

Church of the Ascension

Parish Youth Catechesis

Policies 2023-2024

Goals for our Program

The primary goal of our Parish Youth Catechesis is to help your child to grow in their relationship with Christ and His Church. Knowledge of the faith as well as prayer is a good way to grow in one's relationship with God. The hope is that your child(ren) will both grow in their faith, and, also, in their prayer life during the school year.

Attendance at PYC and at Mass

Students are expected to attend classes each week, so that they receive the maximum benefit from their religious education. In addition, the central activity which brings our parish community together is attendance at Mass. The Mass and the Eucharist are the source and summit of our faith. Each family and student are expected to attend Sunday Mass each week.

Sacramental Year Students

Children preparing to receive First Holy Communion in 2nd grade must have previously completed 1st grade Parish Youth Catechesis either at Church of the Ascension or another parish. If this was completed at another parish, a letter from a competent authority must be provided as means of proof. Exceptions will only be given by the pastor.

Children preparing to receive Confirmation 8th grade must have previously completed 7th grade Parish Youth Catechesis either at Church of the Ascension or another parish. If this was completed at another parish, a letter from a competent authority must be provided as means of proof. Exceptions will only be given by the pastor.

All children preparing for either First Holy Communion or Confirmation must attend mass every weekend. Each child must present a signed copy of the correct weeks bulletin to their teacher. Reception of these will be recorded in FlockNote.

- **Either Father Smith, Father Jesse, or Deacon Byron must have signed a copy of each child's bulletin as proof of their participation in Mass.**
- **If you are visiting another parish, please provide a copy of that parish's bulletin with the signature of the priest or deacon present.**

Youth Group Participation

Children registered in Parish Youth Catechesis from grades 6-7 must participate in youth group. We will have a quarterly meeting of Middle School youth that PYC children must attend during Parish Youth Catechesis regular meetings.

Spiritual Hours - Confirmation

Children enrolled in Confirmation preparation are required to fulfill 7.5 hours of spiritual service to the parish each semester. Each hour must be signed off on by a competent authority such as a priest, deacon, staff member or teacher.

Spiritual Hours can be, but are not limited to the following:

- Attendance at Eucharistic Adoration
- Daily Mass attendance
- Youth Group participation outside of PYC.
- Damascus Winter Camps
- Catholic Youth Summer Camp
- Attendance and participation in the Advent Lessons and Carols
- Attendance and participation in the Advent or Lent Penance Service
 - *****Note:** since Sunday mass and Holy Days of Obligation are moral obligations, these do not count as spiritual hours.
 - Confirmation Retreat attendance is mandatory and does not count towards Spiritual Hours.

Expected Behavior

Our expectations are that students will be respectful, responsible and fun to be with, during PYC classes and activities.

Discipline

Every effort is made to work with students individually, to assure that they understand what appropriate and acceptable behavior is while at PYC. Warnings will be given before a student is asked to leave the group. If asked to leave, the student will go to the PYC office and write a note home to their parents describing the behavioral problem. They need to return the note, with a parent's signature, to their teacher the following week. If issues persist, the pastor may request a meeting with the parents.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2023-2024 school year will be \$75 for students in a Sacramental year and \$50 for all other students. There is a \$ 150 cap per family. Please note: Sacramental year payments do not count toward the \$150 family cap.

Curriculum

We will be using the series Alive in Christ by Our Sunday Visitor. Each lesson contains prayer, Scripture, church doctrine as well as stories from the lives of the saints. Please ask your son or daughter what he or she learned in PYC class. First Reconciliation and First Communion classes use Blessed by Dynamic Catholic. You can watch the videos that accompany the lessons by following this link: [Blessed | Dynamic Plus \(dynamiccatholic.com\)](https://www.dynamicplus.com). The Confirmation class uses the program Chosen as their preparation.

Service Projects

In keeping with Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), each PYC class will be involved in a service project sometime during the school year. It is anticipated that the work for these projects will take place during regularly scheduled class time. Each teacher is responsible for planning and carrying out a project appropriate to their grade level. Parents, any ideas you have for possible projects are most welcome.

Altar Servers

One of the best ways for students to participate in our parish community and strengthen their faith at the same time, is to serve on the altar during Mass. After attending training, students will be expected to serve for several weekends in a row, together with a more "seasoned" server, to learn and practice their new skills. Both girls and boys are encouraged to serve! Altar Server training will take place during PYC each Spring.

Due to Severe Weather

If there is a Level One snow emergency, there will be PYC.

If there is a Level Two snow emergency, there will be PYC but make a safe judgement on travel.

If there is a Level Three snow emergency, PYC will be canceled.

Family Participation

Throughout the year there are opportunities to assist in various ways with your student's PYC class. Parent volunteers are needed in every classroom. Completion of Protecting God's Children and a background check is needed to help. Parents are always allowed to observe in a classroom. However, per Diocesan policies, after 3 classes the parent must take Protecting God's Children and have a background check on file with the Diocese.

Director of PYC

Kelly Pertee is the Director of Parish Youth Catechesis by email at kpertee@johnstownascension.org and by phone at 740-817-1628.

Please plan to sign up for FlockNote, as that is our main line of communication.