



OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SAINT GEORGE CHURCH  
ON-THE-GREEN  
33 WHITFIELD STREET  
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT 06437  
PHONE: 203.453.3496 FAX: 203.453.1707

October 2, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Seventh and Eighth Grade Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 St. George 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education Program. I am excited to greet our incoming class and look forward to working with our returning eighth graders. Classes begin on **October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>. On those evenings we will meet in Church for a teaching Mass with Fr. Stephen. Parents are welcome to Stream this Mass from home.**

Our program is specifically designed to prepare our students to enter the Confirmation Program. The successful completion of seventh and eighth grade Religious Education is mandatory for students to be eligible to enter Confirmation classes in ninth grade. We want to ensure that all students are prepared to study our Catholic faith more deeply as they move on to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is a testament to the dedication of Fr. Stephen, Fr. Dennis and our Religious Education teachers that such an emphasis is placed on the development of our young people. Our children are, of course, the future leaders of the Church.

This year our program will focus on The Mass, Prayer, and the Sacraments. We will learn what it means to be part of a Catholic Community and will have the opportunity to meet some of its members and learn about their various roles in our parish. We will then begin to identify our own responsibilities as participating members of the community.

Through our lessons we will also explore topics such as the sacredness of human life, concern for the poor, cost and rewards of discipleship and just society. It is our hope that this course of study will assist the students in understanding the Gospel readings at Mass and in applying the message of the Gospel in their everyday lives. As our children mature and advance in their education, we continually challenge them to grow in their relationship with Jesus and the Church.

ATTENDANCE: Our classes run a very quick course of one class a week for six weeks in the autumn and six weeks again in the winter. For this reason, it is important that students try to attend all the scheduled sessions. Please note that no student should miss more than two classes during the 2020-2021 year. More than two absences may jeopardize the student's ability to successfully complete his/her grade level. Although most classes in the Fall will be virtual, and shorter in length because of so many demands on their computer time, **Students should prepare to be present from 7:00-8:30PM** to avoid being marked absent (No late arrivals or early dismissals, please).

OUT-OF-CLASS REQUIREMENTS: During the course of the year, if the pandemic is under control each student will participate in TWO out-of-the-classroom activities with his/her teacher and small group. The FIRST PROJECT will be helping Fr. Stephen or Fr. Dennis at a Mass (volunteer opportunities will include readings, bringing up the gifts and taking up the collection.) The SECOND ACTIVITY will be a community service project of each small group's choosing. If any student is unable to participate in either of his/her small group's activities, we will be happy to place him/her with another group. There will be Mass opportunities and service projects throughout the academic year so that each student will have the opportunity to fulfill this requirement. Our hope is that the out-of-classroom activities will help to make the connection between formal religious education and everyday Catholic life.

SCHEDULE: Also attached to this letter is the year's schedule. All classes are on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Typically, 7<sup>th</sup> grade meets on Tuesday and 8<sup>th</sup> grade meets on Wednesday. If, however, your schedule presents an insurmountable conflict with your assigned day, there is one 7<sup>th</sup> grade class that meets on Wednesday and one 8<sup>th</sup> grade class that meets on Tuesday. ***You must make arrangements in advance for your student to attend on a night other than regularly scheduled. Also, the night your student attends in the autumn will be the night she/he attends in the spring.*** We have up to 200 students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and our classes are always completely full. Unfortunately, that leaves no room for switching between evenings and semester.

**You will receive in the coming days information including a link to Google Classroom, the platform that we will be using for our virtual classes.**

Please feel free to call me with any questions. Again, welcome to the St. George 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade religious education program. I look forward to sharing the upcoming year with your children!

Sincerely,

*Claire*

Claire Nicholls  
Director of Youth Ministry  
St. George Church

**SAINT GEORGE CHURCH**  
**2020-2021**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule**  
All Classes are held from 7:00-8:30pm)

**FIRST SEMESTER**

7<sup>th</sup> GRADE (Tuesday)

8<sup>th</sup> GRADE (Wednesday)

October 6<sup>th</sup>

**In church for Students Only**

October 7<sup>nd</sup>

October 20th

VIRTUAL

October 21<sup>st</sup>

October 27th

VIRTUAL

October 28th

November 3rd

VIRTUAL

November 4th

November 10th

VIRTUAL

November 11th

November 17<sup>th</sup>

VIRTUAL

November 18<sup>th</sup>

**SECOND SEMESTER**

(to be determined in person or virtual)

7<sup>th</sup> GRADE (Tuesday)

8<sup>th</sup> GRADE (Wednesday)

January 12th

January 13th

January 19th

January 20<sup>th</sup>

January 26th

January 27<sup>th</sup>

February 2nd

February 3rd

February 9<sup>th</sup>

February 10<sup>th</sup>

February 23rd

February 24th

\*\*DATES FOR OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES TO BE DETERMINED BY TEACHER\*\*

*Snow Make up Dates (if needed)*

7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Tuesday)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Wednesday)

March 2nd

March 3rd

March 9th

March 10th

In case of inclement weather: If there is a snow day, early dismissal, or if all evening activities have been cancelled at Guilford Public Schools due to inclement weather – there will be no 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade religious education that evening. You may also watch WTNH News Channel 8, WFSB Channel 3 or WNBC CT Channel 4 for news of cancellation. Please note that the above calendar includes two make up dates for each grade if it should be necessary to cancel classes due to weather.