

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Religious Education Family Handbook



Jesus spoke, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

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GENERAL OFFICE INFORMATION

CM = Children’s Ministries All programs for children in 6th grade and younger

RE = Religious Education PreK 3’s to 12th grade

RD = Rainbow Days Preschool Ages 2, 3, 4, and 5 (by September 1st of each year) See their website for information

YM = Youth Ministries All programs for youth in grades 7th thru 12th

JYM = Confirmation Preparation, 7th and 8th grade
(Confirmation Preparation for youth in 9th – 12th grades)

LT = Life Teen, ALL youth 9th – 12th grade

- **CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES OFFICE HOURS** (during scheduled classes):

- Monday 9:00am to 8:30pm
- Tuesday 9:00am to 7:00pm
- Wednesday 9:00am to 6:00pm
- Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm
- Sunday 8:00am to 2:00pm

- **YOUTH MINISTRIES OFFICE HOURS:**

- Monday 9:30am to 8:00pm
- Tuesday 9:30am to 5:00pm
- Wednesday 9:30am to 9:00pm
- Thursday 9:30am to 5:00pm
- Friday Closed
- Sunday 12:30pm to 9:00pm

Due to the nature of youth ministry programming, office hours may fluctuate as we often host events in the evening, on weekends, and overnight retreats. We make every effort to post these events on our web calendar in advance.

RE CALENDAR FOR (Posted on-line in August of each school year)

The first day of classes begins on the Sunday following the Labor Day holiday each year. The days off during the year typically follow the Allen ISD calendar. No mailings are sent for class placement.

THE DUTIES OF PARENTS FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery—the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. #2223

“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.” #2226

A PARENT’S PRAYER

Lord, God, make me a better parent. Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, to understand all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them, and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and ask them for forgiveness, when I know that I have done wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame and ridicule as punishment. Let me not tempt a child to lie and steal. So guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do, that honesty produces happiness.

May I cease to nag; and when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue. Help me to gently correct the little errors of my children, and help me to see the good things that they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise.

Help me to treat my children as those of their own age, but let me not exact of them the judgments and conventions of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose, and to make their own decisions.

Forbid that I should ever punish them in anger. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable and have the courage always to withhold a privilege that I know will do them harm.

Make me so fair and just, so considerate and compassionate to my children that they will have genuine esteem for me. Help me to be loved and imitated by my children. Oh God, do give me calm, poise, and self control. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES - CLASS SCHEDULES:

Sunday:

- 8:00a.m.-9:15a.m.: Pre K3, Pre K4, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade
- 10:00-11:15am: Pre K3, Pre K4, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade
- 12:00p.m.-1:15p.m.: Pre K3, Pre K4, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade

Monday:

- 4:30p.m.-5:30p.m.: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade
- 7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade

Tuesday:

- 4:30p.m.-5:30p.m.: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade
- 6:00p.m.-7:00p.m.: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade

Wednesday:

- 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m.: Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

“Jesus is beckoning you to go on a real journey with Him—a journey in faith, which will demand all your generosity, enthusiasm, and courage. It can be a wonderful adventure. Jesus is depending on you. He depends on you to help free the world of sin and selfishness...but always remember that you never walk alone. Christ is your constant companion.

God's kingdom will be brought to fulfillment by your efforts...first in your own lives, and then in the world around you. The world is looking for signs of God's kingdom in your lives...For this reason, I invite all of you to 'seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). God is love, true love. Reflect that love, so that people will say 'I have seen God's kingdom'...because they have come to know you...Follow the path marked out by your Friend, Jesus.”

HOME STUDY PROGRAM

At St. Jude we offer a Home Study Program for children in the non-sacramental preparation years 3rd grade through 6th grade. This is a program for children who have extracurricular commitments that fill their after school schedule and make it difficult for them to attend weekly religious education classes consistently. The children and their families attend two gatherings during the year. One gathering is in September to receive materials and one is in May to end the year of classes, and attendance at these two gatherings is required. Along with the gatherings the children receive grade level curriculum books to be completed by the end of April. They also commit to completing eight “L.O.V.E. through Service” projects during the year.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

At St. Jude we offer two programs for children who have been determined by parents to have learning differences. One program is a self-contained classroom that meets on Monday afternoons at 4:30p.m. – 5:30p.m. The curriculum for this program is tailored to each child's needs. The class has one teacher to teach the class and one aide per student enrolled in the classroom. The second program is a “shadow” program. The child attends the regular class of religious education and an adult or teen helper is assigned to “shadow” the child in the classroom offering assistance and guidance to help learn about their faith.

“WE CARE” PROGRAM

This is a service program sponsored by Children's Ministries to help the young children of the parish understand the Corporal Works of Mercy, and to realize that individually and together we impact the world with our good works. Each month the program focuses on a different work as well as focusing on how we help ourselves and others at our church, in our community, in our country, and in the world. The works of mercy that we focus on during the year include feeding the hungry by completing Thanksgiving baskets in November; giving drink to the thirsty by collecting milk money for the orphans in Russia; clothing the naked by collecting baby clothes for the Gabriel Project, and visiting the sick by writing letters of cheer. The children also commit to completing two “L.O.V.E. through Service” projects during the year.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (ages 4 thru 1st Grade)

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the "Liturgy of the Word" section of the Mass. All children ages four years through First Grade are invited to participate at the Saturday evening Mass at 5pm, or on Sundays at the 8am,

10am or Noon Masses. The children are invited to come to the altar for a blessing, and then are led to the chapel by the adult facilitators. The readings they hear are from the children's lectionary and correspond with the readings the adults are hearing in the church. Following the readings the children enter into a discussion of the readings they heard, and how they can relate them to their life. The children recite the Apostle's Creed, and participate in their own Prayers of the Faithful. Returning to Mass occurs following the Prayers of the Faithful. Parents, please watch for your children when they return from their Liturgy of the Word during Mass. Some of our little ones are confused, and it would help if they knew you were expecting them!

OUR MINISTRY

To provide an informal setting that helps our children grow in their faith through the teaching of the Gospel of Our Lord by ordinary women, men and teens.

OUR REQUIREMENTS

1. Adults to facilitate and Teen Helpers age 13 and older
2. Safe Environment cleared
3. Devote an hour a week for class preparation – curriculum books provided along with lesson plans.
4. Children's Liturgy of the Word - Be willing to volunteer every few weeks for about 20 minutes during Mass.

Grandparents and parents - please consider being a volunteer for our younger members! If you do not want to be a "regular," please consider being a substitute.

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S MASS - Sundays at 10am

Each month, (from October thru June) St. Jude offers a Children's Mass. This program works in conjunction with the "We Care" program, and we enlist the help of our fifth and sixth grade Religious Education students. The children participate in several areas of the Mass. The homily for this Mass is specifically directed to the children who are invited to sit around the altar during the homily. Each month's offering will be posted in August of each year, as well as in the bulletin each month.

Objectives

St. Jude Catholic Church provides a comprehensive catechetical program based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Scripture, Catholic teachings and traditions. Each grade level focuses on a specific theme, as well as Catholic prayers, Catholic vocabulary, and Mass responses. By the end of each year, students will have been exposed to and understand a variety of topics within their grade level theme. All learning is cumulative and students are expected to be familiar with the previous curriculum. The learning of our Catholic faith begins in the home at birth and continues for a life time. Children are expected to be enrolled in religious education classes through high school. The reception of the sacraments is not the end to learning about the Catholic faith.

St. Jude uses the Blest Are We curriculum published by RCL Benziger for first through sixth grade. It is a developmental program based on Scripture and rooted in the teachings of our Catholic faith. Each unit is theme based and covers what Catholics believe, how Catholics worship, how Catholics are to live, and how Catholics pray.

Preschool - Kindergarten

St. Jude uses the "Stories of God's Love" curriculum published by RCL Benziger that helps the children discover and learn more about the many gifts, talents, and abilities that God has provided. Themes covered during the year include: God made Me, Family and Friends, Creation, Advent and Christmas, Senses, Jesus, Feelings, Prayer, Lent and Easter, Church and the Mass.

First Grade

Themes covered during the year include: the Catholic Church, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Followers of Jesus, the Mass, Gifts from God, the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Prayer Styles, the Sign of the Cross, and the Our Father.

Second Grade

Themes covered during the year include: What Catholics Believe, God’s Forgiveness, Scripture, the Bible, The Gift of Reconciliation, the Gift of Eucharist, the Holy Spirit, the Mass, Choices, Sin, Prayer, Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Baptism, Sacramentals, Works of Mercy, and Promoting Peace and Justice.

Third Grade

Themes covered during the year include: the Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, the Mission of the Church, Jesus’ Life, Death, and Resurrection, the Great Commandment, Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Baptism, Sacramentals, Works of Mercy, and Promoting Peace and Justice.

Fourth Grade

Themes covered during the year include: the Goodness of God, Jesus is the Son of God, the Holy Spirit, the Church, Morality and Social Justice, the Beatitudes, the Law of Love, the Ten Commandments, Catholic Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Baptism, Sacramentals, Works of Mercy, and Promoting Peace and Justice.

Fifth Grade

Themes covered during the year include: Creation, Signs of Christian Faith, All Seven Sacraments, Sanctifying Grace, Living the Beatitudes, Cardinal virtues, Holy Days of Obligation, Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, the Apostle Creed, Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Baptism, Sacraments, Works of Mercy, Promoting Peace and Justice.

Sixth Grade

Themes covered during the year include: the Old Testament, God Saves and Delivers Us, the Kingdom of God, God’s Will, God’s Promises, Sacrifice, The Ark and the Temple, Piety, Catholic Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, the Apostle Creed, Saints, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Promoting Peace and Justice.

L.O.V.E. THROUGH SERVICE (“Living Our Vocation Everyday” through Service)

In addition to attendance in class there are several opportunities to live our faith through our actions. These “love” events of service are a way for our parish to learn together, pray together and get to know each other and celebrate who we are as Catholics and members of St. Jude Parish. These events are a way for us to learn together, pray together, know each other as a parish family and allow us to celebrate together. As we gather together as a St. Jude parish family all that we do together will help us grow and come to know how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit work in our lives. We are responding to God’s call to serve others. They are intergenerational gatherings of our parish family offered throughout the year. We will offer a minimum of 10 “LOVE” events during the year and each family enrolled in religious education is required to attend a minimum of five events each year. Children enrolled in the Home Study Program are required to attend a minimum of 8 “LOVE” Events during the year. Everyone in the parish is welcome and

encouraged to attend. Children do not attend these Events alone, but with the entire family or at least one parent. These events include but are not limited to: Specific Family Workshops, Rosary Recitation before Mass, Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Family Potlucks, the Carnival, the Giving Tree Sort, Concerts, and other Parish Presentations.

Children's Ministries Events - LOVE through Service program (Children's Ministries headings will be in green)

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00pm-5:00pm

Children's Adoration: Father will guide the children in a simplified Eucharistic Adoration in the main sanctuary 4 times during the year.

Blessing of Students: During all weekend Masses the third weekend in August

Blessing of the Catechist: All weekend Masses after RE Classes start in September

*Parish Courtyard Carnival: First weekend in October. Come and celebrate with your parish family. Volunteer to help with a game or booth.

*Blessing of the Animals: First weekend in October - before the carnival in the grassy area behind the Administration Building.

*The Children's Rosary: October 7th is the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. We will have a Children's Rosary in the Church on or near the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to learn about the devotion to the rosary and how to pray with it. Family members please bring your rosary.

*Saints Alive: To celebrate All Saints Day, fifth and sixth grade students are invited to write a story about their favorite saint, create a costume, and present their paper to the other students during RE classes.

Children's Christmas Pageant Parent Meeting: A parent meeting will be held during the last week in November to discuss the pageant held every Christmas Eve.

*Children's Christmas Pageant Presentations: December 24th at the Children's Mass times. Attendance at the rehearsals is a requirement to participate in the presentations. The Mass attendance times are divided by the letters of the alphabet.

*Breakfast with St. Nick & Family Advent Traditions: Have breakfast with St. Nick and learn about the Advent traditions – This event is the first Saturday in December and is held in the Parish Hall.

*Holiday Variety Show: This event is held the first Saturday evening in December. (Practices for this event begin on Thursdays in September. Participation as a cast member counts as service, as well as, attending the presentation.)

*Movie Night: The second Friday in January we will join together as a community and enjoy an inspirational and faith-filled movie. Bring your favorite movie snack!

*Family Lent Traditions: Activities to help families during lent will be available at the weekly Family Stations of the Cross and Friday Fish Fries.

*Stations of the Cross: Family Stations are offered on Thursday's in Lent from 5:30pm-6:00pm. Regular Stations of the Cross with Benediction are offered on Friday's in Lent from 7:00-8:00pm.

*Living Stations of the Cross: These Stations are performed by our youth group on the Friday before Palm Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the teens of our parish.

*The Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil

*Recitation of the Rosary: Before Sunday Mass

*The Traveling Chalice Program: As a family volunteer to take the Chalice home for a week and prayer for vocations. This is a wonderful experience to bring the conversation of vocations to your family. You may sign up for this program in the Narthex of the church.

*Family Attendance at Other Sacraments: Attending a Catholic Wedding or an Ordination as a family is a great learning experience and teaches the children about other sacraments

*Family Service Project: Since we are called by God to serve others this is a great way to put the words of God into action. As a family you may choose to visit the sick, or the elderly, you may serve a meal to the hungry—there are a number of ways to perform service. We teach our children by these acts of mercy how God wants us to treat others.

VBS: in June – 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

Kids Creative Camps: Second full week in July and first full week of August from 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist typically begins in the first grade year at St. Jude and is completed at the end of second grade. For children who do not begin preparing to receive the sacraments in first grade there are special provisions made for them. Year 1 students will attend their specific grade level class. Year 2 students will attend a special Sacrament class to be held on Tuesdays from 6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.

First Reconciliation....The Sacrament of Forgiveness

Checklist for First Reconciliation

Parent must:

1. Attend Saturday evening or Sunday Mass with your child each week.
2. Attend (one parent) the First Reconciliation meeting in September - Attendance is required
3. Help prepare your child for First Reconciliation by doing the "At Home" Study Program given at the meeting
4. **First Eucharist Celebration** dates will be announced at this meeting.

Children must:

1. Be Baptized.
2. Be faithful in attending Religious Education classes or attending a Catholic school where religion is taught daily.
3. Complete the "At Home" Study Program
4. Attend the First Reconciliation Retreat

Children's First Reconciliation Retreat

Held in January of each year

Children's First Reconciliation Celebration

Held in January of each year

First Eucharist...A Sacrament of Initiation

Preparation for receiving the Eucharist begins in the first grade, and continues through second grade. Preparation for the sacrament includes the parent's participation.

Essential Conditions for the Reception of First Eucharist It is necessary that a child:

Believe that the Eucharist IS TRULY the BODY and BLOOD of Jesus, and have a DESIRE to receive Him.

Checklist for First Eucharist

Parents must:

1. Attend Saturday evening or Sunday Mass with their child every week.
2. Bring child's Baptismal certificate by the CM office.
3. Attend (one parent) the First Eucharist meeting in January - Attendance is required.
4. Help prepare their child for First Eucharist by doing the "At-Home" study program.

Children must:

1. Attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday.
2. Be Baptized.
3. Be faithful in attending Religious Education classes or attending a Catholic school where religion is taught daily.
4. Help prepare your child for First Eucharist by doing the "At Home" Study Program given at the meeting
5. Attend the First Eucharist Retreat in April.

Children's First Eucharist Retreat

Held in April each year

Children's First Eucharist Celebrations

Held in May each year

Baptism

Parents of children who have turned seven years old who have not been baptized need to talk with **Julie Buchanan** in the Children's Ministries office 972.727.1177 x 2225 to plan appropriate instruction.

Children younger than seven fall under infant guidelines for Baptism. Please contact **Peggy Runnels** in the Church office, 972.727.1177 x2210 for information regarding Baptism classes and the celebration of the sacrament.

CM Summer Programs

VBS (Vacation Bible School)

The VBS program is open to children who are three years old (could have completed a preschool three class) to children who have completed 4th grade (Children completing 5th grade attend God's Word Rocks) this current year. Registration will take place on the weekend following the parish Masses the first weekend in April.

God's Word Rocks

This is a Bible Study program created just for children who have completed the 5th grade this current year. Registration and the program run concurrently with the regular VBS program **the last full week in June** from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. Along with studying the Bible, the children will participate in a play to be held on the last day of VBS. The play is based on a story the children have been learning about all week.

Kids Creative Camps

Different fun-filled camps will be offered at St. Jude this summer **in July and August** for children ages three to twelve. The time will be from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. The cost for the camp is \$80.00 per child per session. Most everything is included in the cost, and it will be a great addition to your children's fun this summer. There are a minimum of four camp themes to choose from: music, literacy, cooking, and the famous Lego/robotics camp! Registration for camps begins in April.

Art Camps by Karen Karnuta

Art camp is offered each summer at St. Jude in different sessions. All the art classes include instruction in various types of art and offer the children experience in the use of various art mediums. The children complete many art projects and have an "art showing" on the last day for their parents. A schedule for the camps is available on-line beginning in April.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: JYM – Confirmation Preparation (Info headings will be in blue)

JYM: Confirmation Prep is St. Jude's Confirmation preparation for youth. Most youth begin preparation in 7th grade, and are Confirmed at the end of their 8th grade year. We also accommodate those youth in grades 9th through 12th grades that have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation through our JYM Confirmation prep.

Our Confirmation prep courses are designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents, and confirmation preparation is at the heart of this program.

JYM-Confirmation Prep:

- Allows the middle school youth different occasions to put their faith into action in a variety of ways: group discussion, small group activities, service projects, etc.
- Serves the diversity of personalities found in middle school youth by offering both large and small group settings.
- Prepares the students for Confirmation through a two-year program of catechesis, covering in-depth the primary tenants of our Catholic Faith.
- Is flexible enough to include our not-yet-catechized older youth within the same program, but catering to their specific needs as older adolescents.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW ~ Confirmation Preparation

JYM is our Confirmation Preparation process. In our diocese, Confirmation requires a two-year preparation process. These two years are to be completed consecutively.

Over the two-year course of study, students will do in-depth study of the following pillars of the Catholic faith:

- Saints of the New Testament
- Seven Sacraments
- The Creed
- Beatitudes / Virtues
- The Bible
- Respect Life/Pro-Life
- Saints of the Old Testament
- Ten Commandments
- The Mass (Liturgy)
- Angels
- Jesus Christ
- Vocations
- Chastity

JYM ~ Year 1: 7th grade students (those students in 8th – 11th grades who are just beginning Confirmation preparation will also be accommodated in JYM Year 1).

JYM ~ Year 2: 8th grade students who have completed their first year of Confirmation Prep, either at St. Jude, or transferring from another parish. (Those students in 9th – 12th grades who have completed Year 1 confirmation preparation classes will also be accommodated in JYM Year 2; Year 1 must have been completed in the previous year).

Class Schedules:

JYM – Year 1 classes: Wednesday 6:15pm – 8:15pm

JYM – Year 2 classes: Sunday 2:30 - 4:30pm

Checklist for Confirmation

Parents must:

1. Attend Saturday evening or Sunday Mass with your youth each week.
2. Submit copy of your youth's Baptismal certificate to the Youth Office (if baptized at St. Jude, must provide date and year of baptism).
3. Attend Parent Orientation, held in September, and Parent Information Meeting in January.
4. Help prepare your youth for the Sacrament of Confirmation by reading through the 'Parent-Updates' e-mailed each week to parents. These 'Parent-Updates' allow you to follow along with the curriculum, so as to partner with your student in understanding and progressing in knowledge of the faith. These updates are also our primary means of communication between the parish and home with regard to your student's Confirmation classes.

Youth must:

1. Attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week (First Precept of the Church).
2. Be baptized, and have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. (For those youth who have not yet received Baptism, Reconciliation or Eucharist, see “Special Sacraments Classes” below).
3. Be faithful in attending JYM Confirmation Prep classes.
4. Complete a minimum of 15 hours of parish service during EACH year of preparation.
5. Attend Confirmation Retreat in Year 2 of Preparation.
6. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor, according to the guidelines outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (parents may NOT serve as Sponsor for their own child).
7. Choose a Confirmation Saint and submit a report on the life of this Saint.
8. Submit a Letter of Intent to the Bishop, requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation (this task is completed at the Confirmation Retreat).
9. Attend a Confirmation Interview, to show readiness, and to increase awareness of knowledge gained during the preparation process.

Missed Classes:

- Because assisting you, the parent, in forming our youth in their Catholic faith is a responsibility we take seriously, we want to be sure that each student receives a complete educational experience and stays on track with his/her classmates. While 100% attendance is the expectation for our Confirmation Candidates, it is understandable that, on occasion, a student may be absent due to illness, etc.
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- If your student must miss a JYM class, the information that was missed will be sent home with your student the following week. Parents are asked to read through the material with their student and sign the attached verification sheet. The student is then responsible for submitting ONLY the signed verification sheet to his/her catechist within 2 weeks of returning to classes.

**YOUTH MINISTRY "SPECIAL SACRAMENTS" Preparation Classes:
Reconciliation and Eucharist**

In order to be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, students must have already received the sacraments of **Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist**. (For students in 7th – 12th grades who **have not yet been baptized**, please contact the Youth office.)

Those students entering 7th - 12th grades who have not yet received the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will automatically be enrolled in Special Sacraments classes to help get them on track so that they are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

1. These Special Sacraments classes occur on the following schedule:

Reconciliation:	~ Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00pm	September – November
Eucharist:	~ Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00pm	January – March

2. Students enrolled in these Special Sacrament classes must attend these in addition to their regular JYM Confirmation Preparation classes. Students must maintain a high level of attendance in ALL classes (JYM and Special Sacraments) in order to receive credit for the course year and to avoid repeating the course.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: LIFE TEEN (High School)

Curriculum Overview ~ High School Youth Ministry

Life Teen is our high school youth program, for youth in 9th – 12th grades. Life Teen follows the guidance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and encompasses the two main objectives of youth ministry: *catechesis and discipleship*.

Catechesis – “Life Nights”: Our traditional Sunday evening youth gatherings focus the youth on various aspects of our Catholic Faith, by applying the basic teachings of the faith to situations they experience everyday as teenagers. This is accomplished through real-life-scenario activities, as well as small group discussions. In addition to catechesis, fun and fellowship are also major components of our Life Nights. There are also various off-site youth events, retreats, lock-ins, etc., throughout the year.

Discipleship – “Peer Ministry”: Wednesday evenings are focused on discipleship through peer-to-peer ministry. Through small group discussion, the teens are able to explore aspects of the Catholic faith at a deeper, more personal level. Also at these Wednesday evening gatherings, the youth take a more evangelistic role in doing small outreach projects such as caroling for the elderly, visiting the sick, etc. Bible study is another component of these Wednesday evening gatherings and will take place on a predetermined schedule which will be emailed to all Life Saver parents.

Life Teen Life Nights ~ 6:15 – 8:15pm (youth gather in parish hall immediately following 5:00pm Youth Mass)
Life Teen Peer Ministry ~ 7:00 – 8:30pm (youth gather in theater)

Each of these gatherings are wonderful opportunities for our youth to get to know their peer group, and to live out their Catholic faith. All high school youth are invited to attend both the Life Nights and the Peer Ministry gatherings.

Annual Life Teen Events and Activities

- Fall Kick-Off (rock-climbing, concert, fellowship, Mass)
- Fall Retreat
- World Youth Day at Six Flags
- “Burned-Out” Bonfire
- Christmas Dance/Party
- Lock-In For Life / Pro-Life March
- Pure Reality Youth Rally
- Youth Prayer at abortion mill
- All Saints Rosary at Cemetery
- Junior / Senior Retreat
- Baccalaureate Mass & Dinner to honor Graduating Seniors
- Mission Possible Week
- Summer trip to a Steubenville Youth Conference
- Summer Mission Trip to New Orleans (help for Katrina victims)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES AND YOUR MINISTRIES

Mass Attendance

Mass attendance is the essential and central part of passing on the faith. Saint Jude’s Religious Education program complements, but does not replace your children’s participation at the Sunday liturgy with the family. We encourage and support your commitment to make sure your children attend Mass as well as classes, and other church events. Doing so will nourish and strengthen their faith and understanding. Discuss with your family how you will schedule attending Sunday Mass as a family and also faithfully attend Religious Education classes and Service events.

Attendance and Missed Classes

We celebrate your Baptismal commitment to educate your child at St. Jude. Regular attendance is a serious parental obligation. Irregular attendance may cause the student to miss important lessons and may result in a lack of enthusiasm for Religious Education. Regular attendance in all religious education classes is extremely important for continuity in faith development and faith experience. Please read carefully the policies for missed work for both Children’s Ministries and Youth Ministries.

Children’s Ministries

Each week the chapter from class will be sent home with each student. If an absence occurs the work is saved for the student until they return. The completed work is to be given to the student’s teacher. Second graders must turn in missed work to the office.

Interviews for Sacramental Prep students (second grade and special sacrament classes)

- Short question and answer interviews will be scheduled for children who miss more than three days in the fall in preparation for First Reconciliation before they receive the sacrament.
- Short question and answer interviews will be scheduled for children who miss more than three days in the spring in preparation for First Eucharist before they receive the sacrament.

Reporting Absences

Parents should call the Children’s Ministries office or the Youth Ministries Office if their child will not be attending class. All work should be made up for all missed classes.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between parish and family is essential. We communicate to you through the parish bulletin, announcements at the beginning of Mass, slides shown at Mass, notes home, the website, and e-mail. There are separate calendars for each program, which are available in each office or online. Don’t forget that we rely on you to keep us informed of important developments in your family life that affect our ability to serve you.

SAFETY

The safety of your children is very important to us. To ensure the safety of your children we have instituted the following measures:

- All parents of Pre K to 6th grade students are required to park their cars and escort children to and from the classroom.
- Parents should not leave a child in a classroom unattended by a catechist.

- Parents of 7th to 12th grade students may drop their children at the courtyard as long as there is an adult (wearing a safety vest) in attendance to see that they safely make it to the building.
- All children should arrive no more than 10 minutes before the beginning of class.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL AGES

Students are expected to participate in class activities and discussions. Life as a Christian is a commitment to live by the example of Jesus Christ. This includes accepting responsibility for conduct and actions, along with the commitment to respect others.

All students and adults will:

- Be courteous, respectful, and helpful to all
- Use appropriate language
- Speak kindly and respectfully to and about others
- Complete class assignments and participate in class
- Walk in the building (no running)
- Wear appropriate clothing for a learning environment
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking in the building (without permission)
- Remain quiet in the hallways and church areas
- Use restroom facilities before coming to class
- Refrain from disruptive behavior in the building and on the grounds
- Respect St. Jude property and the property of others
- Be responsible for their actions and the consequences of those actions

For the safety of the students and the minimization of classroom disruptions, certain items may not be brought to any class. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Real or toy knives	Real or toy guns	Beepers or pagers
Skateboards	sharp objects	matches or lighters
Palm pilots	i-pods	Game boys

These items are subject to confiscation. Items that are confiscated will be returned to parents only.

The Catechist will handle normal discipline problems. If a problem becomes persistent, the student will be sent to the Children's Ministries Director or the Youth Director. A continuing problem may necessitate a call to the parents. A parent may be requested to attend class with a child in extreme cases and ultimately removal from the program may be necessary. Disciplinary infractions include, but are not limited to abusive language, fighting, vandalism, disrespect to catechist or other students, stealing, and leaving the building during class time is a violation of the Safe Environment policies of DOD.

Cell phones must be OFF and Out-Of-Sight during class

No calling or texting allowed during class and social times. There are NO exceptions to this rule. Cell phones will be held by the teacher until the parent arrives to pick up their child if it is used during class or social time. If the parent has asked that the student bring the phone to class in case of an emergency, the cell will be given to the teacher and the teacher will answer it should it ring and then give it to the student.

Restroom Breaks

NO Student of any age is permitted to go to the restroom or to get water during class unless accompanied by a catechist or aide. There are NO exceptions to this policy.

Students in JYM are not permitted to go to the restroom during the hour of class instruction, except in the event of urgency. All JYM students have an opportunity to go before the class time begins, and after the class time ends.

DISCIPLINE

It is the policy of the Children Ministries and Youth departments at St. Jude to discipline with love and understanding. The Catechists and other adult volunteers will assist students in setting classroom guidelines that reinforce Christian attitudes. However, the teachers and adult volunteers are not expected to handle serious or on-going discipline problems. The volunteers are encouraged to notify the staff of such issues in a timely manner to avoid undue stress and classroom

Students who choose to ignore requests to modify their behavior in the classroom will be sent to the office. The first time a student comes to the office, behavior expectations will be discussed with the student. If problems persist and the student is sent to the office a second time, parents will be called. If there is still no improvement, the parents will be asked to attend class with their child.

EMERGENCIES

Student Illness/Injury: Sick or injured students will come to the office accompanied by an adult. The office staff will contact the parents. In the case of serious, potentially life threatening situations emergency medical personnel will be called immediately.

Fire Alarms: Emergency exit plans are posted in all classrooms. All fire alarms are to be treated seriously by everyone in the building and appropriate actions taken immediately (Fire drill).

Tornado Warnings: Tornado drill procedures are posted in all classrooms. Whenever the tornado warning sounds, an announcement will be made throughout the building. All tornado warnings are to be treated seriously by everyone in the building and appropriate actions taken immediately.

Class Cancellations: If Allen ISD schools are closed for severe or inclement weather, classes will not be held. If you judge conditions in your area to be unsafe, please stay home and call us at 972.727.1177 ext. 2225 to inform us. Go to www.stjudeparish.com for weather announcements.

VOLUNTEERS

All the instructors for the Children's Ministry and Youth Ministries at St. Jude Catholic are gracious volunteers.

Catechists volunteer to teach the children about the Catholic faith following an RE or Youth curriculum approved by Catholic Church and Diocese.

Catechist Aides volunteer to help the catechist in the classroom.

Substitute Catechists volunteer to teach in the classroom when a catechist is absent.

Office Aides volunteer to help the children's ministry and youth ministry staff do various tasks for the programs.

Nursery Aides care for the children under the age of 5 years old of the catechists and catechist aides during class time.

Teen Aides volunteer in the early grades (PK-4) to assist the Catechist.

Kitchen & Social Time Helpers volunteer to set-up food for JYM, and to prepare for and monitor the social-time portion of JYM.

Safety Monitors volunteer their time to watch the hallways during class time.

Being a volunteer for Children's Ministry and Youth Ministries is a beautiful way to model for the children the important value we place on learning about God and the Church.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

As Christian adults, we are entrusted by God with the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of children. It is a requirement of our parish and the Diocese of Dallas that all people working with children and the elderly in any capacity in any parish sponsored program must be safety cleared before beginning to volunteer or work. Paperwork can be picked up in the front office or you may complete the form **online**. The Safe Environment Training provided by our parish for our volunteers only apply to programs and events sponsored by St. Jude Parish.

To remain in compliance with the Diocese of Dallas Safe Environment policies, all volunteers must attend a continuing safety education class annually. Recertification classes may be done online or by attending one of the recertification classes. Check the bulletin for dates and times.

Our Safe Environment program includes five elements.

1. **Complete** the **Diocesan Screening Form**, online or pick up paperwork from the church office.
2. **Attend** initial Safe Environment Training Class. These classes are offered once a month. Check the bulletin for date and time. One Saturday morning and one evening class are offered throughout the year and classes usually last about an hour and a half.
3. **Undergo** a criminal background check and three reference checks, conducted by Accutrak Investigative Services. Accutrak is a Diocesan approved investigative vendor.
4. **Interview** with a staff member.
5. **Sign** Acknowledgement Form stating you have read the Diocesan Safe Environment Booklet and will comply with its requirements. This form **MUST** be signed and is required to complete your training process.

Parents, please expect to see a "security badge" on any adult participating in a parish-sponsored program. These badges insure that the adult has been properly screened and trained in the Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of Dallas. If an adult does not have a badge, please speak to a staff person or volunteer leader.

Safe Environment Training for Teens

Teens (students entering the seventh grade and older) must attend the Safe Environment Training for Teens in order to volunteer to work with children at St. Jude. These trainings are offered by the Children's Ministries Department in the

spring and early summer. Currently only one training session is required until the teen reaches the age of 18 and then they must complete the Safe Environment Training for Adults.

Safety Program for Children and Adolescents

The Diocese of Dallas requires that each parish provide safety classes for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. The lessons will be taught by the program directors. Parents have the right to choose to teach these lessons at home and not have their children attend the sessions at St. Jude.

“The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking. The prevention of child sexual abuse requires more than adult awareness, education, and training about the nature and scope of the problem. We must also give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm. The *Teaching Touching Safety* program guide (*Teaching Touching Safety Guide*) is a tool designed to assist parents and teachers in this important task. The Touching Safety program is a vehicle through which parents, teachers, catechists, and youth ministers give children and young people the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them.

The Touching Safety Program Lessons were created for Four Specific Age Groups:

- Grades K through 2
- Grades 3 through 5 (at St. Jude we include the 6th grade here)
- Grades 6 through 8
- Grades 9 through 12

Each year, the program provides a theme that introduces and builds on the basic concepts of the *Teaching Touching Safety Guide*. The material is developmentally appropriate for each age group and includes content and activities that reinforce the message.

The materials for teachers include everything needed to prepare for and present each lesson-including additional information to help teachers better understand the context of the materials they are about to present. For example, teachers have access to a glossary of terms for all of the lessons. They also have handouts and other reference materials-such as information on how to respond to disclosures, how to report suspected abuse, and other supplemental materials.

The lessons are organized in a three-year cycle so each child experiences a totally different lesson plan each time the materials are presented and so each child receives the full range of information from the *Teaching Touching Safety Guide* in small, "digestible" bites, over a three-year period. Then, as a child advances to the next age group, there are a whole new set of age-appropriate lessons that explore the major topics in increasingly greater detail. Our diocese may choose to present one lesson in the fall and one in the spring or to present both lessons at the same time.

The themes covered (in an age-appropriate way, of course) in each of the three years are:

Year 1

- **Lesson 1: The Touching Rules**-Students learn simple rules about what to do and how to react when someone's touch is confusing, scary, or makes the child or young person feel uncomfortable. Young people start to deal with the real risks they face when they are out in the world and on their own, and they begin to learn where to draw boundary lines in relationships.

- **Lesson 2: Identifying Safe and Unsafe Friends**-Children, young people, and their parents establish basic guidelines for working together to make certain which friends and other adults in their environment can be trusted to act safely and in the best interest of each child or young person.

Year 2

- **Lesson 3: Boundaries**-Students learn about personal boundaries and how identifying and honoring those boundaries can give a child or young person the self assurance needed to speak up when someone tries to step over the line.
- **Lesson 4: Telling Someone You Trust**-Children and young people learn who to tell when something makes them feel uncomfortable or confused. This lesson also begins to explore the phenomenon and power of "secrets" in a child's life at various ages.

Year 3

- **Lesson 5: Grooming**-Students learn about the types of behavior that may indicate that an adult is grooming the child or young person for something more than friendship. It also helps students learn to trust their own instincts about what is "okay" and what is "not okay."
- **Lesson 6: "No secrets"**-Reinforcing and building on the lessons from Year 2, this lesson deals with peer groups and other influences (including grooming by an abuser) that prevent children and young people from reporting inappropriate behavior. It also helps children and young people develop their own decision-making process to use in these situations."

The above information is copied from the website for VirtusOnline at www.virtus.org that provides the lessons for this program.

Appendix

The Precepts of the Church

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.
5. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
6. You shall provide for the material needs of the church, each according to his abilities.

The Ten Commandments Exodus 20:2-17

"The Ten Commandments are God's laws of love. God gave us the Ten Commandments as a gift to help us grow in holiness and live in peace. Jesus told us that we must always obey the Ten Commandments." I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.

1. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
2. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
3. Honor your father and mother.
4. You shall not kill.
5. You shall not commit adultery.

6. You shall not steal.
7. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
8. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
9. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Visit those in prison.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit the sick.
- Bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Help others do what is right.
- Teach the ignorant.
- Give advice to the doubtful.
- Comfort those who suffer.
- Be patient with others.
- Forgive injuries.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

The Beatitudes Matthew 5: 3-10

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Prayers to Know

The Sign of the Cross

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 art 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.

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 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 rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father. He will come again 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.

An Act of Contrition

O my God I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here; ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord, in these, thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty through Christ, our Lord. Amen.