

St. John the Evangelist PREP

PARENT HANDBOOK

**St. John the Evangelist PREP
Morrisville, Pa. 19067**

PREP OFFICE

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Mission Statement

St. John the Evangelist Parish Religious Education Program is a teaching ministry that is committed to fostering the spiritual growth of its parish children who attend public and private schools. Children from toddler age through eighth grade receive faith-based instruction in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church.

The PREP program has the following primary objectives:

1. To provide a living faith environment that calls students to:
 - recognize and develop their God given gifts
 - learn the life of Jesus through the study of dogma and scripture
 - seek a personal relationship with Jesus through prayers, liturgies and the sacraments
 - understand the responsibilities of being a disciple of Jesus and an active member of the Church.
 - support one another through shared study, prayer, and activity
 - reach out to the less fortunate in works of mercy
 - deepen their understanding of their Catholic faith commitments as they mature
2. To assist parents in their unique role in the faith life of their children
3. To facilitate the preparation of students for the Sacraments of Initiation
4. To provide a variety of ongoing faith development opportunities through participation in liturgies and prayer services.

Curriculum Summary

PreK-K- God has many gifts and He is our Creator, who through Jesus shows us His love. Activities, stories, songs, and prayers help the children gain a sense of belonging to God's family.

1- God loves us and we are special in the eyes of our Creator. The students learn that Jesus died and rose to new life, and that they are part of a parish community.

2- The students master certain prayers and prepare for reconciliation. The emphasis shifts to studying how Jesus shares God's life. They study the meaning of Baptism, Eucharist,

Confirmation, the lives of saints, and the person of Mary.

3- The students learn about the basic prayers and the Mass as the center of our religious belief. Students prepare for the reception of the Eucharist.

4- Students learn how God's laws guide us and how to respond to the call of holiness. They learn that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light. The Commandments, Precepts of the Church, the lives of saints, feasts, devotions, and Catholic practices are taught.

5- Students are taught how Jesus shares His life and mission with us through the celebration of the seven sacraments. The meaning, signs, and minister of each sacrament is detailed.

6- The curriculum concentrates on preparing the students for their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The year also focuses on the study of the Old Testament as the root of our Catholic faith.

7-8- The students focus on their sacramental life, on a relationship with God through prayer and community service. The connection of the Creed, Church History, New Testament, Morality, and the Liturgy of the Word is made known.

Mixed Levels- Catechesis is individualized and the students are made aware of the tenants of our Catholic Faith on their appropriate learning level. Special consideration is given to assure that these students are aware that they are special in the eyes of their Creator and have an important role to play in the parish community.

ADMISSION

All persons who are registered members of St. John the Evangelist Parish may be admitted to the program. Applicants are asked to bring a copy of the student's baptismal certificate.

All forms and information can be found on the website:

www.stjohnpa.org

FEES

There is a family registration fee and individual tuition collected each year. A fee for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation is also in place and is determined prior to the reception of these sacraments.

ATTENDANCE

Consistent presence is very important for the program to attain the goals that are set forth. Absences interrupt the continuity of the learning of the child. Knowing that absences are necessary at times, please alert the PREP office and contact your child's teacher for the work that was missed.

ARRIVAL /DISMISSAL

Directions will be given to you in a separate sheet each year. Drop off at the entrance facing the parking lot and the entrance facing the playground. Pick up for Grades K-3 is

on the second floor outside the child's classroom and in the cafeteria for Grades 4-8. There is no sign in or sign out sheet. Parents must come into the building for their child. Upon entering the PREP program, the students Grades K-8 remain at their assigned table in the cafeteria under the supervision of their teacher.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

If there is need for classes to be cancelled because of inclement weather or other emergencies, a Honeywell alert will be sent to all the phone numbers that are registered with the system. If the Pennsbury Schools dismiss early because of the weather, there will be no PREP classes on Monday evening. Decisions to close Sunday will be announced by 8 am via the Honeywell Alert System. The Honeywell Alert System is the only means of communication for instances of emergency closings; therefore, it is important that every family is registered.

The website is: **www.instantalert.honeywell.com**

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed twice a year. The one during the school year must be signed and returned within two weeks.

The effort, knowledge, and participation of the student are taken into consideration when marks are given.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The communication of religious truths needs an atmosphere of trust and love so that each student has a positive faith experience. To this end, mutual respect, love of the Catholic faith, and a positive approach to class create an environment where learning takes place.

To help achieve a positive, memorable experience where the Gospel message of love one another permeates the program, the students assist in creating this atmosphere by their:

- respectful , cooperating and positive approach to their teachers, staff, and peers
- punctuality, attendance, and effort to do their best
- commitment to make PREP a memorable learning experience
- desire to learn the doctrine of their Catholic faith for preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation
- realization that the faith experience needs to be continued throughout their lives

SACRAMENTAL RECEPTION AND PREPARATION

In conjunction with the recommendation of the Office of Religious Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, two years of catechesis are required for the initial reception of Reconciliation and Eucharist with three years required for Confirmation.

Reconciliation is usually received in Grade 2; First Eucharist is usually received in Grade 3; and Confirmation is usually received in Grade 6.

Candidates for these the sacraments must be participating members of St. John the Evangelist Parish who attend Mass and understand the concepts of these sacraments appropriate for their age level. Excellent attendance and classroom participation are expected of the students.

In addition, the candidates of Confirmation must attend any of the faith experiences that are provided by the PREP program. This includes retreats, liturgies, rehearsals, prayer services, classroom assignments, understanding of the curriculum and doing volunteer services. The sponsor is an adult practicing Catholic and takes on the role of assisting the candidate in fulfilling his or her baptismal commitments.

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

"The Christian home is the first school and the parents are the first to communicate the faith to their children."
Vatican II, Apostolate of the Laity, 11.

Some of the ideas that a parent or guardian can use:

- provide regular prayer opportunities at home
- attend Mass weekly as a family
- encourage frequent reception of Reconciliation and the Eucharist
- model Catholic ethics and charity within and outside the home
- assist students in preparing for PREP by supervising study and various homework assignments
- support the parish programs throughout the year

****For the safety of the children, it is the full responsibility of both parents to provide the PREP program with the latest updated Custodial order or Custody agreement. Our program abides by the provisions of the court orders with full respect to the rights of both parents.

PREP CALENDAR

The dates below signify that there will be NO PREP classes. You can also refer to the website for a completed list of dates.

Oct 30-31	Jan 15-16
Nov 27-28	Jan 29-30
Dec 25-26	Feb 19-20
Jan 1-2	April 8-9

Other pertinent dates:

Sept 11-12, 2011	First PREP classes
Nov 13-14, 2011	Food Drive
Nov 15, 2011	Parent Meeting for all sacraments
Dec 11-12, 2011	Food Drive
March 13, 2012	First Reconciliation 7:00 pm
March 25-26, 2012	Food Drive
April 28, 2012	First Eucharist 10:30 am
May 6-7, 2012	Last Day of PREP
May 9, 2012	Confirmation 4:00pm

Report cards:

Dec 18-19, 2011	May 6-7, 2012
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CALENDAR

A yearly calendar will be distributed to each family in PREP. The calendar also can be found on the PREP website:

www.stjohnpa.org