

Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord  
**OFFICE OF  
LIFE LONG FORMATION**



**2017-2018**  
**Family Handbook**

Revised 8/23/17



***Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord***

St. Ann, Bradley

St. Ann, Indian Island

Holy Family, Old Town

Our Lady of Wisdom, Orono

Dear Families,

What an exciting time the beginning of a new school year is. This is even truer when we are speaking of the beginning of our Faith Formation Program. As you are well aware your children will learn much about their faith over the next few months. More importantly they will be encouraged to grow a relationship with Jesus Christ. This will be a relationship that will give your children reason to hope today and for the rest of their lives.

This year we are introducing new resources and new programs and our volunteers and teachers are enthusiastic and thrilled to be sharing their faith. As good as these are, your commitment to sharing your faith, your commitment to praying with your children, and your commitment to celebrating the Sacraments with your children are essential in helping your children know and love Jesus. Your commitment to sharing your faith will help them find a lifelong community to pray with and plant seeds of curiosity that will encourage them to seek Jesus in good times and in times of struggle.

Over the next few months your children will learn much about their faith, they will learn about safe environments, they will have the opportunity to sing and dance, and they will have some fun. We hope your entire family will make Life Long Faith Formation a priority each Sunday and every other day of the week. Working together, sharing our faith, and planting seeds that inspire our children to seek Jesus will go a long way in helping them to be all they can be, to be holy and extraordinary.

God Bless,

  
Fr Bill Labbe

429 Main Street • Old Town, Maine 04468

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Dear Families:

Welcome back to another year of fun and faith with the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord Faith Formation Program!

Please take a moment to review the academic calendar, and perhaps add some of the dates for special programs and/or Masses to your family calendar. Hopefully this booklet will answer many of your Office of Lifelong Faith Formation questions, but please feel free to contact us with any additional questions or concerns.

We all know that parents are the primary educators of their children. It is the role of the parish to support parents in this essential responsibility. The primary means of support is through the celebration of weekly Mass. The community comes together to nurture one another and to be nourished by the Word and the Eucharist. Mass is the most important part of your child's faith development. For children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Eucharist; weekly Mass is an essential component of their Sacrament preparation. The whole purpose of these Sacraments is to prepare your child to join with the parish community in the sharing of the Eucharist each week. Getting your child involved in Liturgy of the Word, Children's Choir, or having them assist at the Mass as an Altar Server will help your child strengthen a sense of belonging and ownership in the Mass. Every child should be encouraged to participate somehow.

At the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord, faith formation classes are offered for everyone. We are all life-long learners, and adult faith formation opportunities for adult parishioners is available in the parish office. These are chances to learn more about faith and to strengthen the relationship with Jesus Christ. While self-education and nurturing one's relationship with Jesus are the primary aims of adult faith formation, participation has the added benefit of providing excellent role modeling for our youngsters, provides us with the ability to answer children's questions, and helps us to initiate family discussions.

Your child's attendance at Faith Formation class is very important not only for lesson continuity, but also for the sense of community your child is developing. All of our catechists (teachers) are dedicated volunteers who generously give of their time. Please extend the courtesy of dropping off and picking up your child on time, and letting the catechist know when your child is not able to attend. Classes are Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 AM (Grades PK- 12) at Holy Family Church. Classes are essential for any child preparing to receive the Sacraments, and parents are encouraged to take a leadership role in preparing their own children for these Sacraments.

To stay updated with the latest news and activity going on in the Faith Formation programs please consult the weekly parish bulletin, e-mails, handouts your child brings home, and the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord Facebook page. In attempting to be good stewards of the Earth and our parish resources, the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation will communicate primarily through e-mail. If you use e-mail, please ensure that we have your current e-mail address throughout the year.

It is truly a blessing to serve the families of the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord, to work with the remarkable group of catechists that have been called by the Holy Spirit to share faith with our children, and to journey in faith with your children. We look forward to a fantastic year with each of you!

God Bless,  
Jessica Moore

# Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord

## Mission Statement:

**“Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, and strengthened by the Eucharist, we are called to invite all people into a deeper relationship with God and one another.”**

## Faith Formation is intended to...

help us in the formation of our faith by sharing experiences and information that speak to the vital aspects of Catholicism while honoring the development of the heart as well as the mind throughout our lifetime.

## Program Overview:

Faith Formation is a journey we are all called to, no matter our age, that draws us into closer relationship with Christ and that sustains us in our daily lives. Children and youth are the obvious participants in the process of Faith Formation. Certainly these early years provide ideal soil in which to plant the seeds of faith gifted by God. However, seeds need tending in order to grow. Parents, you are the primary catechists of your children and youth. The time they spend with you far exceeds the hour-long programs that run at church each week. This is not meant to overwhelm or scare you. It's exciting! So much so that volunteers have made themselves available to support you in your effort, such as the Catechists and Youth Ministers who will be meeting with your children and youth. Support is also available specifically for adults during your ongoing formation. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office to learn of the resources available to you as part of your faith journey, at whatever point along that path you happen to be.

## **Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord**

429 Main Street, Old Town, ME 04468

Tel: 827-4000, fax: 827-2113

email: [resurrectionparish@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:resurrectionparish@portlanddiocese.org)

web: [resurrectionofthelord.org](http://resurrectionofthelord.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

### **Ministry Staff:**

**Pastor:** Father Wilfred Labbe: 827-4000, [wilfred.labbe@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:wilfred.labbe@portlanddiocese.org)

**Life Long Faith Formation Coordinator:** Jessica Moore

827-4000 ext 103 [jessica.moore@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:jessica.moore@portlanddiocese.org)

**Pre- K through Grade 8: Holy Family Church, Old Town-**

Jessica Moore (827-4000 ext. 103, [jessica.moore@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:jessica.moore@portlanddiocese.org))

**9 through 12 High School Program:** Holy Family Church, Old Town RCIA room-

Kelly Martise & Kevin McFadden 827-4000

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults for Children:** Audrey Aylmer 827-4000

**Campus Ministry:** Audrey Aylmer 866-2155

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** Audrey Aylmer 827-4000

### **Catechists:**

#### **Holy Family Church - Old Town:**

**Pre K :** Stephanie Thibault Tel: 217-3925 [stephanie.thibault22@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.thibault22@gmail.com)

**Grade K:** Ariel Klarmann

**Grade 1:** Anne Gaetani: [ambjeg@roadrunner.com](mailto:ambjeg@roadrunner.com)

Heidi Rackliffe: [trackliffe12@roadrunner.com](mailto:trackliffe12@roadrunner.com)

**Grade 2:** Mary Shorette Tel: 827-7643 [mkshorette@gmail.com](mailto:mkshorette@gmail.com)

Mark Brewer Tel: 817-3005 [mark.brewer@umit.maine.edu](mailto:mark.brewer@umit.maine.edu)

**Grade 3/4:** Julia Sockbeson Tel: 944-9269 [jsock21@msn.com](mailto:jsock21@msn.com)

**Grade 5-8:** Terri Maher & Crew Tel: 827- 4379 [tea53me@yahoo.com](mailto:tea53me@yahoo.com)

# Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord

## Religious Education Schedule

### 2017-2018

Date	Event	Detail
September, 10, 2017	Blessing of the Backpacks	<b>8:00 Mass at Holy Family</b> bring your backpack for a back to school blessing
September 17, 2017	Blessing of the Catechists	<b>8:00 Mass at Holy Family</b> Catechists will receive a special blessing before returning to classes next weekend
September 24, 2017	Religious Ed Registration and Welcome Back Breakfast	<b>9:00 in the Parish Hall</b> at Holy Family for children and their families
October 1, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
October 15, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
October 22, 2017	Circle of Grace Safety Sessions	<b>9:00 in the Parish Hall</b> at Holy Family for children and their parents. <b>Grades PK-12</b>
October 27, 2017	Parish Halloween Costume Party	<b>6:00 - 7:00 PM @ Holy Family Parish Hall.</b> Come in costume and bring a friend!
October 29, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
November 5, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
November 12, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
November 19, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
December 3, 2017	Advent Wreath Making <b>NO 9:00 classes this day</b>	<b>2:00 in the Parish Hall</b> at Holy Family for children and their families. Please register with Jessica Moore before November 13
December 10, 2017	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family

December 17, 2017	9:00 Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal	Holy Family - 9:00
December 17, 2017	Nativity Play	4:00 PM- Please drop off students at 3:30 in the Parish Hall for costumes. There will be a cookie reception immediately following.
January 7, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
January 21, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
January 28, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
February 4, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
February 11, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
March 4, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
March 11, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
March 18, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
March 25, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
April 1, 2018	Easter	NO Classes
April 8, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
April 29, 2018	Regular Class	9:00 @ Holy Family
May 6, 2018	End of Year Celebration!	9:00 @ Holy Family
First Communion/ Confirmation	TBD- date is set by the diocese. We will let you know as soon as it is determined.	

There are no classes on weekends surrounding school vacations/holidays.  
Reconciliation, First Eucharist, & Confirmation Dates will be distributed when they are available.

High School Youth Ministry  
will start as soon as a qualified catechist is found.

### Curriculum

Pre K: God Loves Us (ages 4/5) by Loyola Press

Grades K-2: Finding God 2014 by Loyola Press

Grade 2 Sacraments Classes: 2009 God's Gift: Eucharist Combo Kits & 2009 God's Gift: Reconciliation Combo Kits. All texts are published by Loyola Press.

Grades 3-8: These classes will use Living the Good News' Lectionary Program in classes and will be supplemented by the 2013 Finding God textbook series by Loyola Press.

Grades 9-12 will primarily use the Decision Point Program

Young Adults: Curriculum available upon request from JoAnn Hall

RCIA: Curriculum available upon request from JoAnn Hall

Special Needs: Modified Programming

Adult Formation: Curriculum available upon request from JoAnn Hall

Copies of Faith Formation texts are available for parents/participants to review in the Life Long Faith Formation Office. Please call 827-4000 ext. 103 to make arrangements to view copies.



## Sacraments:

### A. Infant Baptism

1. Through symbolic immersion in the waters of Baptism we become connected to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. We die with Christ and we rise with him to newness of life. We become brothers and sisters in Christ and we are cleansed of original and personal sin. We are made saints.
2. **First time parents** are required to take a one night Baptismal preparation program that is offered in the evening.
3. **Sponsors** must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Must be at least 16 years old
  - b. Must be baptized and confirmed
  - c. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church according to canonical form
  - d. If first time sponsor, they also should participate in a Baptismal Preparation program.
4. **Requirements for Baptism:** If the child has not reached the age of reason (7) one must simply make a request for Baptism and meet the preparation requirements listed above. If the child is 7 or more, they then must participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children and will receive all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, & Eucharist) either at the Easter Vigil or when the Bishop is present in the Parish for Confirmation.
5. **Sacrament Procedures:** The Sacrament usually takes place on Sunday, but can be celebrated any day. It may be celebrated inside or outside of Mass in any Church in the Parish. Time and place a scheduled by the family and the priest. Sacraments now involve a two year process.

### B. First Reconciliation/Confirmation/First Eucharist

**(2 Year Process- typically grade 1 & 2)**

1. **First Reconciliation:** Introduces children, in a very clear way, to the mercy of God. Through this first encounter the child is made comfortable in formal Reconciliation process and hopefully begins a habit of seeking God's mercy through repeated celebration of the Sacrament.  
**Confirmation:** Confirmation is the Sacrament in which those who are reborn in the waters of Baptism are given God's gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is meant to strengthen and encourage the Children of God to see and to grow in holiness and extraordinariness.
2. Textbooks

- a. 2009 God's Gift: Eucharist Combo Kits & 2009 God's Gift: Reconciliation Combo Kits. All texts are published by Loyola Press.
- b. Textbooks will stay in the classroom. Assignments may be sent home.

#### **D. RCIA**

1. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program for adults who desire to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. Many people who want to join the Catholic Church have already been Baptized in another Christian Church. They don't need to be re-baptized. They will follow a form of steps adapted to their particular needs and concerns.

Others may have been Baptized in the Catholic Church and need to complete their Sacraments of Initiation by receiving First Communion and Confirmation. They will have an opportunity to grow in their relationship with God and learn more about their faith before receiving their Sacraments.

The goal of the RCIA process is full, active, and conscious participation in an exciting life with Jesus Christ within His Catholic Church. RCIA helps adults grow in their relationship with God, become familiar with Catholic teachings and practices, get acquainted with the faith community, and get involved in service within the community as a whole.

2. Registration: If you are interested in registering for RCIA please contact the Father Bill at 827-4000 and call JoAnn Hall at 866-2155. Father Bill would like to meet with all the candidates.
3. Involvement of Children in the faith formation program
4. RCIA curriculum may be obtained by contacting JoAnn Hall 866-2155
5. Sponsors must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Must be at least 16 years old
  - b. Must be baptized and confirmed
  - c. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church according to canonical form

# **General Policies**

## **Registration:**

Registration will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 9:00 AM in the Holy Family Church Parish Hall. Eligible children should be in grades Pre K -12. **Each year,** registration forms need to be completed to assure the most accurate information is on hand. Information will not be shared with anyone except those who have a legal or professional responsibility to know. **If your child is new to our program and was not Baptized within the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord, you are responsible for providing us with a copy of the Baptism Certificate.** Any child custody forms that we may need should also be turned in at this time.

## **Notification of Changes:**

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the Faith Formation office of any changes to parental/emergency information including information regarding health, custody, special needs, or temporary requests.

## **Attendance:**

Regular attendance is an important factor in the formation of faith through the study of Scripture, prayer, Church teaching, and community. If your child is not able to make that week's session, please inform the Catechist or Parish Faith Formation Leader.

## **Attendance for Sacramental Prep classes:**

Because of the large amount of information being taught in these two years, attendance at Faith Formation classes is vital. If children who are preparing to receive their Sacraments miss class, parents are responsible for contacting the teacher to obtain missed work and it becomes the parent's responsibility to make sure that all work is completed in a timely manner. If a candidate for Sacraments has 3 unexcused absences, a representative from the Faith Formation program will be in touch with parent(s)/guardians to determine the students eligibility to receive the sacraments.