

# **SATURDAY FAITH BUILDING STARTS WITH US**

**Welcome Saturday Families and Catechists**



# CONNECTING WITH FAMILIES

- Email is the first means of reaching families, so please let the office know when an email address changes.
- Phone. We call periodically, including when classes are cancelled on short notice. Please insure faith formation has all new/changed phone numbers, including those of emergency contacts.
- Text to 716-812-8063. Please introduce yourself so I know with whom I'm texting.
- Go to SSPP parish website, choose Faith Formation link at top of the home page, scroll down Faith Formation page.
- Link to Faith Formation Web Page:  
<https://ssp-phamburg.org/faith-formation>
- What Faith Formation no longer uses: physical mail, which has become too expensive and labor intensive.



# WEATHER!

- When the weather is bad, Saints Peter and Paul Faith Formation uses TV-channels 2, 4, & 7 and radio WBEN 930AM to announce class cancellations.
- Cancellation announcements will be made by 5 am on the day of morning classes.
- If morning classes are cancelled, evening classes on that same day are cancelled as well.
- If Hamburg cancels after school activities, evening Faith Formation is automatically cancelled. This policy applies particularly to Monday evening classes. Even if the Faith Formation closing notice isn't posted promptly, go with the Hamburg closing.
- Email notifications are also used. Please make sure all updated email addresses on are file with Faith Formation.
- **Please do not call the rectory!**



# DISMISSAL & LATE PICK UPS

- All students are dismissed from the front doors (or the main entrance) of the school, located on Pine St.
- Cars enter & exit using the driveway to parking lot 2 (the Pine Street lot).
- Drop offs are at the Pine Street doors to the school. Please do not drop students off in the parking lot.
- Parents are asked to come to the school doors to pick up students after classes.
- Catechists will walk their classes to the front door.
- If a parent is delayed in picking up a student, that student will be waiting in the Faith Formation office, room 102 and parents will need to come into the building for late pick ups.



# EARLY DISMISSAL & CARPOOLING

## Early Dismissal

- While early dismissal is allowed, the strong preference is that students are present for the entire class.
- Early Dismissal...
  - interrupts learning and the faith formation experience. Catechists and students gather together two hours a week for faith sharing.
  - is a disruption to the rest of the class and the catechist.
- If early dismissal for a student is needed...
  - notification is required before class starts via a note or an email.
  - notification before class allows the list of early dismissals to be shared with catechists beforehand so students will be ready when parents arrive.
- Early dismissal students must be picked up in the Faith Formation office in room 102.
  - Parent or guardian must sign their child out upon pick up.
  - **No pick ups of early dismissal students from classrooms.**

## Carpooling

- Any parent picking up a child other than their own needs a written, signed note from the child's parent or guardian.
- It is Faith Formation policy that we do not release children to anyone other than the child's parents without written and signed authorization.



# MEDICAL SITUATIONS

- Every family is asked to provide three emergency contact numbers on registration forms.
- Faith Formation staff first try to reach parents or guardians using all the family phone numbers provided.
- Then we try emergency contacts in the order they are given on registration forms.
- Children who are sick and waiting for parent pick up will be in the Faith Formation office, room 102.
- In case of injury or accident, if the situation seems less urgent, parents, guardians or emergency contacts will be called for pick up.
- For very urgent situations, Faith Formation staff will call emergency services.
- Faith Formation staff and catechists do not administer medicine or medical treatment.



# SPECIAL SITUATIONS

## PLEASE LET FAITH FORMATION KNOW ABOUT....

- Physical accommodations.
- Allergies.
- Learning needs.
- Emotional considerations.
- Changes or challenges with the family schedule. We can usually work something out.
- Family changes, such as new siblings or the death of a relative.
- Family arrangements, such as custody arrangements or any other legal situation about which you believe we should be aware.



# CLASSROOM DECORUM

- The goal is for everyone to have a positive, enjoyable classtime.
- The best way to achieve classroom decorum is for parents to chat with their students about it in advance.
- Frame conversation in terms of respect for catechists and classmates.
- Catechists are all volunteers from this parish. They deserve all our respect and gratitude. Catechists are in charge of classrooms while teaching.
- Cell phones. Use during class is not allowed and catechists may choose to collect cell phones from students before class and return them at the end of class.
- Students may not leave the building during class.
- We share classrooms with school teachers and students. Please, let's be the best of good citizens.





# Getting Ready to Make Sacraments

## First Penance

- Retreats @ 9-11 am in School Cafeteria
  - January 19
  - January 26
  - February 2
- Rehearsal @ 7 pm in Church
  - March 12
- First Penance Service
  - March 20 @ 7 pm

## First Holy Communion

- Retreats @ 9-11 am in School Cafeteria
    - February 9
    - February 23
    - March 2
  - Rehearsal @ 7 pm in Church
    - April 9 (for Saturday May 4)
    - April 10 (for Sunday May 5)
  - First Holy Communion Mass (sign ups begin Nov 3)
    - Saturday May 4 @ 4 pm
    - Sunday May 5 @ 12:15 pm
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# CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

- Updated Diocesan curriculum rolls out.
- Offer a Saturday option of parent/family faith formation blended with classroom teaching and activities for Saturday students.
- Would like parent thoughts now.
- Classroom option will remain for Sunday.
- Surveys have been used in the past and were very helpful. We'll use them again.
- Focus group for more detailed planning. Would you like to participate in focus group?



# WHY WE'RE HERE

- Sharing and strengthening faith.
- Learning about our Catholic identity.
- Moral formation.
- Live the Beatitudes, service to others.
- Support and affirm you as parents.

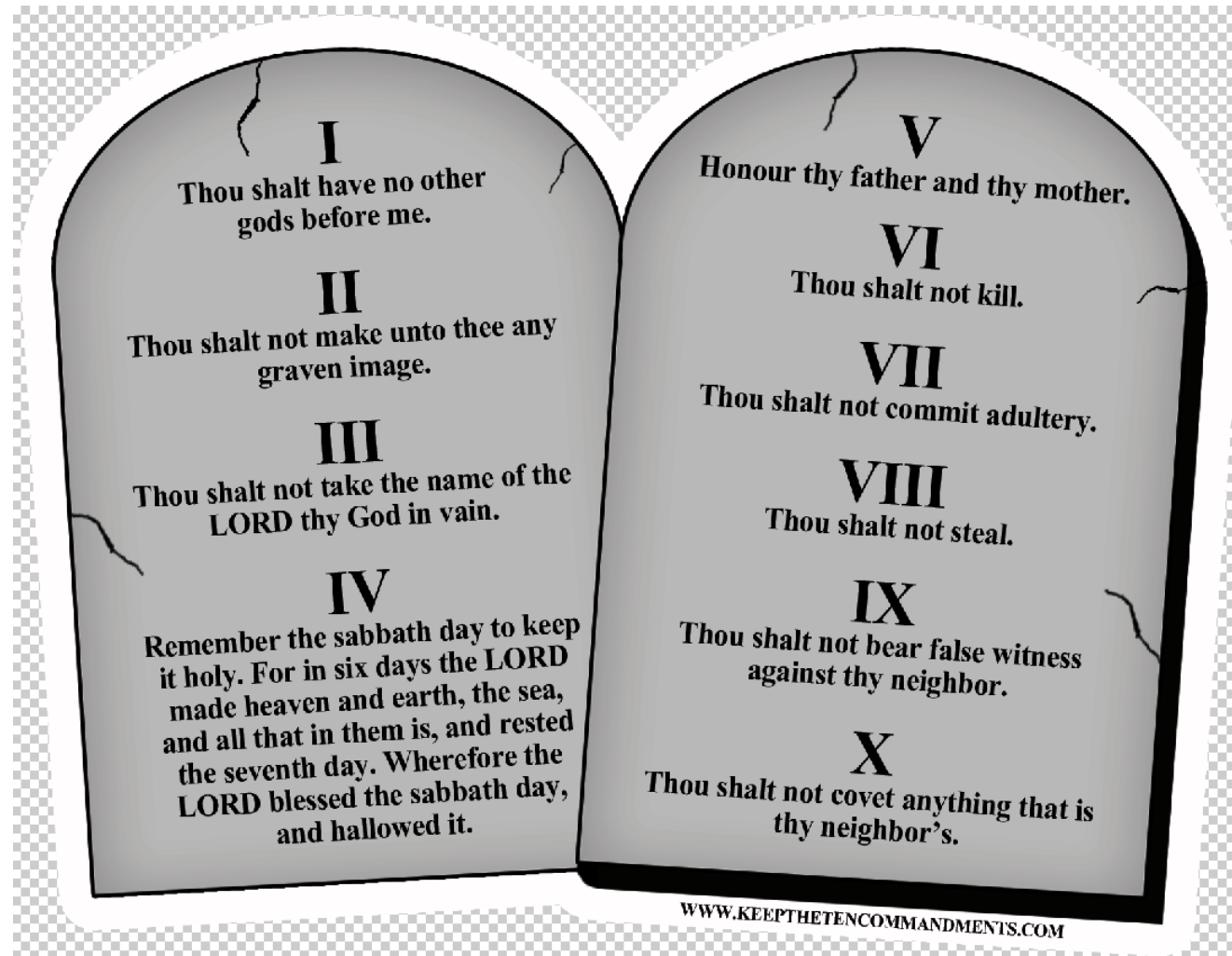


# FAITH SHARING

- Share faith as a community
- Express faith in creative crafts and classroom activities
- Service to others through crafts like making cards and activities such as caroling
- Learn about our Catholic identity
- Prayer life, devotions and attending Mass



# MORAL FORMATION



# LIVE THE BEATITUDES

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are they who hunger and  
thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.**

**Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10**

**Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for  
the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

**Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10**



# SUPPORT AND AFFIRM YOU AS PARENTS

- Parents are the first catechist to their children. Can we help you with materials for prayer, devotions or Bible study?
- Family religious involvement benefits students and adults, and strengthens the whole family.
- We want to help families share their faith and the Gospel. To that end, we want suggestions from you !



# SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- Grade 1a – Room 101
  - Catechists: Ginny Valenti & Joe Valenti
- Grade 2a – Room 109
  - Catechists: Irene Stranz & MaryAnn Sherman
- Grade 2b – Room 107
  - Catechist: Jennifer Drewniak
- Grade 3a – Room 111
  - Catechists: Jacob Rachwal & Liza Littere & Cheryl Pickhardt
- Grade 3b – Room 110
  - Catechists: Diana Schweizer & Evelyn Grifa
- Grade 4a – Room 108
  - Catechists: Robin Ebner & Nancy Marsocci
- Grade 5a – Room 201
  - Catechists: Catherine McMahon & Gordon Hoelscher





# CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

We are looking for a catechist to lead a Sunday grade 1 (co-catechists for the class are in place) and co-catechists for Sunday grades 2, 3, and 4.

