

Welcome back St. Bonaventure Religious Education Families!

Thanks for your patience! Please read through the program information where you will find...

- A. ...your *student class assignment on the subject line of the email.* You will be getting separate emails for each child, which will go out by class. Please be patient as the email service is slow.
- B. ...*a link to the Religious Ed calendar landing page* ([St. Bon Religious Ed](#)) where you will see the dates for the whole school year that your child will attend. You may follow the highlighted days to get those dates or refer to the list of dates on the second page. There is program wide mandatory attendance at the Mass of your choice for the **Masses of Remembrance (11/5 or 6/22), 4:30 or 7:00 Ash Wednesday (2/24/2023)** and **10:00 am Palm Sunday (4/2/2023) Mass**. This updated and finalized calendar will be posted Tuesday morning 9/6/22...
- C. ... *Sunday Crafts are part of the Religious Education program.* While anyone outside of the program is invited to participate as well, these sessions will start in October and be held 1-2 times per month. There will be Sign Up Genius links sent via REMIND for you to sign up your family for the session that works best for you. You will find these dates on the calendar as well. Coffee and Donuts will also be available. If you are a Confirmation student that needs community service hours, this is a great way to earn them in addition to volunteering at our other events such as Santa's Gingerbread House Party, the Easter Egg Hunt or Walk With Jesus. More information will be coming on these fun events...
- C. ...*we will be participating in the REMIND program* to make it easier for people to remember which week they are scheduled as well as for last minute weather/illness cancellations. In the next few days, I will be entering all cell phone numbers given on the registration form. Please follow the directions prompted on your phone to fully enroll in this service. Throughout the year, a few days before your child has class, you will receive an automated text reminding you of the class time and date. You will be un-enrolled by mid-May and will receive no more texts from St. Bonaventure Religious Education until assigned to the next year's class.
- D. ...*the 2022-2023 Religious Ed cancellation policy* will also be posted on our website in the "Religious Education" tab. If there is a program wide cancellation, this will let you know the ways you will be notified through various media but the REMIND text will be in real time for the most immediate notification.
- E. ...*the Mass Quiz* will be at the church entrances in labeled baskets with pencils to fill them out **starting September 10, 2022**. While anyone can participate in this activity, it is required for sacramental preparation years of First Communion and Confirmation 1 & 2. Please (legibly) fill out the Quiz with first, last names and grade. When completed, please place in the offertory box, and return pencils to the baskets. This is a no stress, non-graded activity to reinforce the lessons learned in the classrooms and to become familiar with the missalette to participate in Mass more fully while tracking Mass attendance. So that younger siblings can participate, there will be fun pages in the basket so that they too can be learning while at Mass. The younger pages don't need to be turned in but can be if they choose...
- F. ... *Program participation!* All students will have some online time at home with seasonal activities on ([www.HolyHeroes.com](http://www.HolyHeroes.com) and scroll down to the bottom to click on the links) with their **Advent** and **Lenten Adventures** and the **Spiritual Adoption programs (grades 5, 8 & 10)**. If you sign up for these now,

they will come to you via email when the appropriate time comes. These are important to our faith, so the rhythm of the Liturgical year is still felt and understood at home as well as in class.

G. ...Attendance is important, especially for Sacramental studies! Irregular attendance is disruptive and unfair to other students and teachers. Due to the number of times classes will be held, a maximum of two unexcused (*those without a Dr. note*) classes can be missed. *Students will be considered withdrawn from the program if this minimal requirement is not met.* The Sacramental Preparation years of grades 2, Confirmation Year 1 and Confirmation Year 2 require Mass attendance greater than or equal to class attendance, which is tracked by the student completing Mass Quizzes and turning them into the offertory box at Mass.

H. ... October 1, 2022, is the final day to make any changes to your class schedule for 2022-2023. I have been contacted by a few families asking me to accommodate other extracurricular activities by allowing students to change class times or to make exceptions to the attendance policy until those seasonal activities are over. While I understand parents are trying to “make it all work”, unfortunately, with the volume of students that are enrolled and the schedules that would need to be accommodated through three sports seasons that this program spans, it isn’t possible for me to approve these requests. *Fun fact: This year, due to holiday and vacation schedules and with an early Easter date, there are only 12 times that classes meet for the YEAR on Sundays and 14 for weekday classes. The seasonal extracurricular activities that students participate in occur 2.5x the actual time in that one season then our students meet in the whole year...*

I. ... For sacramental studies, a day of retreat is mandatory for First Communion preparation (**Walk With Jesus, March 25, 2023**) as well as attendance to various events for Confirmation Years 1 & 2. The Confirmation program is a 2-year program for high school students regardless of age and grade, which must be completed by the age of 18. **Confirmation 2023 is scheduled for July 9, 2023 @2:00 pm.**

**In order to keep this year running smoothly...**

- J. ...There is no food allowed in the classrooms. Please bring your children to class having been fed their breakfast/afterschool snacks and hydrated before they get here for their 1.5-hour class. We have managed to avoid any critters setting up residence in the classrooms and we would like to keep it that way. Severe food allergies are also prevalent in our program so there will be no snack breaks. Water in a spill proof bottle is fine as *there are no bubblers* in the parish center. There are classes that come in directly after your children are done with the room and they deserve as clean a learning environment as your children walked into.
- K. For safety reasons, dismissal at the end of class will only be allowed out through the lobby. Exiting out the side of the building near Room D or through Room E will not be permitted for dismissal. Grades preK - 4 will be dismissed into the care of an adult or older sibling (Grade 5+) who comes to the room to get them. For safety reasons no one will be allowed to run through the parking lot to catch their ride. Parents will assume responsibility of their children once they have picked them up at the classroom door.
- L. ...If your child will be absent from CCD, please call the office at 508-224-3636 and let us know so we can pass that information on to your student’s teacher.

M. *Prayer is an integral part of our faith.* We do our students a disservice if they don't know the basic prayers. Please help your children to memorize their prayers so that they may feel confident in their contribution to the classroom activities, fully participate in Mass, a Rosary, the Stations of the Cross or a conversation with God. Ask your student's teacher what prayers they have been working on and if you need copies of those prayers for your own refresher, please don't hesitate to ask me and I will give them to you, or you can go to [www.Catholic.org](http://www.Catholic.org) to have a digital reference readily available.

**Please consider...**

Mass attendance for all families is an integral part of this religious ed program but more importantly, is central to our Catholic faith. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend Mass with their children so that your children may see the importance you place on their religious education and model weekly attendance for them. While it is convenient to drop students off at class and then allow them to go to Mass themselves, they are not getting the message that it is important to you, the parent and so don't take it seriously themselves. It can be rather disheartening to see the large amount of Sunday students leaving after class without attending Mass or weekday families not making it to Mass on the weekends. Share that time in Mass with them and visit with Jesus for 45 minutes each week. If you don't make it a priority, they won't either. Mass times are Monday through Saturday at 8:00 am, Saturday at 4:00 and Sundays at 8:00, 10:00 and 11:30 am.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation with these policies. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask. If you don't see me in the office or the hallways, email is the best way to get a hold of me. I can be reached at [stboncre@verizon.net](mailto:stboncre@verizon.net).

Peace!



Sheilah Burleigh Segatore, CRE