inclement weather. All Faith Formation families will be contacted by telephone or other means as needed.

SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR FIRES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

There are safety procedures posted in each classroom for fire and tornado emergencies. Catechists will instruct the students in these procedures the first week of class. In case of fire or a tornado, attendance will be taken after an emergency evacuation as no child will be dismissed without their parent or guardian. Parent(s) must check with the faith formation leader before leaving with their child to avoid unnecessary search and rescue operations.

SICKNESS AND INJURY

SICKNESS

Should a student become ill while in class, parent(s) will be contacted according to the information provided on the student registration form. If the parent is unavailable, attempts will be made to reach the backup person listed. The faith formation leader will make every effort to keep the child comfortable until he/she is picked up. Medications will not be administered to the child.

MEDICATIONS

Children are not to bring medications with them to faith formation classes without advance permission of the faith formation leader. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to notify the faith formation leader immediately of any changes in allergies or dietary restriction.

INJURY

Catechists are asked to report any injury to the faith formation leader immediately. If an injury occurs, first aid will be administered in strict accordance with the Blood-borne Pathogens regulations of the Diocese of Erie and the parent(s) will be contacted. If the injury requires immediate medical attention, the faith formation leader will call the appropriate emergency services, followed by a call to the parent(s). A first aid kit is available in the faith formation office. If the incident involves an exchange of bodily fluids (for example, as in a wound which breaks the skin), the student(s) will be asked to submit to medical tests for transmittable diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis B as recommended by a doctor. These tests will be at the parent's expense. In the name of being a community of Christians motivated by care and respect, this policy asks that the results of these tests, which are governed by guidelines of strict confidentiality, be openly share with the respective parties on a need-to-know basis.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parents will be notified regarding any event or field trip for which the children will be taken off the parish grounds. No child will be required to attend such an event. However, if the child does desire to attend a field trip or special event, the parent must fill out a permission slip and turn it in to the faith formation leader. No child can be taken on such trips without the required permission and release forms.

ELEMENTARY AND ADOLESCENT FAITH FORMATION

The Pre-School (age 4) through grade 5 Faith Formation program emphasizes learning the basic truths about God, our faith and living as Catholic Christians. Participants grow in their understanding of the faith community through faith formation classes, prayer services, parish liturgies and service to others.

Our youth program, for students in grades 6 through 12, offers time to journey with others in friendship by sharing the Gospel message through prayer, service to others and social activities. The Diocese of Erie also offers other opportunities to students in this age group. All students are strongly urged to attend these events offered through the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Students are expected to attend all activities associated with this program.

All students are expected to participate weekly in the Sunday liturgy, attend religious education classes, and participate in youth activities.

PRINCIPLES FOR ADOLESCENT CATECHESIS

All of the baptized, because they are called by God to maturity of faith, need and have therefore a right to adequate catechesis. It is the primary responsibility of the Church to respond to this in a fitting and satisfactory manner...

Paragraph 167 of the *General Directory for Catechesis*

Thus, by virtue of his/her baptism...

1. Every young person has a right to ALL dimensions of catechesis as defined by the Church in the *General Directory for Catechesis* and *Renewing The Vision*.
GDC: Message, Community, Worship, Service, Prayer and Morality
RTV: Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Worship

2. Every young person is on the journey of faith and has a right to be respected for their place on that lifelong journey.
3. Every young person has a right to know that they are created in dignity and loved by God, and has a vocation to personal holiness.
4. Every young person has a right to ministry which informs them about Christ, which transforms that in Christ and which conforms them to Christ.
5. Every young person has a right to meaningful and responsible participation in the life of the community in an age appropriate manner and in harmony with their gifts.
6. Every young person has a right to discover how God is already present in their lives, their experiences, their families and their culture.
7. Every young person has a right to relationships whose quality is of Christ and whose focus is the young person.
8. No human being is every finished or complete. Therefore everyone has a right to continuing catechesis through young adulthood and into Christian maturity.

PRAYERS TO KNOW BY

Prayer	PS-K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Sign of the Cross	X	X					
Our Father		X	X				
Hail Mary		X	X				
Glory Be		X	X				
Act of Contrition			X				
Apostles' Creed				X	X		
Hail Holy Queen					X		
Prayer to the Holy Spirit						X	X

Biblical Literacy

It is the intention of this Curriculum Guideline to promote a basic familiarity with the Word of God. The Scriptures are our primary text and if one is to be shaped by the Word of God one must have a basic knowledge of the Scriptures. Therefore, in addition to the knowledge objectives for each grade level this Curriculum Guide asks the parish to ensure that each student is well versed in the Scriptures. This list of Biblical stories is covered differently by different publishers which makes it impossible to require certain stories in a particular grade level. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the parish to see that the students are knowledgeable of these stories as they are encountered in their texts across the Preschool-Elementary Curriculum.

Tell the following Biblical stories in a manner appropriate to their age.

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
2. Adam & Eve (Genesis 3)
3. Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)
4. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12; 15; 1718)
5. Joseph (Genesis 3:40-47)
6. Moses (Exodus 1-15)
7. Ruth and Naomi (Book of Ruth)
8. David (1 Sam 17; 2 Sam 5-7)
9. Solomon (1 Kings 5-6)
10. Jonah (Book of Jonah)
11. Christmas (see next page)
12. Zaccheus (Lk 19:1-10)
13. The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37)
14. Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32)
15. Feeding of the 5000 (Mt 14:13-21)
16. Jesus Tempted in the Desert (Mt 4:1-11)
17. The Good Shepherd (Jn 10:1-18)
18. Baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-17)
19. Money Changers (Mk 11:15-19)
20. The Repentant Woman (Lk 7:36-50)
21. The Healing of the Paralytic (Lk 5:17-26)
22. The Transfiguration (Mt 17:1-13)
23. St. Paul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-19)
24. Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-12)
25. Martha and Mary (Lk 10:38-42)
26. Call of the Disciples (Lk 5:1-11)
27. Women at the Well (Jn 4:1-30)
28. Widow of Naime (Lk 7:11-17)
29. Raising of Lazarus (Jn 11:1-12:19)
30. Peter on the Water (Mt 14:22-33)
31. Calming of the Storm (Mk 4:35-41)
32. Easter (see next page)

Be able to tell the Christmas and Easter stories in an age appropriate manner in each year beginning in Grade 1. The students will be able to tell the Nativity story, the Last Supper story, and the Easter story in Grade 1. They will expand their knowledge of these essential faith stories so that by Grade 6 they will know all the stories as outlined below:

The Christmas Story

A John the Baptist Story (Mt 3:1-12)
Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38)
Visitation (Lk 1:39-56)
Nativity (Lk 2:1-15)
Epiphany (Mt 2:1-12)
Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38)
Lost in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

The Easter Story

Palm Sunday (Mk 11:1-11)
Last Supper (Lk 22:7-13)
Washing of the Feet (Jn 13:1-20)
Agony in the Garden (Mt 26:36-46)
Betrayal/Arrest (Mt 26:47-56)
Peter's Denial (Mk 15:66-72)
Jesus' Trial (Mt 26:57-68)
Way of the Cross (Lk 23:26-31)
Crucifixion (Mt 27:32-55)
Burial of Jesus (Lk 23:50-56)
Resurrection (Jn 20:1-10)
Women at the Tomb (Lk 24:1-12)
Emmaus Story (Lk 24:13-35)
Thomas Story (Jn 20:24-29)
Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)
Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

RCIA is a process for adults wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith. It is intended for those who have been away from the church as well as those contemplating becoming a Catholic. It is never too early to invite someone to enter into the RCIA process. Inquiry Sessions open to any interested adults begin each year in October. Contact the pastor or faith formation leader for more information.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Diocesan policy requires the engaged couple to contact the pastor at least six months prior to the anticipated marriage. The wedding date cannot be set until the first contact with the pastor has been made. Preparation includes participation in Pre-Cana, Engagement Encounter or NOVA and instruction by the pastor.

- **PRE-CANA** is offered as an all-day session or two afternoon or evening sessions at several parishes throughout the Diocese of Erie. Through a series of interesting presentations by married couples and a priest, engaged couples are shown the importance of communication. Issues discussed include communication, sacramental commitment, finances, spirituality, sexuality, family planning, and adjustments to married life.
- **ENGAGEMENT ENCOUNTER** is a full weekend for the couple to come to a new and deeper awareness of self, to learn greater communication skills, discover the beauty of sexuality and appreciate the role of sacrament in Christian marriage. The Encounter offers much private time for sharing with each other and to carefully consider marriage in light of personal strengths and weaknesses.
- **NOVA** is offered to couples when one or both is entering into a second marriage and is free to marry again in the church. This is a seven-hour experience which gives an opportunity to reflect on situations which differ from those faced by couples marrying for the first time. Issues discussed include: putting the past to rest, blending families, legal concerns and sacramental commitment.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION FOR NEW PARENTS

Parents wishing to have a child baptized are required to attend a class which explains the theology of baptism and offers practical information for sharing the Catholic faith with small children. Sessions are scheduled throughout the year at parishes within the Meadville Deanery. Please contact the parish office for more information. The session hosted at Saint Hippolyte Church is usually held during the month of May.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

A small faith sharing group meets on Monday mornings following the 8:30am Communion Service at Saint Hippolyte. A Communion Service is held at 8:30 am on Friday mornings at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. On the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm a Our Lady of Lourdes a rosary will be prayed. New members are always welcome to attend.

Parish Family Activities are held periodically during the year and are not just for Mommy, Daddy and the kids. Every parishioner – attached, unattached or detached of any age is invited and encouraged to attend. Some examples are Parish Vocation Day, Parish Mardi Gras Celebration, Journey to Bethlehem, Seder Meal, and our Parish Family Retreat.

Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples an opportunity to examine their lives together...a time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations...and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their life. The emphasis of Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's not a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor group sensitivity. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to rediscover each other and together focus on your relationship for an entire weekend. For more information, please contact the parish office or visit www.yourmarriageisworthit.org

Retrouvaille is designed to help heal and renew troubled marriages. The word *retrouvaille* simple means rediscovery. This program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. The emphasis in the program is on an effective technique of communication between husband and wife. This weekend experience is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminary, nor is it a social gathering. You will not be asked to share your problems with anyone else. For more information contact Christine Hess, Director of the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Erie at (814) 824-1261; (800) 374-3723 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org

Cursillo is a world-wide movement within the Catholic Church. It is an opportunity to make new friends, to answer questions and to clear doubts. It's an opportunity to spark a new love for your family, your friends and your church. It's a tool to help you deal with the problems of everyday life. It gives a chance for New Life; a New Beginning with the Holy Spirit as our guide. Cursillo weekends are from Thursday evening until Sunday evening. For more information pick up a brochure in the church vestibule or contact Carl and Kay Hotchkiss at (814) 425-3933.

Adult Faith Formation opportunities are offered throughout the year. Watch the bulletin for information regarding Bible Study and other topics that are available as well as small faith sharing groups during the Lenten season.

PARISH COORDINATOR FOR FAITH FORMATION

Joyce Tarr – 11641 Maplewood Road, Guys Mills, PA 16327

789-4266; 671-1009

FAITH FORMATION CATECHISTS

PRE-SCHOOL

SH Debbie Furry - 26579 Shaffer Rd. Guys Mills, Pa, 16327 814 720-4782

GRADE Kindergarten and Grade 1

SH Jen Gordon – 29078 Footskulak Road, Guys Mills, PA 16327 814 789-3161

GRADE 2

SH Amy Mercier – 26087 N. Frenchtown Road, Guys Mills, PA 16327 814 795-0052

GRADE 3

No students

GRADES 4 and 5

SH Kathy Young – 26821 Highway 27, Guys Mills, PA 16327 814 789-2749; 573-6410

GRADES 6, 7 and 8

SH Patricia and Steve Ferry 22604 Hwy 27, Meadville, PA. 16327 814 333-8441

SH Gabrielle Pierce – 26759 Guys Mills Road, Meadville, PA 16335 814 789-4897; 807-7384

CONFIRMATION – GRADE 9

David Paul – 20797 Star Route Meadville, Pa. 16335 (724) 877-0525

SUBSTITUTE CATECHISTS

SAINT HIPPOLYTE:

Shannon Ploski – 14714 Cherry Lane, Townville PA 16360 814 967-4065

Eileen Mantz - 7752 Vincent Rd. Cochranon, PA 16314 814 425-1405

Cindy McGowan - 11413 Schenenberg Rd, Guys Mills, PA16327 814 789-4581

PARISH RCIA TEAM

Carole & John Jones – 31521 Highway 27, Guys Mills PA 16327 814 789-2881

Carl Hotchkiss – 7113 Dutch Hill Road, Meadville PA 16335 814 425-3933

Joyce Tarr – 11641 Maplewood Road, Guys Mills PA 16327 814 671-1009