

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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August 28, 2010

Dear ROCK Catechist!

Holy Family works hard to give our middle schoolers opportunities to live their faith through Neighborhood groups, Home school and First Fridays. The ROCK program is outlined in a document that is enclosed in this section.

Service:

A key element to the ROCK program is service. The youth of either the ROCK Neighborhood Groups or Home School are expected to participate in one service opportunity per semester. These are suggested to be done with one or more Neighborhood Group(s). Service projects can vary from spending a day at Vindabona Nursing Home, collecting food for the Middletown Food Bank at Safeway, assisting to fill and wrap care packages for college students, cutting ornaments for Helping Hands, and/or purchasing gifts for Helping Hands participants. Last year groups came up with very unique ideas and had a lot of fun. You are welcome to do the same, just seek approval from the Faith Formation Office first.

Syllabus:

We ask that each Neighborhood Group and Home School Family create a syllabus that is distributed to each family involved (NG) and the Faith Formation Office. A syllabus helps to provide organized communication with parents and the Faith Formation Office. There are example syllabuses in this section which include the recommended chapters to cover for each grade. Included in your binder are two Evaluation forms. Each Neighborhood Group/Home School Family will need to turn these in throughout the year at the stated dates evaluating each semester of the year in reference to the Neighborhood Group/Home School Family's syllabus.

First Fridays:

First Fridays are an important part of the ROCK. This is an opportunity for middle schoolers to get together in a social atmosphere where faith, prayer, and fun are shared among all. Please encourage all of your students to attend.

Neighborhood Groups:

Because of the difficulty in regularly communicating with catechists who I don't see on a weekly basis, I ask that you CC me on any communication you send to parents as a catechist of a Neighborhood Group. This keeps me up to date on things happening in your group. Thanks!

It is my hope to attend at least one session for each neighborhood group this year. Please email me a couple of possible dates (or include them on the syllabus) to attend a session for your group. I merely come in to say hi to the group and observe the learning environment.

Catechesis on Morality and Healthier Relationships:

Please refer to Catechesis on Human Sexuality document.

Carolyn and I will be the contact for any First Friday or service programming, and I will be serving as a contact for any catechetical needs. Please feel free to contact either of us throughout the year.

God bless,

Ricardo Valdez

Director of Faith Formation

Grade 6 Finding God Session Guidelines 2010 - 2011

Holy Family Catholic Community

Finding God		Growing in Love	
<i>Fall</i>	1	Unit 1: Chapter 1 The Bible, God's Story	
	2	Unit 1: Chapter 3 Sin and Salvation	
	3	Unit 2: Chapter 6 God is Faithful	
	4	Unit 2: Chapter 9 Being Faithful to God	
	5	Unit 3: Chapter 11 God's Presence in the Temple	
	6	Unit 3: Chapter 13 The Mission of the Church	
	7	Unit 4: Chapter 16 Prophets Challenge the People	
<i>Winter</i>	8	Unit 4: Chapter 18 Baptism and Confirmation Unit 4: Chapter 19 Sacraments of Healing	
	1	Unit 1: Chapter 2 God Created World	Lesson 1 - Life from Love
	2	Unit 5: Chapter 21 Jesus' Way of Love	Lesson 2 - Covenant of Love
	3	Unit 5: Chapter 22 Sacraments of Service	Lesson 3 - Christian Love
	4	Unit 5: Chapter 24 Jesus' Call for Justice	Lesson 4 - Practicing Love
	5	Unit 5: Chapter 22 Sacraments of Service	Lesson 5 - Holy and Whole
	6	Unit 4: Chapter 19 Sacraments of Healing	Lesson 6 - Celebrating Life
	7	Unit 5: Chapter 23 Caring for the Earth	Lesson 7 - Love in Action

Grade 7 Finding God Session Guidelines 2010 - 2011

Holy Family Catholic Community

Finding God		Growing in Love	
<i>Fall</i>	1	Unit 1: Chapter 1 God's Revelation Unit 1: Chapter 2 The Gospels: Portraits of Jesus	
	2	Unit 1: Chapter 3 God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Unit 1: Chapter 4 Faith in Jesus	
	3	Unit 2: Chapter 1 Jesus, Son of God Unit 2: Chapter 2 Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom	
	4	Unit 2: Unit 2: Chapter 3 Jesus' Forgiveness Unit 3: Chapter 1 God with Us	
	5	Unit 3: Chapter 2 The Values of the Kingdom Unit 3: Chapter 3 Life in Jesus	
	6	Unit 3: Chapter 4 Leading in Jesus' Name Unit 4: Chapter 1 Celebrating Salvation	
	7	Unit 4: Chapter 2 Celebrating the Sacraments Unit 5: Chapter 3 Celebrating Baptism	
	8	Seasonal Lesson (All Saints/Souls Day; Advent)	
<i>Winter</i>	1		Lesson 1 - In God's Image
	2		Lesson 2 - Real Love
	3		Lesson 3 - Fully Human
	4		Lesson 4 - The Teaching Church
	5		Lesson 5 - Growing in Grace
	6		Lesson 6 - Giving Life
	7		Lesson 7 - Lifelong Love

Grade 8 Finding God Session Guidelines 2010 - 2011
Holy Family Catholic Community

Finding God		Growing in Love	
<i>Fall</i>	1	Unit 2: Chapter 1 Getting to Know Jesus Unit 2: Chapter 2 Jesus, God and Man	
	2	Unit 2: Chapter 3 New Life on the Cross Unit 2: Chapter 4 Sharing the Good News	
		3	Unit 3: Chapter 1 The Beginnings of the Church Unit 3: Chapter 2 The Church takes Shape
	4		Unit 3: Chapter 3 The Church, Source of Light Unit 3: Chapter 4 The Church Matures
		5	Unit 3: Chapter 5 The Church in Renewal Unit 5: Chapter 1 The Way the Truth and Life
	6		Unit 5: Chapter 2 Honoring Life Unit 5: Chapter 3 Honoring Relationships
		7	Unit 5: Chapter 4 Honoring Others Unit 5: Chapter 5 Respecting Others
	8		Seasonal Lesson (All Saints/Souls Day; Advent)
<i>Winter</i>	1		Lesson 1 - Christian Personhood
	2		Lesson 2 - Trinity of Love
	3		Lesson 3 - Living for Others
	4		Lesson 4 - Communities of Love
	5		Lesson 5 - God's Life is Us
	6		Lesson 6 - Life in the Spirit
	7		Lesson 7 - Our Lifelong Love Story

These are the chapters that should be covered during this year's program. The combination is flexible, but there needs to be 15 sessions throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Ricardo Valdez in the parish office.

When creating your syllabus, remember to include the First Fridays and Whole Community Events which can be found in the Faith Formation Booklet.

The ROCK
Middle School Faith Formation
Holy Family Catholic Community

Components

There would be four components to the program.

Faith

- Students will have a chance to live their faith through various experiences. Including the teaching mass and a retreat.

Service/Social Justice

- Students will hear and learn about the various issues that face our world today. They will also have a chance to serve our community.

Social Activities

- Students will have a chance just to hang out with their friends in a safe and positive environment.

Neighborhood Groups/Home School

- Finding God Books (Formal/Informal Education)
- Service
 - One service project per semester
 - Can work with other neighborhood groups/home school families
 - Ricardo and Carolyn can be used as resources

Elements

Song, dance, prayer, reverence, respect, praise, worship, and fun should all be elements which exist throughout the ROCK.

First Fridays

The “First Friday” is a monthly two hour program that allows middle school youth to live and learn their Catholic Christian life that Christ calls us to. These First Fridays are planned using three of the four components: Faith, Service/Social Justice, and Social Activities. Each month is assigned a component. The program for a specific month’s First Friday will encompass the component in a way that will excite and motivate the middle school youth about their faith as Catholic Christians. It will also challenge them to live their faith outside of the “church house.”

Chaperones

Parents will be invited to be a chaperone for the First Friday events. Monthly preference may be indicated on the religious education registration form. We will have a sign up at the Registration Fair for specific dates/times.

All chaperones must be STAND trained. If youth are being transported in a chaperones vehicle, a driving record check will have to be done.

Staff Liaison(s)

The staff liaison(s) is a member of the parish faith formation staff (which includes, but not limited to, the Director of Faith Formation and/or Youth Minister/Coordinator of Youth Ministry).

The responsibilities of the staff liaison(s) are as followed:

- To be a resource to the Rock Planning Team and Catechists in all matters of the program

- Advertises and sends communications to the parish on behalf of the ROCK (including: submitting bulletin announcements, announcements during mass, and group email communication to parents and youth participating in the ROCK)
- Oversees approval of requests for funds and signs for the reimbursement of previously approved funds
- Handles requests for meeting space and equipment on behalf of the Rock Planning Team and Catechists
- Coordinates chaperones and STAND training for the program

Rock Planning Team

Membership:

The team consists of the Middle School Neighborhood Groups catechists, interested high school students, and interested parishioners lead by a chair person. Within the planning team, there will be sub-committees for each component of the program. Catechists are strongly suggested to join, but not required.

Planning Team Chair Person Responsibilities:

- Schedules meeting for Planning Team with conjunction with staff liaison(s)
- Compiles bulletin announcements and advertisements and sends them to staff liaison (deadline: Mondays at noon)
- Keep general communication between sub-committees and chair

Planning Team Responsibilities:

- Meet as a team 2 to 3 times a year (as deemed necessary).
- Oversee the direction of the program in respect of the parish vision
- Schedule First Fridays and their themes
- Coordinate an end of the year evaluation

Sub-Committee Chair Person Responsibilities:

- Schedule and lead sub-committee meetings
- Compile a list of names and contact information of sub committee members
- Give a general report (or delegate a representative) on the sub-committee's work at the Rock Planning Team Meetings including any requests for funds
- Send bulletin announcements and advertisements to Planning Team Chair

Sub-Committee Responsibilities:

- Each member of the planning team will choose to serve on one of the sub committees (5-6 members each)
- The sub committee is responsible for planning their assigned First Friday
- Use of available resource material encouraged
- First Fridays will be implemented by the assigned sub-committee with additional parent chaperones
- Coordinate setup and cleanup on designated nights