

**RESURRECTION PARISH  
YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM  
PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK  
Elaine Little, Coordinator of Youth Ministry**

**WELCOME**

Welcome to a new year of religious education at Resurrection Parish. Whether you are new to the program or a veteran we thank you for entrusting us to partner with you, the primary educator, for your child's faith development.

As a partnership with you, we are open to suggestions you might have for the program. We welcome and encourage parental involvement. If you would like to help with the middle school or high school programs please contact Elaine. It doesn't matter if you can give us an hour of your time a year or several hours a month. Elaine will work with you to find the best fit for you in our program(s). These can include but are NOT limited to:

- 1 Sharing a topic of personal interest with the high school or middle school youth group.
- 2 Providing support for special events which may include providing a snack, assisting with the planning of an event, or helping lead an event.
- 3 Helping with transportation to events such as the annual Wilmington Pilgrimage.
- 4 Coordinating, taking responsibility and leading an event, e.g. dinner @ Family Promise.
- 5 Joining our catechetical planning team to help develop the year's lesson plans if you have the gift of planning and seeing the big picture.
- 6 Becoming a catechist and joining the middle school or high school team that leads prepared lessons at our Sunday evening youth nights and special events.
- 7 Assisting with the set up of e-mail distribution lists and group phone messaging lists.

With the exception of the coordinator of youth ministry, all catechists are volunteers with a love for God and passion to assist the youth in making their faith their own.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER DURING YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES – 302-540-3665**

**ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION (Program/Catechists)**

The diocese accredits Resurrection Parish's CFP program. CFP catechists undergo yearly certification by way of attendance at classes, workshops and other educational opportunities. A Background Screening must be completed before one can minister as a catechist or an assistant.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Catechists try to be alert to the special situations of some of our children. We ask that the parent/guardian advise the Youth Ministry Office regarding any special medical or learning needs that their child may have so that we can respond appropriately.

## **ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**

Attendance and participation in youth gatherings is important to the program. In the event of an absence, middle school students will receive the make-up assignment via e-mail from Elaine to the parent/guardian. All missed work is to be made up. Make-up work is to be returned to Elaine as quickly as possible. This can be sent electronically or handed in at the next gathering. More than 5 missed classes without doing the required make-up work could delay preparation for sacraments.

## **ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL**

The safety of your children is very important to us. Each youth signs himself or herself in using the attendance sheets provided in the gathering space. Resurrection's policy is that your child must be picked up from the front of the church. If your son or daughter will be walking or biking to and/or from youth activities we ask that you send a note giving permission and that they phone a parent/guardian on their own device or an adult's letting the parent know they are leaving the property. If you will be late, please call Elaine's cell- 302-540-3665.

## **CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE**

Discipline in the classroom is necessary in creating an atmosphere in which each catechist can teach and each student can learn. To ensure that each individual can exercise his/her right to learn, youth ministry has adopted the following policy: Catechists will warn disruptive students in their class twice and, if the behavior persists it will be documented. If disruptive behavior becomes the norm, home study materials will be provided for the child.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

The Diocesan curriculum guidelines are available at [www.cdow.org](http://www.cdow.org) under Religious Education. These curriculum outcomes are based on Scripture and Apostolic Tradition as expounded in current catechetical documents. Their purpose is to support families in their mission as "primary educators in the faith" (General Directory for Catechesis 255).

Our Resurrection team has created a dynamic, experiential, interactive program designed to engage your children actively in their faith journey. We draw on a variety of sources and tools including the internet for current events and church related content, current writings/teachings of our church, guest speakers, content from Youth Ministry Access (an online portal provided by the Center for Ministry Development), and additional curriculum materials (Keeping our Promises) in accordance with For the Sake of God's Children.

## **MASS ATTENDANCE**

As a community of faith, it is important that we come together to pray at weekly Mass. Resurrection weekly Mass times are Saturday evening at 5:30 PM, Sunday morning 8:15 AM and 10:30 AM and 5:30 PM. If these times do not fit into your schedule, our neighboring parishes, St. Johns/ Holy Angels and St. John the Beloved, have additional Mass times. We ask that you make weekly Mass a priority for you and your family.

## **EMERGENCY PLAN**

Every attempt will be made to provide a safe and healthy environment at CFP. However, accidents sometimes do occur, and children may become ill quickly. In case of emergency and or need of medical attention youth ministry will use the procedure outlined in Form A: Annual Consent & Release. Please be sure the parish has a completed Form A for this school year and all phone numbers and insurance/medical information are up-to-date and accurate. If any changes occur during the school year, please notify the youth ministry office so the form can be kept current.

## **HOMESCHOOL**

Students should generally be enrolled in our Christian Formation Program for one full year before a home schooling request is made. Homeschooling requests are to be made in writing with an explanation why a student can not participate in our regularly scheduled program. The Christian Formation Committee makes all decisions regarding eligibility. All materials must be completed and turned in for review before credit will be given for each student. If a family homeschools for a portion of the year, students are expected to return as soon as possible.

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

Information regarding child abuse and victims assistance is available at both entrances to Resurrection Parish.

## **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE**

Catechists and assistants are advised and compelled to report any allegations of child abuse directly to civil authorities. They are also asked to inform the Coordinator of Youth Ministry who will in turn notify the pastor and the Diocesan Human Resource Office.

## **WEATHER CANCELLATION**

Bad weather might force cancellation of CFP. Announcements of cancellations will be posted on the parish web site ([www.resurrectionde.org](http://www.resurrectionde.org)), and an email will be sent to parents as soon as the decision is made. When in doubt of safety, please stay home! Snow accumulation and ice can vary easily by neighborhood location. Safety FIRST!

**Parent Authorizations for 2016-2017 Youth Ministry Programs**

Authorization for youth to use **DIGITAL DEVICES** during designated class times and for youth to receive youth ministry announcements

I, \_\_\_\_\_ give my child, \_\_\_\_\_, permission to use digital communications/technologies as follows:

Technology Type	YES	NO
Permission for student to receive <b>group e-mails</b> from the coordinator of youth ministry or catechists.		
Permission for student to receive <b>group text messages</b> from the coordinator of youth ministry or catechists.		
As a parent/guardian I want to receive all <b>group text messages</b> sent to my child.		
Permission for student to use their digital device during class as directed by the catechists or coordinator of youth ministry. An example could include downloading a free smartphone app. (i.e.The Study Bible App) to access the Bible.		

Youth Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Youth e-mail address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian 1 e-mail address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian 2 e-mail address (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

I have received and read the Youth Ministry Parent/Guardian Handbook.

Parent/Guardian signature(s)/date:

Youth Signature/date:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_