

NEW EVANGELIZATION PARENT HANDBOOK

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH, FREEDOM



TO CREATE DISCIPLES AND WITNESSES OF CHRIST

Father in heaven, You have made us to know You, to love You and serve You in this life, to be happy with You forever in the next. Thank you for creating us for this purpose and mission.

STAFF

Pastor

Father Walter Stumpf

Coordinator of New Evangelization K-12

Kathy Brennan 788-1451 ext 205
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Coordinates the K-12 religious education program; along with Sacramental preparation.

Assistant to the Coordinator of New Evangelization

Jennifer Jochman 788-1451 ext 208
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Administrative Associate

Lisa Kater 788-1451
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Youth Ministry Assistant

Marny Clark (Wed Evening) 788-1492
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The New Evangelization office is located in the Parish office. A box is located outside the east door for use for dropping off or picking up religious education material.

New Evangelization Phone: 788-1451

New Evangelization Office hours: Mon. 10-4, Tues. 1-4, & Wed. 9-9
(summer hours vary please call)

Parish Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm; Friday 8am-Noon

Please check out the parish website or Facebook page

www.stnicholasfreedom.org

www.facebook.com/StNicholasNE

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of St. Nicholas New Evangelization program is to create disciples and witnesses of Christ.

VISION STATEMENT: We will offer the people of St. Nicholas Parish opportunities that will help them to come to know, love, and serve God in this life and to be happy with God forever in the next. We will do this by:

- Leading people to Christ through Scripture, the Sacraments, and the rich traditions of the Catholic Church.
- Provide quality educational resources for all children, youth, and adults.
- Forming disciples who witness the Gospel through our lived example of prayer, service, and sharing.
- Meet and respect children and youth at their individual levels of understanding and faith development.
- Welcome and involve parents in the religious education of their children.

CORE VALUES: The following elements form the foundation of St. Nicholas New Evangelization Program. It is through these core values that we seek to cultivate the hearts, minds and souls of the people of our parish to their fullest potential.

- The dignity of the individual, as a unique child of God, is nurtured and developed.
- Sacramental life is central to developing the Catholic Faith.
- The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist is the center of our faith.
- The Gospel message and moral life expressed in the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are professed, cultivated and practiced in everyday life.
- The virtues are fostered and practiced in everyday life.
- Prayer is important in growth in spiritual life: Adoration, personal prayer, the Mass, the Rosary, etc.



NEW EVANGELIZATION CLASSES

“Under God, parents are the first in time, first in authority, first in responsibility, first in ability, and first in dignity to educate their children for eternal life.”

Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

The Church teaches that the primary teachers of children are the child’s parents. The Parish is given the task of **assisting parents** in teaching the faith to their children. The mission of the New Evangelization Team, including the volunteer catechists, is to assist the parents in teaching about our Catholic faith and passing this faith on to the children who attend the programs and activities offered.

Classes for grades K-5 take place on Wednesday afternoons 3:45-5:00PM, with parent prayer time at 4:45 in church. The children in the Freedom Public School District, whose parents request it, are bused to St. Nicholas. Children who attend other school districts are transported to St. Nicholas by their parents. We will provide the students with a small snack upon arrival and ask that parents not send any food with their child. If your child has a food allergy, please contact the office to make us aware of this allergy.

Classes for grades 6-8 are offered weekly on Wednesdays, from 5:45-7:00PM, with parent prayer time at 6:45 in church.

Classes for grades 9-12 are offered weekly on Wednesdays, from 7:15-8:30PM, with parent prayer time at 8:15 in church.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes

Wednesday is the “time” for New Evangelization class!

Every student is expected to attend each New Evangelization class. Your child’s attendance is vitally important as the classes usually build on the previous class, so missing a session can leave a student with an incomplete knowledge of the material being covered.

Attendance is taken by the catechist at the beginning of class.

If your child is unable to attend a particular class, call our office:

- Before 3:00PM call at **788-1451** and leave a voice mail message.
- After 3:00PM call **788-1492**.

If a student is not present at the start of class and the absence has not been phoned in, we will attempt to make a phone call to the number on the registration form to the parents of elementary students only. Middle and High School student parents will receive an email if their child is not in class.

- Throughout the year other opportunities may arise that we may take advantage of attending. Notice will be given two weeks in advance.
- In some classes parents with students in Middle and High School are on a rotation to be a classroom aide. If you cannot make your scheduled time, you are responsible for finding a replacement.

For your child’s safety, they are not allowed to leave the building after their arrival until the end of class unless a parent is picking them up early. Parents who are picking a student up early should meet their child in the main office area—students will not be sent out into the parking lot to look for a parent. Again, putting your child’s safety first, please remind your child that they are not to enter other parts of the building unless they are supervised by a catechist or coordinator.



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

While classroom attendance is important, to fully understand and learn about our faith requires each student to attend weekly “Sunday” Mass. Learning about our Catholic faith is incomplete if this important element is not part of the student’s religious education. At Mass we worship and thank God for our blessings. We also receive instruction, strength, and Jesus to live our lives in the joy of Christ. Finally, we are following the teachings of our Church by keeping Holy the Sabbath.

All students will end class with Adoration; that is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in Church. We ask that parents quietly and reverently enter Church, find their child and join them for prayer for the duration, approximately 10-15 minutes. Dismissal will be led by the catechist.

We understand that many of our High School students will be providing their own transportation to class each week. However, we strongly encourage parents to join their child in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Please do not remove your child from church before our Adoration time comes to an end, as this is part of our required class time and can be very distracting/interrupts our Sacred Prayer.

SESSION CANCELLATION: Whenever the Freedom School District is not in session we will not meet for classes or special events. If the weather produces threatening/dangerous conditions later in the day, please check with WHBY 1150 AM, Channels 2 and 5 or WIXX (101.1) and WNCY (100.3).

BEHAVIORIAL EXPECTATIONS

“Treat others as you want to be treated.” The Golden Rule

Students are expected to . . .

- Come to class prepared to participate.
- Respect the catechist/aids
- Respect all other students
- Respect the property of others
- Wear clothing that is appropriate/modest
- Understand that sexual harassment/misconduct will not be tolerated
- Understand that bullying of any kind is unacceptable.
- Not have food and drinks in class.
- Not have cell phones in class.
- Not enter other parts of the building unless they are supervised by a catechist or coordinator.

Disciplinary Action: In the event that a discipline problem arises, the following steps will be taken:

1. Student will be warned by catechist.
2. Student will be directed to coordinator. Please see next page for the form which the catechist will fill out and another form for the child to fill out while in the office.
3. Parents will be contacted.

SAFETY

St. Nicholas New Evangelization staff has a security plan in place for when students are using our facilities. This plan includes the locking of doors and controlling access to the building. If you need to come to class to pick-up a child, please stop in the main office and the volunteer will go to the classroom and notify your child to come to the main office. You may also drop off any item the child forgot for class in the main office. Your cooperation is important to maintain a safe facility.

Incident Report

Student Name _____ Date _____

Description

Action Taken

Catechist Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Behavior Reflection Form

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the code of conduct which was not followed

Responsible Safe Prepared Respectful

This is what happened

What I should have done differently

TUITION AND FEES

It is true that it takes a “village” to raise a child; the entire faith community of St. Nicholas contributes to the education of children through financial support. Tuition and fees paid by parents cover only about 40% of the actual cost per child for religious education. As a matter of justice and good stewardship, parents/guardians are asked to pay tuition and fees that support the religious education of their child/ren. The other 60% of the cost is paid through the generosity of parish members and faith formation families in their weekly giving at Mass. We also ask New Evangelization families and all families of the parish give a stewardship amount of 2.5% of their income to assist in keeping the parish community doors open.

Tuition for *each* child, Grades K-12: \$150.00

(Sacramental Preparation Years are 1st, 9th, & 10th)

Sacramental Fees: (Sacrament generally in 2nd & 11th grades)

First Reconciliation/Eucharist: \$50.00

Confirmation/Retreat Fee: \$65.00

OPPORTUNITY TO OFFSET TUITION

St. Nicholas has wonderful ways to help families with New Evangelization tuition:

Purchase Scrip! Become a Catechist and receive 50% off the tuition for one child.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

St. Nicholas offers a tuition assistance program for all those who are in financial need. Contact Sandy in the New Evangelization office for the assistance form. The form is then filled out by the family and returned to Kathy Brennan for review and approval. If approved part or all of the New Evangelization fees will be paid by the parish. All applications are confidential.

Blessings,

The New Evangelization Team

SAINT NICHOLAS, NEW EVANGELIZATION

PARENT AND CHILD COMMITMENT COVENANT

I, understand that I have entered into a covenant with St. Nicholas' New Evangelization staff, whose role is to lead our family into a more committed, lifelong relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Therefore, I will, to the best of my ability, conscientiously and faithfully fulfill this covenant and obligation to my child/ren.

- 1) I will faithfully bring my child/ren to weekly Saturday/Sunday Mass.
- 2) I will faithfully have my child/ren attend New Evangelization classes prepared and on time.
- 3) I will faithfully have my child/ren attend all New Evangelization events.
- 4) I (or guardian) will faithfully be at the specified prayer time in church to pray with and for my child/ren at Adoration until dismissal.
- 5) I have read and understand St. Nicholas' New Evangelization Family Handbook.