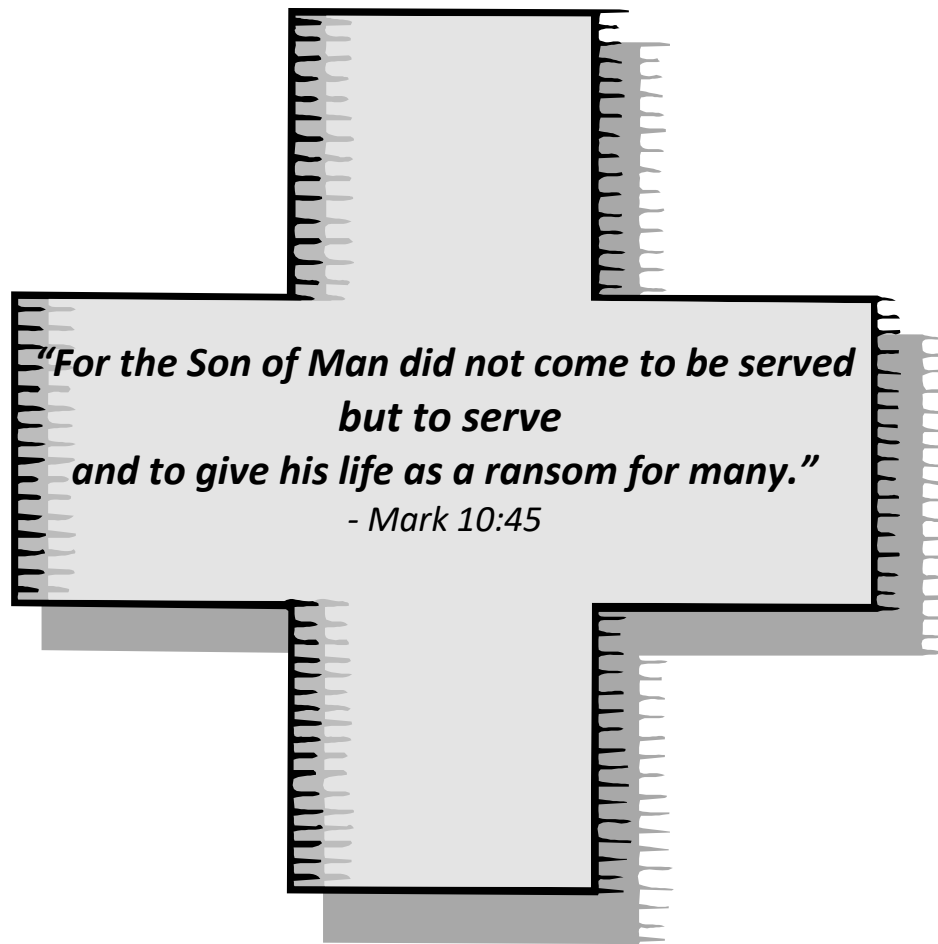


**Saint Genevieve  
PREP Family Handbook  
2018-2019**



**Religious Education Office  
St. Genevieve Parish  
1225 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, PA 19031  
StGensPREP@gmail.com  
215-233-8934**





# ***Saint Genevieve***

## ***PREP Family Handbook***

### ***Table of Content***

| <b><i>PAGE</i></b> | <b><i>TOPIC</i></b>                                 |
|--------------------|---|
| 1                  | PREP Mission and Goals                              |
| 2                  | Parish Staff  |
| 3                  | PREP Overview                                       |
| 3                  | PREP Session Format                                 |
| 3                  | PREP Session Offerings                              |
| 3                  | Additional Requirements for Sacramental Preparation |
| 4                  | Preschool Offerings                                 |
| 4                  | Special Needs                                       |
| 4                  | Home Schooling                                      |
| 5                  | PREP Registration                                   |
| 6                  | Arrival and Dismissal Procedures                    |
| 7                  | Attendance Policy                                   |
| 7                  | Homework  |
| 7                  | Communication Between Home and PREP                 |
| 8                  | Family Reconciliation Services                      |
| 8                  | Community Connection                                |
| 9                  | Code of Conduct                                     |
| 10                 | Safe Environment Program                            |
| 11                 | Crisis Response Procedures                          |
| 14                 | Sacramental Catechesis Information                  |
| 15                 | Religious Education Curriculum                      |





## ***Saint Genevieve***

# ***Religious Education Handbook***

This handbook is designed to serve as a guide for parents/guardians, catechists, and students in St. Genevieve's Religious Education Program. The contents of this Handbook may be updated with policy changes throughout the year in order to provide the best formation environment for your family. Should a change occur you will be notified by email.

### **THE MISSION AND GOALS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Our Program encourages students to:

- Deepen their **knowledge** of the Catholic Faith, its heritage and traditions.
- Participate more consciously and fully in the **liturgical life** of the Church.
- Grow in understanding of the attitudes and values of Jesus Christ as found in the Sacred Scriptures which lay the foundation for **moral** decision making.
- Become people who know their prayers as well as people of **prayer**.
- Grow in understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of belonging to a faith **community**.
- Develop a fuller understanding of the **missionary** nature of the Church that is rooted in our Baptism.

Our Program goals are to:

- Fine tune the children's knowledge of the Catholic Faith by building on what they see/talk about at home and at Mass.
- Provide the children with additional tools to help them with their daily talking and listening to God (=prayer) so that their friendship with Jesus continues to grow.
- Provide a faith community where the children form friendships and a sense of belonging that is centered on God.
- Give the children additional opportunities to love and serve the Lord.

Our Hopes for the Children:

- They will strengthen their friendship with God.
- They will gain a love and understanding of the Catholic Faith.
- They will share the love of God with others through their actions and words.

**Parents/guardians are the children’s primary teachers & sharers of the faith. We depend upon the family to ensure that God is a part of the children’s everyday life.**

The children need their families to foster daily prayer as well as to value participation at Sunday Mass and in the sacraments. Our once a week gatherings build on the children’s established relationship with God.

Recognizing the role of parents/guardians as the primary religious educators, our Program is structured as an aid and supplement to the faith formation, religious instruction, and practice of the faith received in the home.

Through an understanding of the tasks of catechesis and the use of the Archdiocesan Religion Guidelines, each catechist’s goal is to nurture their student’s spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social abilities in an effort to bring the child to a personal, lived relationship with God.

### **PARISH STAFF**

|                         |   |              |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| Rev. Kevin T. Mulligan  | Pastor  | 215.836.2828 |
| Deacon Michael Conroy   | Pastoral Services   | 215.836.7219 |
| Sr. Theresa Maugle, SSJ | School Principal  | 215.836.5644 |
| Mrs. Andrea Guckin      | Parish Administrative Assistant<br>Rectory@stgensparish.com | 215.836.2828 |
| Mrs. Christine Beisel   | Safe Environment Coordinator<br>Chris@stgensparish.com      | 215.836.2828 |
| Mrs. Joan Dierkes       | Coordinator of Religious Ed<br>StGensPREP@gmail.com         | 215.233.8934 |

## **PREP OVERVIEW**

PREP Classes are held in St. Genevieve School/Church during the school year. There are 7 Levels in PREP:

- Children entering 1<sup>st</sup> Grade begin in Level 1.
  - If a child begins PREP when entering 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, they also begin in Level 1.
- First Reconciliation is received in the Winter of Level 2.
- First Holy Communion is received in the Spring of Level 2.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation is received in the Spring of Level 7.

## **PREP SESSION FORMAT**

***All children attend Sunday PREP which consists of 40 minutes of class + Mass as a family.***

- For Level 1 – Level 2: Class begins one hour prior to Mass.
- For Level 3 – Level 7: Class begins 45 minutes prior to Mass.
- During class time parents may choose to go to the Parish Hall for coffee and tea.
- Children are brought to the Church five minutes prior to the beginning of Mass to meet up with their parents.
  - Parents should be seated in their pews by that time.

## **PREP SESSION OFFERINGS**

Three sessions are offered. Families register for **one** of the following:

- Session 1: Mass at 9:00am
  - L1-L2: Class begins at 8am
  - L3-L7: Class begins at 8:15am
- Session 2: Mass at 10:30am
  - L1-L2: Class begins at 9:30am
  - L3-L7: Class begins at 9:45am
- Session 3: Mass at Noon
  - L1-L2: Class begins at 11am
  - L3-L7: Class begins at 11:15am

Recall: While children are in class, parents may go to the Parish Hall for coffee/tea/socializing.

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

L1 & L2: First Reconciliation/First Communion

- As noted above L1 & L2 children begin class 15 minutes earlier than the other levels.
- This 15 minutes will be geared towards the children's understanding/preparation of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

L7: Confirmation

- L7 children will need to attend five gatherings in addition to Sundays as well as the Confirmation Retreat.

## **PRESCHOOL OFFERINGS** (September to mid-May)

St. Genevieve's offers the following programs for children younger than 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

- **CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS)**

Registration: Required.

Location: Delaney Hall

Age: 3 years old through Kindergarten

- CGS-S1:
  - Time: Class begins at 8:05am. Children join their families at the 9:00am Mass at the Offertory Procession.
  - Day: Sunday
- CGS-S2:
  - Time: Class begins at 9:35am. Children join their families at the 10:30am Mass at the Offertory Procession.
  - Day: Sunday
- CGS-S3:
  - Time: Class begins at 11:05am. Children join their families at the Noon Mass at the Offertory Procession.
  - Day: Sunday
- CGS-T:
  - Time: 6pm to 7:30pm
  - Day: Tuesday
- CGS-W:
  - Time: 9am to 10:15am
  - Day: Wednesday

- **LIONS AND LAMBS FAMILY STORY TIME**

Registration: NOT Required.

Location: Delaney Hall

Age: Young Children + their Caregiver

- Time: 10am-11am
- Day: Tuesday

## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

If your child has any special needs, please notify the Coordinator of Religious Education at registration time. Every effort will be made to include your child and accommodate his/her needs.

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

*In keeping with the guidelines from the Archdiocesan Office, home schooling lies within the jurisdiction of the Pastor. The Coordinator of Religious Education facilitates this effort.* Please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education if you feel that you have a hardship that prevents your child from attending PREP during the available sessions.



## **PREP REGISTRATION**

PREP families must be registered as parishioners of St. Genevieve's. Under special circumstances families from other parishes may join our program but only with pastoral permission.

### **Important Dates:**

- Re-registration begins before July 1 and ends July 31.
  - The July 31 deadline enables us to recruit the needed catechists as well as order the necessary materials for the coming year.
- New registrations are accepted at any time. If registering your child for the first time the following is required:
  - A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate if not baptized at St. Genevieve's
  - Completed Registration Form
  - Fee for the year
- The year's PREP Calendar is given to parents and catechists by the end of August.

### **Registration Forms:**

#### **BLANK FORMS:**

- Copies are available on the parish website.
- Paper copies are available in the back of Church and at the Rectory.

#### **COMPLETED FORMS:**

- Can be mailed to the Rectory (St. Genevieve PREP, 1225 Bethlehem Pike, PA 19031)
- Can be dropped off at the Rectory at any time.
  - There is a mail slot in the Rectory's front door for non-business hour drop-off.

### **Registration Fees:**

#### **PREP PROGRAM FEE:**

The Religious Education program fees for the year can be found on the PREP Registration Form.

- These fees help to cover some of the following expenses: catechists' manuals, basic supplies, copy paper, photocopying, resource materials, catechist/assistant training, and other miscellaneous items during the year.
- Families who need financial aid should contact the Coordinator of Religious Education.
- Children/Grandchildren of full time adult catechists are tuition free.

#### **SACRAMENT YEAR MATERIAL FEE:**

There is a material fee for those students who will be receiving their First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion or their Confirmation.

- These fees help defray the cost of supplemental learning materials, retreats, and additional supplies required.
- **This fee is collected later in the year.**

## **PREP GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

### **SUNDAY ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL**

To ensure the safety of all students, please observe the following arrival and dismissal plans.

#### **LEVEL 1 – LEVEL 7**

##### **ARRIVAL:**

- All families must park their cars and walk their children into the school.
  - L1-L3 Children must be walked to their classroom by their parent/guardian.
- Children are allowed into their classrooms ONLY IF their Catechist has arrived; else the children wait with their parents.
  - Children are not to be left unsupervised.
  - We are asking all catechists to arrive a minimum of 10 minutes prior to the beginning of class so that class begins on time.
- Once class has started, all doors will be locked to ensure your child's safety.
- During class time parents & other family members may choose to go to the Parish Hall for coffee and tea.
  - Parents/guardians may not remain in the school hallways while classes are in session.

##### **DISMISSAL:**

- At the beginning of Mass, children will be brought to Church to meet up with their families.
  - Parents should be seated in their pews 5 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass.
  - It is recommended that each family sit in a specific pew/section each week to make it easier for their children to find them at the beginning of Mass.

#### **CGS-S1, -S2, -S3**

##### **ARRIVAL:**

- Parents must park their cars and walk their child into Delaney Hall where the catechists will greet them.
  - During class time parents & other family members may choose to go to the Parish Hall for coffee and tea.

##### **DISMISSAL:**

- At the Offertory Procession, the children will be brought to Church to meet up with their families.
  - Families are asked to sit in a specific pew/section each week to make it easier for their children to find them when they arrive at Mass.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular attendance at class is essential for any measure of success in a Religious Education Program. Weekly attendance enables your children to grow in the knowledge of the Faith, to develop a sense of belonging to the parish community, and to grow through regular prayer in their relationship with God.

If your child is going to be absent on a given Sunday, please email the Coordinator of Religious Education in advance to report the absence. It helps make a class go more smoothly when the catechist knows a child will be absent.

Attendance records are an archdiocesan requirement and absences are recorded on each child's permanent record card.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

- Death in the Family.

### **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:**

- If a child has missed **three classes**, the parents will be notified.
- The parents and Coordinator of Religious Education may develop an educational plan to remedy excessive absences that may be affecting the child's readiness to move to the next level of religious instruction.

## **HOMEWORK**

Parents are encouraged to ensure that homework is completed. Homework serves many purposes:

- It helps the student strengthen their knowledge and understanding of their faith.
- It brings PREP into the student's home routine.
- When parents actively participate in helping their child complete PREP homework, it shows the child that the parents feel that what they are learning is important.

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND PREP**

Adequate and clear communication between home and PREP is essential for the success of our students. Parents are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Religious Education about any situation of concern. Generally, our primary means of communication will be via email.

- Emails will be sent to the family email addresses provided by each family on the PREP Registration form.
- **Please inform the PREP Office of any changes to your email addresses.**
- Email addresses along with family information are confidential and will not be distributed to parties outside of PREP/St. Genevieve Parish without permission.

### BASIC COMMUNICATION:

- The PREP Office will send Weekly Family Updates with pertinent information and, on occasion, attached flyers that are deemed valuable to your family in lieu of paper copies in children's take home folders.
- Classroom catechists may email 'class news' to families as well. These emails will be sent via an email address used only for PREP. The subject line will begin with "PREP" as well as the class level.

### CLASS CANCELLATIONS:

- Notification of cancellation of PREP will be sent to each family via email.
- If there is a snow or another type of emergency, the class portion of PREP will be cancelled and your family may attend the Mass that best works for the given situation.
- You are to use your discretion if class has not been canceled and road conditions have deteriorated in your area.

### DUAL PARENTING REPORTING

In cases where this applies, the names, addresses and email addresses of both parents should be given at registration time. Custodial information should be on file indicating to which parent the child should be released after class. Unless otherwise instructed, information commonly made available to parents of any of our PREP students will be made to both parents.

### FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICES:

- During the Season of Advent there will be a Family Penance Service. All of our **Level 3** through **Level 7** students and their families are expected to attend.
- During the Season of Lent there will be another Family Penance Service. All of our **Level 2** through **Level 7** students and their families are expected to attend.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

We ask that all students join/attend a minimum of 2 of the following:

- Children's Choir (2x a Month)
- Altar Serving
- Pray the Rosary with the Rosary Group (Tuesday at 7:30pm)
- Blessing of Animals (Oct)
- Thanksgiving Day Mass (Nov)
- Family Advent Night/Afternoon (Nov/Dec)
- Spiritual Adoption: Diaper Drive, Baby Bottle Drive, etc.
- Stations of the Cross or Living Stations (Lent)
- Poor Person's Supper (Lent)
- Holy Thursday Mass (Holy Week)
- Good Friday Services (Holy Week)
- Other Opportunities will be presented as they arise.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students in St. Genevieve Religious Education Program are expected, at all times, to be **respectful, courteous, and honest** to the faculty, staff, and their fellow students.

### **IN THE CLASSROOM STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED...**

- To arrive to class on time.
- To be prepared for class with their homework and supplies.
- To respect the property of the school and other students.
- To listen to the catechist (teacher) and follow directions.
- To show respect, through words and actions, to the catechist (teacher) and other students.
- To participate fully and appropriately in group activities.
- To stay in their seats – unless asked to do otherwise
- To cooperate with the catechist in order to maintain a Christian atmosphere of mutual respect.
- To ask “What would Jesus do?”

### **IF A STUDENT IS PROBLEMATIC IN CLASS**

If a student fails to respond to a catechist’s request for appropriate behavior and is uncooperative during a specific class:

- The catechist (teacher) will contact the CRE to explain the situation.
- The student may be directed to a ‘time-out’ in the PREP Office or a call may be placed to the parent for early pick up.
- The CRE may notify the parents/guardians if applicable.
- The student will be asked to make up the missed class work and to improve their behavior upon returning to the classroom.
- The catechist will fill out an Incident Report.

### **IF A STUDENT DISPLAYS PERSISTENT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

If a student has been asked to leave the classroom on three different occasions:

- Parents/guardians may be contacted and a meeting may be set up with the student, the parents/guardians, the catechist and the CRE to develop a plan to help the child improve their behavior.
- If the behavior of the student does not improve, the parents/guardians will be notified and the parents/guardians may be asked to attend class with their child.
- If the behavior of the student does not improve, the parents/guardians will be notified and the student may be asked to leave the program.

## **SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Archdiocese policy states that action may be imposed for serious misbehavior. The CRE, catechist (teacher), parent, and student will sign a written record of suspension. A student may be automatically suspended or dismissed for the following:

- Verbal and non-verbal disrespect for authority
- Vandalism or marking school property
- Using profane language and actions
- Absence without parent knowledge
- Leaving school or classroom without permission
- Stealing
- Smoking in the building or on school grounds
- Fighting, physically or verbally
- Carrying or using drugs, including alcoholic beverages
- Carrying weapons
- Other

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

### **ADULTS:**

The Archdiocese has established the Safe Environment Program. The mission of this Program is to oversee the training of and background checks for all Archdiocesan clergy, employees, and volunteers who have contact with children.

- All St. Genevieve's PREP volunteers over 18 years of age have supplied the parish with background checks and all clearance forms to meet this mandate which is in compliance with Pennsylvania Law Act 153 and have already or will be attending special diocesan training sessions.

### **STUDENTS:**

The Archdiocese also mandates that religious education and Catholic school students must receive instruction based on 'The Protection of God's Children: A Program for Students' during the course of every PREP year. St. Genevieve's follows the suggested lesson plans posted on the Archdiocesan Office for Catechetical Formation's webpage. This program will be taught in the Second Semester.

## **CRISIS RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

This section is subject to review by city police and fire safety officials and may therefore be revised. Until such possible revisions are made the following will be put in place regarding Shelter-in-place and Lockdown Procedures.

### **FIRE DRILL / FIRE EMERGENCY / EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF BUILDING**

The catechist will...

- instruct the children as to what they will do during an evacuation of the building.
- direct the children to leave quickly and quietly when the bell rings without stopping to form lines.
- bring the Attendance Sheet with them when exiting the building.
- not take time to shut windows but should close the door after exiting.
- move the class away from the school building.
- lead children to their class's designated spot in the parking lot.
- keep children together quietly while accounting for all in attendance
- return to classroom when the 'all clear' signal is given.

### **SHELTER-IN-PLACE**

A shelter-in-place procedure may be implemented when a situation occurs that may be a hazard to health or is life threatening. It can be used when it is safer to keep the students inside the building rather than expose them to possible harm by allowing them to leave the building. Tornado warnings, hurricanes or release of hazardous materials may all trigger a shelter in place at schools securing the students while keeping the building open for entry only. Once the shelter-in-place is called the school should remain in that condition until the "All Clear" is given. A shelter-in-place may be called by emergency responders or weather agencies as well as the CRE with knowledge of immediate danger. Shelter-in-place and lockdown are **not** synonymous terms. While both contain the students and staff, a shelter-in-place will allow individuals into the building to seek safety.

### **PREP SHELTER-IN-PLACE PROCEDURE (IN SCHOOL BUILDING)**

1. To initiate shelter in place an announcement will be made via the loud speaker to seek shelter-in-place. (Office staff will call any students and volunteers indoors and ask visitors to stay.)
2. All students will sit in the hallway in front of their classroom next to an interior wall and will remain there until authorities deem it is safe to leave.
3. Steps will be taken to seal the exterior doors and hall doors. A land line will be available in the front office and there will be access to water and to bathrooms.
4. If children have cell phones they will be allowed to call a parent or guardian to let them know they have been asked to remain until further notice and that they are safe.

## **LOCKDOWN**

'School' lockdown is the highest state of readiness that is activated when violence is occurring or is imminent in the area or any other situation deemed by the police or staff administrator to warrant a total lockdown of the school building.

### **WHO MAY ACTIVATE A 'SCHOOL' LOCKDOWN?**

1. An officer may notify or request parish staff to activate lockdown.
2. An administrator may, in an immediate, life threatening situation, activate a school lockdown.
3. Any member of the volunteer staff who observes or suspects a dangerous situation shall immediately notify the PREP Office staff or Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE).
4. The CRE shall immediately notify the Police Department by calling 911 from a land line if possible. If there is no response from the Office staff, an immediate call to 911 should be placed.

### **CONDITIONS IN WHICH TO ACTIVATE A 'SCHOOL' LOCKDOWN:**

1. Someone has a gun.
2. Someone with a gun is known to be in route to the school.
3. Shots are heard.
4. The immediate pursuit of a dangerous suspect.
5. The execution of a high risk search or arrest warrant.
6. A large scale enforcement operation involving potentially dangerous suspects.

### **PREP LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES (IN SCHOOL BUILDING)**

#### **External Threat**

This is a threat that takes place outside the School Building and does not place the children in imminent danger. The goal is to prevent the threat from entering the building. Because the building is already secure and locked, a Code Yellow Alert will be issued. The following steps should be taken:

1. Notification of this type of lockdown will be via the loud speaker. The broadcast message will be "Attention! This is a Code Yellow Alert. All students are to immediately report to their classrooms."
2. Once all children in the classroom are accounted for, classroom doors and windows should be closed, locked, and any shades closed. All should stay clear of windows.
3. Staff will secure the Office area and will be on heightened alert. Exterior doors are always locked but will be double checked.
4. Depending on the threat level regular classroom activities may resume.



## **Internal Threat**

An internal threat exists when the cause of danger is inside the facility or directly attempting to gain access. An internal threat presents a situation that may be a hazard to health or is life threatening. An internal threat will result in a Code Red Alert being issued. The following steps should be taken:

1. A message will be broadcast via the intercom (PA) that states: "Attention! This is a Code Red Alert. Lockdown now."
2. All volunteers should immediately implement lockdown procedures by first quickly checking the halls to get any students into classrooms or designated safe locations - even if they aren't members of their own class. All Volunteers are to be aware of safe locations throughout the school.  
(Please note that at this time the hall bathrooms do not have locking mechanisms and are not considered safe areas.)
3. Once in classroom, classroom doors and windows should be closed, locked, and any shades closed. Shut off light. Stop all classroom activities and gather students in a safe spot - moving children away from windows and doors - staying out of sight.
4. Keep students quiet and do not allow use of cell phones.
5. Do NOT open the door for any reason until the all clear code is heard: "**Attention! Code Green. All is clear.**" Should you believe that crisis responders have arrived at your door prior to the all-clear code you have every right to ask them for identification. Crisis responders will have access to room keys.
6. **When evacuated the catechist must take the Attendance Sheet.** The Primary Evacuation Site will be the Parish Hall. Students should only be released from the designated "Reunion" site after proper accounting and out processing can be conducted by staff.

## **SACRAMENTAL CATECHESIS INFORMATION**

**A child is expected to attend a minimum of two consecutive years of formal Religious Education in order to begin preparation for the celebration of sacraments.** Generally, the children receive the Sacraments of Penance / Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in their second year in the Religious Education Program. Generally, the children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in their seventh year in the Program.

**Children and Parents are expected to attend sacramental preparation meetings, retreats and other events as scheduled.**

### **First Reconciliation and First Communion**

Children preparing for celebration of these sacraments must:

- Be baptized.
- Be participating regularly in Sunday Mass with their families.
- Have an appreciation and understanding of the sacrament appropriate for the age level.
- Attend additional class time as outlined above.

Recall that ***parents are the primary catechists of their children***. It is through their catholic witness that children receive their first experiences of God and the community of faith called the Church.

### **Confirmation**

#### **CANDIDATES:**

It is the expectation that Confirmation candidates:

- Be baptized.
- Be participating regularly in Sunday Mass with their families.
- All candidates are asked to complete the Confirmation formation program, attend a retreat, offer service to the parish and community at large and work closely with their sponsor.
- Attend the additional 5 gatherings as well as the Confirmation Retreat.

#### **SPONSORS:**

The role of the sponsor is to help the candidate throughout his/her life to fulfill his or her baptismal promises. The sponsor should be one whose positive influence on the candidate is permanent and strong; hence it is not just an honorary title, but a responsibility to set a good Catholic example.

In conformity with the Code of Canon Law:

- Parents may not be sponsors.
- Sponsors must be at least 16 years old.
- Sponsors must be a Catholic who has been confirmed, received Eucharist and practices the Faith. "Practicing" means, in the case of an adult, that they are registered in a parish, frequents the Sacraments, and regularly attends Mass.
- Sponsors must have a **Letter of Eligibility** from the pastor of their present parish.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

Below is a synopsis of the religious education curriculum for each grade level as applicable to St. Genevieve's PREP. A spiral approach to faith formation is employed. Each Level will cover the same topic each week but at a different depth.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN RELIGION GUIDELINES**

Our program is based on the Archdiocesan Religion Guidelines. The main focus is detailed below. For additional information regarding the curriculum, please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education.

#### **Core Curriculum:**

- God the Father: First Person of the Trinity
- God the Son: Jesus Christ: Second Person of the Trinity
- God the Holy Spirit: Third Person of the Trinity
- Blessed Trinity: Central Mystery of Our Faith; One God in Three persons
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
  - Definition; Purpose; Rite; Elements
- Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Sacrament of the Sick
  - Definition; Purpose; Rite; Elements
- Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Matrimony, Holy Orders
  - Definition; Purpose; Rite; Elements
- The Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, Vessels, Vestments
- Sacramentals
- God's Law: The Great Commandment, Introduction to 10 Commandments
- 10 Commandments
- Sin: Original; Personal
- Conscience: Formation; Examination
- Virtue: Cardinal and Theological Virtues
- Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Bible: Definition; Structure
- Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture): Major Persons and Events - Creation, The Fall, Choosing a Special People, Moses, Exodus, the Covenant, Joshua, Judges, Kings, Important Queens, Prophets
- New Testament (Christ Fulfills the Hebrew Scriptures): Incarnation; Baptism and Public Life
- The Liturgical Year / Seasons / Colors
- Life of Mary and Jesus: Based on the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross
- Mary and the Saints

**Prayers:**

**Level 1:**

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

**Level 2:**

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy

**Level 3:**

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed

**Level 4:**

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed
- Hail Holy Queen

**Level 5:**

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed
- Hail Holy Queen
- How to Pray the Rosary

**Level 6 & Level 7:**

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed
- Hail Holy Queen
- How to Pray the Rosary