

ST. DENIS

Mission Statement

"The Faith Formation Program of St. Denis seeks to assist families in passing on our faith by providing children, youth, and adults with the knowledge, experiences and skills needed to encounter Christ and become His true and faithful disciples. We enthusiastically support the ministries, which work to build up our community and proclaim the Kingdom of God."

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HANDBOOK

St. Denis Faith Formation
23 Manchaug Street
Douglas, Massachusetts 01516

Kathy Archambault - Coordinator
E-Mail: karchambault@saintdenischurch.com

Phone: (508) 476-2002 x2
Web-site: www.saintdenischurch.com

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Dear Parents:

Welcome to the St. Denis Faith Formation program. This handbook is designed to inform you and your student of the procedures and expectations here at St. Denis Parish. We also wish to inform you about the curriculum for each grade and the **importance of attending each year**. All students are expected to observe and respect the procedures set forth in this handbook.

The Second Vatican Council states that **“Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children.”** Teachings are based on the authority of the Catholic Church and the materials, books, videos, activities, etc. are approved and recommended by the Diocese of Worcester. The faith formation program of St. Denis seeks to assist families in passing on our faith by providing children, youth and adults with the knowledge, experience and skills needed to become true and faithful disciples of Jesus. We believe that a partnership between our pastor, coordinator, teachers, parents, students and the community will create the team effort that is so important to achieve this goal.

As members, it is vital for parishioners to become involved through the many activities, programs, ministries and volunteer opportunities that the church makes available. This is how we share more fully in the life of the church while setting a positive example for the children. With everyone’s participation, the parish grows spiritually and a powerful sense of community is cultivated.

Forming the classes and schedules for our students is often a challenging task which may be even more so this year due to possible gathering restrictions. A lot of time and thought will be put into this as we work together with all of the other ministries in our parish. It is important that we are able to communicate with you during the year so, **all families registered in our Faith Formation program also need to be registered for Flocknote**. Flocknote is the prime method of communication throughout the year and the way to receive the most current information. **If you are not already registered on Flocknote we will register you.**

A meeting for all grades is held when classes resume and parents and students are expected to attend. Follow your grade schedule for additional meetings during the year. If you have any further questions or concerns you are welcome to call me in my office at (508) 476-2002 or send me an e-mail at karchambault@saintdenischurch.com.

We look forward to helping your student grow closer to Christ and sharing this wonderful experience with your family. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Kathy Archambault
Coordinator of Faith Formation



Catholic Faith Formation is progressive, and every year is important. If a year is missed, remedial work will need to be done to catch students up. This may cause a delay in receiving Sacraments. If your family is ever experiencing some difficulty with class attendance, please contact the rectory so that we can work together.

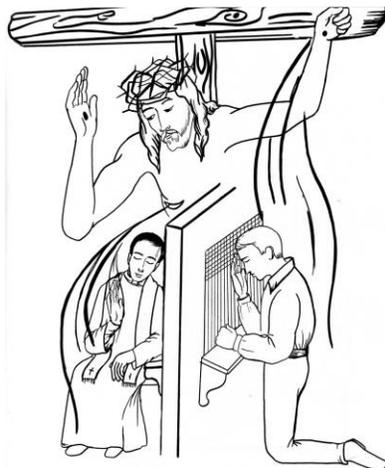
Our teachers volunteer their time to teach the children of our parish about their faith because they love our Lord and want to pass on that connection with others. They do all have additional commitments and most have families of their own, so we need everyone to work together. Parents, you are the primary teachers of your children in the way of faith and you promised at the baptism of your child to be the best of teachers. We are here to assist you, but it is your responsibility to stay connected and informed.

Classes are held in the Church basement and some classes meet weekly while others meet every other week. This schedule can vary due to holidays, school vacations, or teacher availability. Be sure to **save** and **check** your schedule for the correct week of your child's class and read the Church bulletin each week at Mass for updates. Notices and updates are sent via Flocknote. Notices for certain events are sent home with students. **It is not up to the teachers to make sure you are aware of all events!** They will help with reminders, but it is your responsibility to keep updated through the resources made available to you. If your child misses a class we will e-mail you and attach the missed lesson for your student to complete and return. **Too many missed classes may require students to attend a "catch up" program before moving on to the next grade.** Much of what is done in class cannot be reproduced. Shared discussions, videos and other experiences occur in every class so good attendance is very important.

The St. Denis web site is continually updated and is a very valuable resource with many materials that can be downloaded. Check this weekly at: www.saintdenischurch.com for all Parish information. Please let us know if there is something you cannot find and we will look into it for you. Our Facebook Page is also a place to find "Live" prayer services, Holy Hour, programs and more.

All Grades – Weekly worship at Mass and regular participation in the Sacraments is the most important expression of our faith. As members of the Catholic Church, it is essential for students and their families to attend Mass weekly and on Holy days throughout the entire year. Even during this pandemic, Fr. Juan recorded Mass so families could attend "Live" on Facebook or go onto our web-site at a later time. When Mass is missed, we miss the prayers of faith, God's word as told in Sacred Scripture and we miss receiving Holy Communion. The Eucharist is a privilege and is essential nourishment for our body and soul. Worshiping at Mass each week will help the entire family deepen their relationship with God.

Reconciliation is a wonderful sacrament given to us by Jesus and when celebrated, we are given the chance to re-establish and deepen our relationship with God. This sacrament should be celebrated during each new season of the Church's Liturgical Year, not only when it appears on the Faith Formation schedule.



COURSE DESCRIPTION BY GRADE

Grades 1 – 6: We use the “Blest Are We” series of books to provide students and their families with a thorough understanding of our Catholic faith. Every year there is a spiral thematic curriculum that is based on the four pillars of the catechism of the Catholic Church. Each year as the children’s understanding and faith grow, topics are revisited and new elements are added to continue their faith development. With this approach, children learn all aspects of our Catholic faith at an age-appropriate level, therefore, every year is important. ****Skipping grades will require remedial instruction.***

Pre-K & Kindergarten – Classes are optional although the children really enjoy learning about their faith through art, song and storytelling. Classes are held in the new classroom down in the Church Hall and run weekly from 10:10 to 11:20. This time affords parents the opportunity to worship at the 10:15 Mass. Children may also have the chance to attend **C.L.O.W.** (Children’s Liturgy of the Word) during some of the classes with their teacher. Check the schedule provided and the weekly Church bulletin for updates. **All** children must be accompanied by an adult during drop off and pick up. (Approx. 22 classes, plus special events)

PRIMARY

First Grade – this is not an optional program as preparations begin for Second Grade when they will receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Students will be introduced to some basic teachings that the Catholic Church teaches about the Blessed Trinity. They will put together a booklet titled “This Is My Church” (both home and class work) and will learn about St. Denis Church through field trips and group classes. They will focus on the prayers they need to know by Second Grade and will learn the “Lord’s Prayer” and “Hail Mary” to music. ***Practicing prayers at home is essential since our time together is limited.*** Classes are held in the smaller new classroom in the Church Hall from 8:30 to 10:00. Be sure to check your schedule for the correct week and time of your child’s class. Also check the Church bulletin and web-site weekly for updates. ****Remedial instruction will be necessary in 2nd Grade for any student who misses the First Grade program.*** (Approx. 14 classes, special events, field trips, grade Mass and 2 parent meetings.)

Second Grade – this year your second grader will be introduced to some of the basic teachings about the sacramental life of the Catholic Church as they discover what it means to belong to the Christian community. This is a ***very important*** year for the children as they concentrate on the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. ***Special projects are also a part of this program such as the Time Capsules and Prayer Partners. You will receive all of this information, and forms can be downloaded.*** Attendance and parental involvement is imperative and ***missed classes or meetings will need to be made up.*** (See the schedule for make-up dates.) **Three parent meetings** are a part of this program and **must** be attended by at least one parent or guardian. A three-hour retreat will take place 3 – 4 weeks before the First Holy Communion celebrations and is necessary for the reception of First Holy Communion. Children, accompanied by at least ***one*** parent or guardian **must** attend the rehearsal prior to the First Eucharist ceremony. Information will be given during the year to keep you updated. Classes are held in the Church basement and run every other week from 8:30 to 10:00. Check your schedule, church bulletin and web-site weekly for the correct time and date of all events. (Approx. 14 classes, plus special events, parent meetings & grade Masses)

Third Grade – the focus of Grade 3 is the Church and the kind of community the Church is called to be. The mission, the message, the prayer, and the actions of God’s special family will be explored. They will learn about the Saints and participate in our Saints project. (***Downloadable “Saints” form on the web-site if yours is misplaced***) Students will form a procession of Saints into the church for the Sunday Mass before “All Saints Day. Prayers should continue to be practiced at home and classes are held in the Church basement every other week from 8:30 to 10:00. Be sure to check your schedule for the correct time of your child’s class. Also check the Church bulletin and web-site weekly for updates. (Approx. 14 classes, plus special events, parent meeting and grade Mass.)

INTERMEDIATE

Fourth Grade – your fourth grader will learn about the Church’s rich tradition of moral example and teaching that will provide motivation and direction for your child’s moral growth. Students explore the Sacrament of Reconciliation in greater depth. They will begin to learn about the devotion of the rosary. Prayers should continue to be practiced at home. Classes are held in the Church basement and run every other week from 8:30 to 10:00. **Some of these classes will involve the students getting together as an entire group, so it is important that they attend all classes.** Check your schedule for the correct date and time of class as well as the Church bulletin and web-site weekly for updates. (Approx. 14 classes, plus special events, group class, parent meeting and grade Mass.)

Fifth Grade – the students will study the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Your child will learn that the Church is the sacrament or sign of Christ in the world. They will come to appreciate the difference Jesus makes in our lives. Students will continue to learn about the Rosary and will be introduced to the Way of the Cross. Prayers should continue to be practiced at home. Classes are held in the Church basement and run every other week from 8:30 to 10:00. Check your schedule for the correct date and time of class as well as the Church bulletin and web-site weekly for updates. (Approx. 14 classes, plus special events, parent meeting and grade Mass.)

YOUNG ADOLESCENT

Sixth Grade – the focus is on the Bible and students will be presented with their own Bibles at Mass in the Fall. They will study the Old and New Testaments and explore the Gospels. Classes are held in the Church basement on Sunday mornings. **(Students should bring their bibles with them to every class.)** **Check with your student’s teacher, the Church bulletin, and web-site weekly for updates to schedule.** Classes are held in the Church basement every other week from 8:30 to 10:00. Grade Mass, special events, parent meeting and one community service project are also a part of their program.

THEME CLASS: We strive to hold a theme class with every grade and they are a very powerful way to reach students with music, videos and activities pertaining to a particular theme. Students are expected to attend these “theme” classes and will need to complete a make-up assignment if they miss. These assignments cannot possibly capture the spirit of these classes, so every attempt should be made to get students there.

7TH & 8TH GRADE PROGRAM

| <i>Plan To Attend</i> | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------|------|--------|------|
| SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |

Our 7th and 8th Grade Faith Formation classes meet on Sunday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The students currently meet together as one large group in the church hall. Each class will begin with prayer followed by an introduction to the class’s main theme. Students will view theme-related educational videos and engage in smaller break-out sessions to discuss the evening’s theme under the guidance of a facilitator. Activities related to the theme will be instructed by the facilitator to further reinforce the evening’s lesson. Each group will collaborate to prepare a brief oral presentation describing what was learned during the break-out session and deliver the presentation to the class as a whole. Students may be asked to research some things at home to present at class.

BENEFITS OF THIS PROGRAM FORMAT

- **Delivery of standardized lessons in a large group setting**
- **Opportunities to hear inspiring faith-sharing stories**
- **Use of eclectic teaching methods**
- **Engaging, interactive activities in a safe environment**
- **Improved retention of class material**
- **Increased involvement in the St. Denis Church community**
- **Better transition into the High School Faith Formation Program**

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

(9th, 10th or 11th Grades)

Students are preparing to make the decision to live as a disciple of Christ and become an adult member in the Catholic Church. As it is with anything important that we do, a commitment is necessary for this to happen. Class participation, weekly Mass attendance, prayer and service within the parish community are all part of this program.

Two years (HS Year I and HS Year II) needs to be completed in either 9th, 10th or 11th grade. Since the number of classes is minimal, if more than two are missed in one year, it will not be complete. If conflicts are occurring in a particular year, students do have up to three years to complete the required two. Student's, NOT parents need to take responsibility for this commitment by following the schedule, contacting the teachers, and completing any necessary assignments. (Contact us if you have any issues.)

High School – students all meet as a group on Sunday evenings in the church hall from 6:00 – 8:00 pm once...sometimes twice a month.

Students are required to complete two years of the high school program according to the Diocesan framework. ***Students who attend all classes in the 9th & 10th grades, worship weekly at Mass and participate in service to the parish community have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of their Junior year.*** If they miss any of those components, they have the opportunity to continue in the 11th grade and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of their Senior year.

HIGH SCHOOL YEAR II:

A Discernment Orientation is included in January during the second year of the High School program since students are preparing to make a mature, faithful decision about the Sacrament of Confirmation. **At least one parent is expected to attend the two hour Discernment Orientation with their student.**

Discernment Interview – students who are actively participating in their Catholic faith and who have completed the material in their Confirmation Discernment packets will receive a date and time for their Discernment interview. They will meet with the Discernment team and once it's been determined that they are meeting the necessary requirements, and desire to live as a disciple of Christ as well as a full, active, adult member of the Catholic Church, they will enter our one day, six hour Immediate Confirmation Prep Program that spring.

Immediate Confirmation Prep (ICP) – students who have completed the Religious Education program through two years of high school and who have met with the Discernment Team and who have been deemed ready, will enter the ICP program. This program consists of a special Mass that they will participate in and one 6 hour class. Once that is completed, students will be ready for the fall Confirmation retreat and Confirmation Mass.

YOUTH MINISTRY & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

(STILL IN PROGRESS – Volunteers Needed)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedules, parish happenings, community & diocesan events can be found in the weekly bulletin and on our web-site, www.saintdenischurch.com. Live services can often be found on Facebook. Notifications about these programs are sent via Flocknote.

TARDINESS AND ABSENCES

Our time together with the students totals to about **24 hours a year**. That's **one day for the entire year!** With that small number of classes, it's so important for students to try and attend them all. **Every grade is another important step in your student's faith formation.** Make up work will be sent via Flocknote for classes missed and failure to return the work may delay the reception of Sacraments. Arriving late to class is disruptive to the student and the class. Classes only last 1½ - 2 hours, please try to be on time. When a student has to be absent, please e-mail or call the teacher. **They are volunteers** and work hard to plan their classes for a certain number of students around already busy schedules. Prompt pick-up from class is also essential as these teachers have families and obligations of their own to get back to.

CANCELLATIONS (parents need to check the following resources)

When classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, we will send a Flocknote. You can also check our Facebook page or web-site. **We do not call or e-mail everyone individually.**

If we have not cancelled, but you feel it is a danger for you to make the drive in, please use your discretion and notify your student's teacher. We don't want anyone to be unsafe.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If a student has a serious medical concern or any other issue that we should be aware of, please be sure to discuss it with us. Don't just write it on the form without speaking to me or the teacher. We want to make sure that your student's best interests are met. All students **must** provide us with an emergency number on the registration form in the event that we can't reach you and need to contact someone else. ***We will always try to contact the parents first.*** It is essential that this information be kept up to date. Registration will now be done on-line. Flocknote and e-mail are the primary ways that we keep in contact.

The rectory should be notified immediately of any changes.

(All information is kept confidential; for office use only.)

NUTRITION

Students should eat a nutritious meal and be well rested before class. Although many teachers or volunteer parents provide a snack, it ***is not*** required and shouldn't be considered the students' meal. Please don't send students into the classroom with their dinners. This is even more disrupting than arriving late. **If students are part of an all day event and have dietary concerns, parents should contact the rectory.**

PARENT/CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

Families come in all shapes and sizes and it is within the family that we learn our first lessons of life. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to become involved with your child's Faith Formation. There are many ways to achieve this by volunteering some of your time to the program, discussions at home, reviewing materials from the lessons that your child brings home, family prayer, receiving the Holy Sacraments (Eucharist and Reconciliation) and most importantly, **weekly worship at Mass**. All of this will send the message to your child that you are interested and believe that practicing your faith is an important part of your life. (Resource books and other materials are available to borrow at your request). We will also provide adult education opportunities throughout the year. ***Whatever we do in our parish faith formation program can only supplement what is happening at home.*** God invites us into a personal relationship of love, but it is up to us to respond. When we say "Yes" we begin a journey of faith that lasts a lifetime. **Please check the volunteer list and the web-site for all the different ways in which you can help. Together, we help the program and the parish to thrive.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (C.L.O.W.)

Children in Grades PK – 4 have the opportunity to worship at a level geared for them. Our Children's Liturgy of the Word mirrors the worship experience of the larger community, with a style that is engaging and interactive. It is not faith formation class or a time to play. It is a chance to help and guide the children to become alert, active listeners of God's Word. They will experience God's presence in scripture and have a better understanding of the message. They will return back to their families in the church to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the main assembly. Discuss what they learned about the readings and Gospel on your way home. Complete the activities in the take home brochure together as a family.

MASS / READINGS

Talk with your student about the importance of them volunteering to read or bring up a gift at their grade Mass. Actively participating in the Mass is an important part of our faith. If your child is selected to do a reading or petition at their Grade Mass they will be provided with a copy at least one week in advance. ***Please be sure they practice at home.*** They are proclaiming the Word of God and this needs to be taken seriously. Time should be spent preparing for each reading through prayer and practice. Readers in **Grades 5 and up** should be seated in the front pew by **9:45 a.m.** Gift bearers should arrive no later than **10:10** and should sit in the second pew. An adult in charge will be seated with them throughout the Mass. The Deacon or someone will be there to help them practice again so they are comfortable reading before the congregation. Students in **Grades 1 – 4** will read at the Children's Liturgy of the Word (**C.L.O.W.**) in the Gathering Room upstairs and should proceed with the other students after Fr. Juan calls them up for a blessing. All students in Grades PK – 4 are strongly encouraged to attend **CLOW**. Please contact the teacher if a Mass volunteer cannot attend for any reason.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is offered **every Saturday, from 3:15 – 3:45 before Mass**. We also offer it at special times during Advent and Lent. Please check your schedules for the dates and times. "Reconciliation" means coming together again. By receiving this wonderful Sacrament, we are offered a chance to reestablish or deepen our relationship with God. The church teaches that everyone receive the sacrament every year, but this sacrament should become a regular part of your life and celebrated during the seasons of the Liturgical Year in the Church.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service within the parish is an important part of the student's Faith Formation experience and the type of service they will be involved with is age appropriate. There are educational field trips in some grades and opportunities for students to use their time and talents helping various organizations and people in need. You will be notified of any events in which your child is expected to participate. **Parents are invited and encouraged to join in as well!**

CODE OF CONDUCT

St. Denis Faith Formation students at all times will:

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| RESPECT |
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- ✠ Treat others in a civil, respectful, and courteous manner.
- ✠ Respect and do not break, damage or deface any Church property.
- ✠ Respect the personal property of others.
- ✠ Be honest in their words and deeds and use respectful language.
- ✠ Behave in a way that does not disrupt learning.
- ✠ Behave in a quiet, respectful manner in Church.
- ✠ Turn off all electronic devices. **Cell phones will be collected if necessary.**
- ✠ Remove hats while inside.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

***Please review this policy with your student every year**

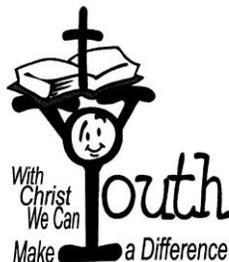
We have had some terrific classes and wonderful students, and overall we are very proud of the respect they have shown our teachers. Unfortunately, in past years we have experienced some problems with excessive disruptive behavior and disrespect from a few students. This cannot be tolerated, so we have implemented a 1 - 2 - 3 discipline.

If a student becomes excessively disruptive or disrespectful we will move their seat if necessary and they will be asked to stop. **That's 1.** If it continues they will be taken aside by their teacher or Mrs. Archambault and given a final warning. **That's 2.** If it still continues we will call parents and ask that they pick their student up. **That's 3.**

If parents need to be contacted for any reason a meeting will need to be set with the student, parent, teacher and Mrs. Archambault before students are allowed to come back to class. We haven't had many issues, but there have been some and the situations have been unpleasant for everyone involved.

Grades **PK - 5:** the 1 - 2 - 3 discipline policy will be handled according to the age of the student by changing the seating arrangement, implementing time outs or sending a note home to parents if it becomes necessary.

Please discuss this policy with your student **every year before classes begin and remind them that our teachers volunteer their time and deserve respect. Students should not be carrying on other conversations while the teacher is talking and trying to teach. **Appropriate language** should be used at all times and students should treat others the way they would want others to treat them. They need to participate in class and work on the lessons that the teacher asks them to. Cell phone use is not allowed in class. **All we ask is that students come to class with an open mind and heart and be respectful of our volunteer teachers and to each other.***



We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.
~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

The St. Denis Faith Formation program is comprised of volunteer parents and parishioners. They will do what they can to provide assistance to those children facing special needs, such as creating a “safe” classroom environment, but if a student’s situation is severe, parents may need to stay with them in the classroom or choose the home schooling option. If students are expected to be with us all day, (retreat, special program) we will have healthy food choices available as well, **but be sure to talk to us about it.**

FOOD ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS INVOLVING FOOD CONCERNS

1. Students may bring in their own snack and control the areas they touch by bringing in disinfectant wipes.
2. Parents may pick students up 15 minutes early to avoid snack time altogether.
3. Parents may choose to home school the student with the guidance and support of the Faith Formation Coordinator.
4. Parents should always check about what food or snacks will be provided when students are spending most of the day with us. We will always work with you.

If the student’s allergy requires them to carry an EpiPen, the student or parent would need to be responsible for administering it, not the teacher.

LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

We do not always have extra volunteers who can stay one-on-one with a student. If your student requires this type of individual attention, you may need to find someone who can help your child, or you can stay yourself. Anyone over 14 years old who volunteers to work with children, would need to complete a C.O.R.I. review and Safe Training course.

If your child has a special situation that you need us to consider, please contact the rectory in advance so we can discuss the options available. The Diocese does offer some programs to assist families who have special needs. We will be happy to direct these families so they may obtain information about these programs.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING AND CURRICULUM

In the wake of the 2002 crisis, the bishops signed a *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. To fulfill that pledge, the Office of Healing and Prevention at the Diocese of Worcester requires that “all those working with minors or associated with minors or who have the potential to be associated with minors must have a CORI check, Safe Environment Training and sign the Code of Conduct for the Diocese of Worcester.”

In addition, Article 12 of the *Charter* also calls for Safe Environment Education for all children in our parishes, and Safe Environment Education for all parents.

In an effort to comply with Article 12 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and young People*, every year we will present the latest Safe Environment Educational information from Worcester to our First Grade parents. A DVD containing a special message from the Bishop along with a booklet titled “About Child Abuse” will be presented at the end of the first parent meeting.

More detailed information about Safe Environment Education can be found within this handbook, on our web-site and in the pamphlet display in the church. Parents must sign the section of the agreement form that they have read the information about the Safe Environment Education.

The protection of children entrusted to our care has always been of paramount importance and we thank you for sharing in this vital ministry in the Church and helping to put the needs of the children first.

ST. DENIS CHURCH HALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

With so many people using the church hall, it is imperative that we all share in the responsibility of keeping it clean. We need to teach our students the importance of respecting church property, picking up after themselves and also having respect for the people who have to clean and maintain the church.

Cleaning supplies and products can be found in the closet on the stage if needed along with First Aid supplies.

1. Classes generally run for only 1½ hrs. Students should not have to make multiple trips to the restrooms as it is very distracting, especially to the classroom nearest the restroom.
2. Use the trash receptacles. Do not stuff paper towels into the toilets or urinals! Keep restrooms clean!
3. There is absolutely **“NO SMOKING”** anywhere inside the church.
4. If you drop anything (snacks, papers, pencils, etc.) on the floor, pick it up. Don't leave a mess for someone else to take care of. Check your area before you leave! Have students pick up under the table and there is a broom and dustpan in the stage closet if needed for cleaning up.
5. **NO GLITTER IS ALLOWED!** It is very difficult to clean and we have found it months after it was used for a project. Glitter glue may be used.
6. **DO NOT** break pencils. They cost money and should not have to be replaced so frequently. **DO NOT** write on tables.
7. Only authorized adults are allowed to touch the room dividers. These are easily broken if not moved carefully.
8. The stage is now a working office for the Faith Formation program. Only authorized people are allowed unless they have requested a meeting.
9. Teachers are authorized to be on the stage to get boxes, supplies, make copies or anything else that may be needed. Please put everything back where you found it. Someone will be there to assist if needed.
10. Be sure all labeled items are returned so labels can be read. We need to be able to find whatever we are looking for.

We do not have a full time janitor. This parish belongs to all of us and we need to take pride in its appearance. Please be sure to take the extra few minutes to follow the rules that are outlined on this page.

Thank you for caring.



†SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION†

Each sacrament is an encounter with Christ that strengthens and nourishes our faith.

Preparation for and reception of a sacrament is based on readiness and desire, not on age or grade. Although here at St. Denis we do celebrate the sacraments in particular grades, much depends on the individual's readiness. Each grade is another step towards preparing a candidate for a sacrament and deepening their faith.

Students who are enrolled in Catholic schools are expected to receive all of the Sacraments with their parish community.

Anyone who has missed receiving any of the sacraments may enroll in our delayed sacramental program. Please contact the rectory for further information.



†First Eucharist – is generally celebrated at age 7 or 8 in grade 2. Candidates must have a good understanding about the importance of receiving The Eucharist and also about the life of Jesus. Students who are enrolled in Catholic schools are expected to receive this Sacrament with their parish community. Parent meetings and a retreat must be attended and Catholic school children are also invited to join in on any of our classes throughout the year. Completion of the First Grade Faith Formation program is required.



†First Reconciliation – In June 2004, a letter from Bishop McManus was received concerning this sacrament. In keeping with the Code of Canon Law the Bishop would like us to ensure that the first communion of children is always “preceded by sacramental confession and absolution.” (Canon 914, RS #87) We will therefore, provide age appropriate instruction for this sacrament during the 2nd grade. All candidates will understand the importance of the sacrament and the gifts that it offers. Students enrolled in Catholic schools are expected to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time with their parish community. Parent meetings must be attended and Catholic school children are also invited to join in on any of our classes through out the year.



†Confirmation – a sacrament of initiation that celebrates the presence of God's special strength and gifts in a baptized person to help them become a better Christian. The sacraments give us the grace to help us do Christ's work. In the Sacrament of Confirmation we experience an extension of our Baptism. Through it, we make a stronger bond with Jesus and the Holy Spirit gifts us with special strength to spread and defend the faith. But as it is with any gift, you need to accept it and use it. ***Students who have completed the Discernment Packets, two years of our High School program (currently enrolled), shown that they are weekly Mass attendants, and are involved in service to their parish community, will be given a date and time for their Discernment interview.*** Once students have expressed the desire, ability and willingness to participate in the program of immediate catechesis, they will then enter our Immediate Confirmation Prep program. (details within this handbook)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Kathy Archambault
Coordinator of Faith Formation**

**St. Denis Church
23 Manchaug Street
Douglas, MA 01516
Phone: 508-476-2002 x2**

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

karchambault@saintdenischurch.com
nanorberg@saintdenischurch.com
pstewart@saintdenischurch.com
jescudero@saintdenischurch.com