

St. Jerome Catholic Church Faith Formation

Discipleship Award Program 2016-1017

**Level: Pre-K - First Grade
(3- 6 years of age)
Part C**

Due: Sunday, May 14, 2017

Dear Parents,

The purpose of the Discipleship Award Program is to help the young people of St. Jerome learn, explore and experience our Catholic faith in a way that leads them to a greater understanding of and a deep, lifelong commitment to our faith. It is important for our children to learn that we are not passive spectators in our relationship with God. Each and every day, we must engage ourselves in activities that draw us closer to God and to our final goal of eternity with Him in Heaven. It is the goal of this program to give our children opportunities to do just this, engage in activities that draw them closer to God, and to recognize them for their efforts. The Discipleship Award Program is an optional program for those students and families who wish to use it.

There is an award booklet for each grade level, Pre-K through Eighth Grade. Each grade level booklet will contain age appropriate activities. It will be important however, especially with younger children, for parents to be actively involved in assisting children with completing the program requirements. In fact, some of the activities included are family activities. The Church teaches that “Parents are the principal and first educators of their children” (CCC 1653), and children will receive the most benefit from this program when families are actively involved in the learning process. Documents will also be available on the St. Jerome website.

How the program works:

- Each year, students will have the opportunity to achieve the discipleship award three times (see due dates to turn in paperwork on the following pages). If a student earns all three awards in a given year, he/she will receive special recognition in the form of an additional award, called the Trinity Award. As the discipleship program continues to grow and develop, other recognition will be given when students earn the Trinity Award multiple times.
- The activities within the program are separated into four categories based on the Four Pillars of the Catholic Church: What We Believe, How We Worship, How We Live, and How We Pray. Some activities within each category will be required, and some of the activities will be listed as options within each category.
- The due dates and directions for each of the award periods are given on the following pages.
- Homeschool students: When instructions are given to share something with a class, the homeschool student may share the project at a homeschooling or similar type gathering.

We look forward to partnering with you in encouraging our students to grow in knowledge and faith. Please feel free to contact the Faith Formation office if you have any questions for Pre-K through First 813-787-2028, Grade Two through Five at 727-595-3100x330 or 727-595-3100x336 for Grade Six through Eight.

In Christ,

Fr. Tom Morgan, Pastor

Sr. Lucia Brady, Pastoral Assistant

Joseph Plesko, Director

Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Lisa Brett-Reeves, Coordinator

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

2016-2017 PreK-First Grade Discipleship Award Part C – Due Sunday, May 14, 2017

The requirements for this award are listed below. This form and any required attachments must be turned in to the Faith Formation Office by Sunday, May 14. (Forms may also be mailed to St. Jerome Catholic Church, Faith Formation Office, 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo, FL 33774-5051)

Section One: What We Believe

REQUIRED ACTIVITY

With your family, read the parable of the Good Shepherd, John 10:3b-5, 10b, 11, 14-16. (For preschool age children, focus on the central story of Jesus as the Good Shepherd calling his sheep.)

Use these questions to help your child:

How did Jesus answer: “Who are you”?

Why did he call Himself the Good Shepherd?

Does someone make you think of the Good Shepherd?

Draw a picture of Jesus the Good Shepherd and attach it to your packet.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

Option 1: We believe that Jesus was a real person who lived on this earth in a particular place. With your child look up the land of Israel on a map located in the Bible and look for the 3 major cities in Jesus’ life -Nazareth (Holy Spirit), Bethlehem (Star and Sceptor), and Jerusalem (Cross). Draw the symbol representing each one of the cities and attach it to this page.

Option 2: We believe saints are examples of holiness for us. Saints are also examples of followers of the Good Shepherd. Someone in your family may have the same name as a saint. With your parents help, read a story and talk about one or two saints such as St. Martin de Porres, St. Katherine Dresel, or St. Blais on this website:

<http://www.loyolapress.com/saints-stories-for-kids.htm>

Write the names of the saints you learned about here _____, _____.

Section Two: How We Worship

REQUIRED ACTIVITY

As Catholics, we believe that “the Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life” (CCC2177). It is Jesus the Good Shepherd who invites us to this table, the altar so he can be with us in a most particular way in the bread and the wine. It is important that we gather as a Church family each week to worship. Young Children take delight in knowing the liturgical colors. After Mass on your St. Jerome Calendars, have your child color in the date you attended Mass using the liturgical color of the priest’s vestments. Say hello to the priest after Sunday Mass on at least eight (8) of the following weekends and have the priest initial next to the appropriate date.

_____ Feb.28/29

_____ Mar. 4/5

_____ Mar. 11/12

_____ Mar. 18.19

_____ Mar. 25/26

_____ Apr. 1/2

_____ Apr. 8/9

_____ Apr. 15/16

_____ Apr. 22/23

_____ Apr. 29/30

_____ May 7/8

CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITES

_____ Option 1: Take up the gifts, the fruit of the earth and the works of our human hands, the cruets, and the ciborium, at a Sunday Mass with your family. Parents should call the Parish Office at 727-595-4610 or speak to the Head Usher to schedule this activity. Write the date you took up the gifts here: ___/___/___.

_____ Option 2: With your family, participate in either the Solemn Entrance (Saturday at 4:00 pm or 5:30 pm; Sunday at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:30 pm or 5:00 pm Mass) or the Solemn Procession (10:45 Mass) on Palm Sunday. See the bulletin or parish website for more details. Have the priest sign here _____
Write one or two of the prayers we proclaim in the atrium here: _____, _____

_____ Option 3: With your family, attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (April 13, 7:00 pm). cen•a•cle (sen ə kəl) n. 1. The room where the Last Supper took place
The word "Cenacle" comes from "cena" which means "to eat" or "dinner." The Latin word Cenaculum was used in the Vulgate Bible for the "upper room" where the Last Supper was held. Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the twelve apostles. The Last Supper was celebrated in the "cenacle" or upper room of a house. Each year in the atrium, typically in the season of Lent, the children are presented the Cenacle. Ask your child to bring you into the atrium and show you the model cenacle presentation and ponder with them when Jesus tells his disciples to prepare the upper room, the cenacle.
Have the priest sign here: _____

_____ Option 4: Attend the Sunrise Mass on Easter morning (April 16, 7:00 am). Have the priest sign here: _____

_____ Option 5: With your family, attend the Divine Mercy Mass at 12:30 pm or 3:00 pm service on April 23. Have the priest sign here: _____

Section Three: How We Live

We believe that we are called by God to love and serve Him. One of the ways we serve God is to share his love with others. "Helping little children in their own efforts to grow is truly a form of service." - Sofia Cavalletti, *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*
From the earliest days in the atrium, the children are given lessons that introduce them to care of the environment, care of self, and care of the community around them. These lessons lay the foundations for learning how to relate to each other and live with each other in a healthy, Christian manner.

CHOOSE TWO OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

_____ Option 1: Make an Easter Card for one of our homebound parishioners. This activity should be completed by Friday, April 7. Turn in the card to the Faith Formation Office.

_____ Option 2: Shop as a family for some food that you really like. Donate what you bought to the Lifeline/Homeless Ministry food drive on one of the following weekends: March 4/5 or March 11/12.

_____ Option 3: The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 7. Make a card for at least one of our priests here at St. Jerome that includes a prayer thanking God for this person's vocation. This activity should be completed by Friday, April 21. Turn in the card to the Faith Formation Office.

_____ Option 4: With your parents' help, choose one way to help a member of your family or a neighbor. Take or draw a picture of you helping this person. Attach the picture to this form.

Section Four: How We Pray

We pray in many special ways, especially during Lent.

Praying with our children may lead us to a renewed enjoyment as their simple words come from the heart and they listen with innocence to receive God's gifts.

CHOOSE THREE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

Option 1: With your family, create a sacred space in your home. Provide articles for a small prayer table such as a Bible, small statues and prayer cards. Write a story or draw a picture about how you and your family use the sacred space.

Option 2: With your family, attend the Stations of the Cross **at least two Friday EVENINGS** during Lent. See the bulletin or website for information. Write the dates you attended and have the priest sign here: ___/___/___ _____, ___/___/___ _____.

Option 3: With your family, attend the Live Stations of the Cross. See the bulletin or website for more details. Have the priest sign here: _____.

Option 4: With your family, attend the Tenebrae Service during Holy Week. See the bulletin or website for more details. Have the priest sign here: _____.

Option 5: With your family, attend the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (Noon). See the bulletin or website for more details. Have the priest sign here: _____.

Option 6: With your family, pray the Rosary. Write the dates your prayed the Rosary with your family here: ___/___/___, ___/___/___.

Option 7: With your family, attend the Veneration of the Cross service on Good Friday (April 14 at 3:00 pm or 7:00 pm). See the bulletin or website for more details. Have the priest sign here: _____.

Option 8: With your family, attend the Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets on Holy Saturday (April 15). See the bulletin or website for more details. Have the priest sign here: _____.

Option 9: Between May 1st and May 4th, visit the Marian Shrine in the church at least one time and spend a few minutes in prayer. Write the date you visited the shrine here ___/___/___.

Option 10: With your family, participate in the parish Traveling Chalice program to pray for vocations. Contact Marie Ronnlof, 727-595-5799 or tronnlof@verizon.net, to schedule your family's week with the chalice. Once you have the chalice, follow the instructions provided and pray each day of the week as a family for vocations. Take or draw a picture of your family with the chalice and attach the picture to this form or if you already participated write the date here: ___/___/___.

Discipleship Award Program Completion and Submission Form

When you have completed all the requirements for Part C of the Discipleship Award, complete this form and submit it with the Award forms and any other required attachments. **All forms and attachments are due by Sunday, May 14, 2017.**

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Check One:

_____ St. Jerome Parish

_____ St. Jerome Faith Formation Classes

_____ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

_____ Homeschool

_____ Other: _____

In case we have any question, please complete the following:

Parent's Printed Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Parent Phone Numbers:

Home: _____

Cell: _____