

# *St. Frances de Chantal*



*Level One Faith Formation*

*Parent Handbook*

*Discovering the Gift of Faith*

Welcome to the St. Frances de Chantal Faith Formation Program!  
This Level 1 Program has been designed to support your efforts to share the gift of faith with your child and to live out the promises made at his/her Baptism.

### **Program Description and Highlights**

Through prayer, storytelling, Scripture, song, crafts, and other fun-filled activities, your child will experience what it means to be a beloved child of God, lived as a valued member of the St. Frances de Chantal faith community.

Classes are grouped into three units which introduce/familiarize the children with the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Related faith words establish a vocabulary for children to express the basic tenets of their Catholic faith. The Level 1 Program is a bridge for more formal preparation for the celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, next year in Level 2. Each of the three units will include a church visit.

All Level 1 classes take place in the gym. Children will spend time during each session with their catechist in a small-group setting and will also participate in a large-group experience, in the center of the gym, for prayer, presentation of the theme for the day, songs, and a story.

Along with the student book, your child will receive a bottle of Holy Water, a schedule of Family Masses, a church magnet with all Mass times, and a Supply List for what they will need for the year.

There will be two Level 1 Family Masses scheduled during the year, These Masses offer Level 1 Families the opportunity to gather and worship together.

The Program culminates with a Closing Celebration for all Level 1 children and their families. (\* The dates for the Level 1 Family Masses and Closing Celebration are noted on your blue schedules.)

### **In Your Role As Parents**

Parents are the first reflection of God's love for their child and the primary educators in the faith. Your family is your child's "domestic church". We hope to establish a partnership that will reflect the vital connection between family and church life. In that regard we ask you to:

- **Pray** with your child. The children will learn, and be expected to know, the Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Our Father and Glory Be.
- **Mass:** We encourage you to take your child to Mass each week. The 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday is designated as a Family Mass.
- **Book:** The Level 1 book is an excellent resource for you and includes activities for families.
- **Nurture** your own faith! Model for your child the importance of your own relationship with God.
- **Faith-sharing:** Your own personal witness of faith is the most important message. Bless your child and have him/her bless you. Read stories from a Children's Bible or faith-based stories. Say Grace Before Meals.

## **Parent Meetings**

**YOU** are an integral part of our program. Your attendance is expected at the Parent Meetings, which are scheduled during the year and noted on the class schedule. These meetings are designed to assist you in your role as the primary faith sharer and to let you know what your child will be experiencing in each unit.

## **Some Important Reminders**

- Please consult the Sunday Bulletin and the Parish Website (go to the Faith Formation/Level 1 tab)
- Please report your child's absence to our Faith Formation Absentee Line at 785-2333 ext. 246.
- Please make every effort to have your child arrive on time for class. Late arrivals undermine the efforts of the catechist to maintain the attention and focus of the group.
- Please do not send snacks with your child.
- Please have your child use the bathroom BEFORE class.
- To ensure safety, children will be released to you individually from the small group.
- Please support our efforts to ensure to safety of all by not allowing children to run or climb on the bleachers in the gym.
- If you carpool and/or your child will be going home with a friend, neighbor, or someone other than yourself, You Should fill out the TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION FORM IN YOUR PACKET OR PICK UP AT THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE. No Child will be sent home with anyone not on the Authorization form.
- You are encouraged to make your child's catechist aware of any special needs or circumstances that may affect your child's participation in the group. Such information will be kept in confidence. You should also notify the Faith Formation Office of any special needs or circumstances that may affect your child having a good year.

- You are always encouraged to communicate any questions or concerns to the catechist. Such communication should always take place **after all the children are dismissed.**

**Important Contact Information:**

**Parish: 785-2333**

**Faith Formation Office: (extension 205)**

**Absentee Line: extension 246**

**Mrs. Donna Mugno (Program Administrator) extension 209**

**Sister Lauren Hanley, CSJ (Family Ministry) extension 246**

**Parish Website: [www.saintjanefrances.org](http://www.saintjanefrances.org)**

**Facebook: St. Frances de Chantal Parish, Wantagh, NY**

**We at Saint Frances Faith Formation are looking forward to a Great Year with you and your children!**

