

THE CHURCH OF EPIPHANY
615 Thiele Road
Brick, NJ 08724
732-458-0220



2011-2012
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PARENT HANDBOOK

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2011-2012
WELCOME!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As a parent or guardian, you are the first to communicate our faith to your child. Just as your child looks to you for food, shelter and love in order to grow strong and healthy, your child also needs you for spiritual growth – to nourish faith, to offer guidance, and to provide moral training. We at the Church of Epiphany are here to help you fulfill this duty.

Religious education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to the Church: to help its members hear the message of hope contained in the Gospel; to base their love and service of God upon this message; to achieve a personal relationship with Christ; and to share the Gospel message. No small task, but together with collaborating efforts, we will call upon the Holy Spirit to help us pass on the rich teachings and traditions of our faith to our children so that they may learn to live and love the Gospel message.

May God's blessings be upon all of us as we begin this school year.

Fr. Bernardino Esguerra
Pastor

Deacon Rene Perez
Administrator Religious Education

Patti Toris
Administrative Assistant

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Religious Education process will provide programs that foster worship and service for people of all ages. Our hope is to assist our members in obtaining a lasting, loving relationship with Jesus Christ and foster an active participation in the Liturgical and Apostolic life of the Church.

The Church of Epiphany
615 Thiele Rd.
Brick, NJ 08724
732-458-0220

Fax 732-458-0855

www.churchofepiphany.org or
EpiphRE2@aol.com

Main Office Hours - Mon. – Fri. 9 AM – 12:30 PM
& 1:30 PM – 5 PM

Religious Education Ofc. Hours - Mon. – Fri. 9AM – 12:30PM
& 1:30PM – 4PM

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Bernardino C. Esguerra, Pastor

Louis V. Commisso, Deacon

Michael Mullarkey, Deacon

Ronald Nowak, Deacon

James McMahan, Business Administrator

Eileen Beelitz, Office Manager

Deacon Rene Perez, ARE Rel. Ed. Coordinator

Patricia Toris, Administrative Assistant – Religious Education

Adrienne Pratt, Parish Associate

Carol Lore, Administrative Assistant

Liz Riley, Youth Minister

Messages for above staff can be left with the church office at
732-458-0220 or with the Religious Education Office at 732-785-0872.

II RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Religious education classes for Grades 1 – 8 are held at:

Brick Memorial High School, 2001 Lanes Mill Road

On Tuesday evenings, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Students preparing for the sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation are required to participate in a two year preparation program

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Meetings are held at the Church:

Jr. High – 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month

High School – every Sunday evening

**CALENDAR
Grades 1 – 8
5:30PM – 6:30PM**

September	27			
October	4	11	18	25
November	8	15	29	
December	6	13		
January	10	17	24	31
February	7	14	21	28
March	6	13	20	27
April	3	17	24-Last class at BMHS	
May	1**			

****Closing Mass – To be held at Church @ 5:30PM**

Penance Service at Church - 5:30 - 6:30 PM

- Grade 3 - Oct. 25**
- Grade 4 - Nov. 15**
- Grade 5 - Dec. 13**
- Grade 6 - Jan. 31**
- Grade 7 - Feb. 21**



GRADE 2

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Parent Meeting – 1-4-12 @7PM

Tour of the Church – Jan. 17 & 24 – 5:30-6:30PM

First Penance – Feb. 11

First Eucharist – May 5 & 12

GRADE 8

Penance Service & Confirmation TBA (To Be Announced)

9-28-11 - Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting @ 7PM @ Church

1-30-12 - Parent Meeting – 7:30PM @ Church

3- 3-12 - Retreat – 10AM – 4PM @ Church

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at religious education classes is an important factor in deepening a child's understanding of our triune God through the study of Scripture, prayer, Church teaching and community. It is of the utmost importance that your child attend each class. If your child will be absent please call the Religious Education Office at 732-785-0872 to report the absence and to see what lesson should be covered with them before their return to their next scheduled class. If a student has two consecutive, unexcused absences that have not been reported to the Religious Education Office, a religious education representative will be in touch with the parent/guardian.

Late arrivals are discouraged as they are disruptive to the class. Parents/guardians, please make a conscious effort to get your child to class before the start time of 5:30PM.

Each student is expected to bring their Religious Education workbook, pen or pencil to class each week.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL Grades 1- 8

The back Parking Lot is the drop off point for students. If you have only one child in the Program and they are in Grades 1-5 you are responsible for bringing them into the school and escorting them to their Catechist in the child's assigned classroom. At dismissal time your child will be released to you by their Catechist. Parents will only be allowed to go to the classroom for pick up at 6:25PM.

Students in Grades 6,7,8, will be allowed to be dropped off by their Parents in the back Parking Lot where the Parking Lot monitors are located. Should the family have children in Grades 1-5 and the Parent agrees, the older sibling will be allowed to bring that child to their Catechist and to pick them up when classes end and escort them to the Parking Lot where the Parents will be waiting.

Use the **BACK DOOR ONLY** to enter the High School and check at the desk to see if the child's Catechist has arrived. No parent/student is allowed to go to the classroom if the Catechist has not arrived yet.

Of course, Parents always have the option of escorting all their children no matter what their grade level is to their Catechist/classroom.

CATECHISTS/AIDES

- Grade 1: Mary Commisso/Mary Ann Florio
Jennifer Cwiklinski & Jessica Erdman
Arlene Ricciardi/Sarah Butala
- Grade 2: Carol Hopps/Tonianne Ricciardi
Pat Mc Cormack/Kelly Curcione
MaryAnne Radosti/Joanne Holler
Tiffany Strittmatter/Cynthia Manca
- Grade 3: Regina Ferucci/Charlene Humphries
Regina Vassilatos/Laurie Bennett
- Grade 4: Isabel Barberi/Barbara Humphries
Judy Foster/Emily Kosch
Nicole Muroski/Celine De Caro
- Grade 5: Barbara Marren/Claire Marren
Janet Morrow/Diane De Felice
Michele Perry/Nicole Perry
- Grade 6: Pam Hannen/Logan Hannen
Marianne Moscatiello/Joanna Plackis
Mairead Matula/Erin & Ciara Matula
Michele Sayers/Arianna Burgan
- Grade 7: Ed Gedrich/
Gabby Gedrich/Evan Gedrich
Ellen Iorio & Mary Kellenberger/Lou Iorio
Salee Rojas/Michele Kafarski
- Grade 8: Brenda Calderone/Tracey Baxter
Mae Cipriano/Debbie Laird
Kathy Lynch/Ashley Callahan
Kim Lorentzen/Joe Costa

Following diocesan policy, and pursuant to state law, we are required to report suspected child abuse to the proper authorities.

COMMUNICATION

We are here to serve the religious education needs of our children, youth, and adults. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to share them with your child's catechist or call the Religious Education Office 732-785-0872 or email EpipRE2@aol.com

EMERGENCY CLASS CANCELLATION

If local schools are closed due to an emergency situation, religious education classes will generally be canceled. If you have any questions about cancellation, please call 732-458-0220 or 732-785-0872.

For Weather Emergency closings, listen to radio station WOBM 92.7 or THE POINT 94.3.

FIRE SAFETY

Catechists and students will follow the map posted in each classroom with the preferred exit route and gathering site listed outside of the building.

Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the **ARE** during registration. Regarding medication, the usual policy is **NOT** to administer any medication to students during the one hour period of religious instruction. Arrangements can be made if there is a special need to make an exception to this policy with the proper medical requests.

- Ensure that children attend classes regularly and on time
- Communicate any special needs or circumstances that may affect your child within the classroom
- Be an active part of your child's learning experience
- Follow the Arrival & Dismissal Safety Rules
- Attend Sunday Mass with your child
- Attend scheduled parent meetings

Students:

- Behave in a Christian manner at all time showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students
- Actively participate in classroom activities and discussions
- Attend class regularly and complete any assignments
- Show respect for others and for other's property
- No use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs
- No weapons on premises
- No cell phones or electronic devices to be used in the classroom
- Follow all classroom rules
- Attend Sunday Mass
- Students in the 7th & 8th grades are to actively participate in service projects initiated during the year.
- Students in the 7th & 8th grades are to attend a scheduled retreat.

Catechists:

- Provide a loving, Christian atmosphere within the learning environment so that children will be able to grow in their faith
- Prepare and teach designated curriculum
- Be a Christian role model
- Communicate regularly with and involve parents in the faith development of their children.
- In compliance with diocesan regulations, will have fingerprinting and background checks done.

All students are expected to share in the faith learning experiences of the parish religious education program. If a child's behavior disrupts the learning process for him or herself or for others, the following steps will be followed:

- At the first incident the child will be reminded of expected behavior.
- After the second incident, the child will be sent to the ARE or religious education representative for a discussion about appropriate behavior and parent/guardian will be notified.
- If inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be sent to the ARE or religious education representative to do his or her religious education assignment and the parent/guardian will need to pick up their child at this time.

If the child's behavior disrupts learning, it may be necessary for the parent/guardian to make other arrangements for the religious education of their child.

RIGHT TO AMEND

This handbook is primary a means of communication. It is meant to provide you the parent/guardian, with helpful information on how we intend to go about our work. The Church of Epiphany Catechetical Program reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parents will receive a new handbook if changes are made to any procedures or information contained in this handbook.

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

This is to acknowledge that I/we have received the Church of Epiphany Religious Education Handbook. I understand and agree to cooperate with the parish policies set forth in the handbook.

PLEASE PRINT

Child/Children's Name

Signature (Parent/Guardian)

Date

**PLEASE TEAR OUT THIS PAGE FROM THE HANDBOOK
AND GIVE IT TO YOUR CHILD'S CATECHIST WHO WILL
GIVE IT TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**