



SPARK Religious Education (Grades 1-5) and First Communion Preparation

Coordinator: Mrs. Frances T. Toups

Dates and times for all of these events may be found on the **2018-19 Schedule of Classes and Activities**.

- **Flocknote Updates and Reminders (text and/or email)**
 - Because elementary and Sacramental Prep classes do not meet on a weekly basis, Mrs. Frances attempts to send a Flocknote reminder for each class/activity.
 - Parents and grandparents are welcome to subscribe to the small groups for our Elementary Families and First Communion Families (and any other small group that interests them)!
 - Call our church office if you need help joining Flocknote!
- **SPARK Religious Education for Grades 1-5**
 - Consists of four “Sunday Sessions” per grade level during the school year and the two-week Summer Elementary Religion Program in June
- **First Communion Preparation (NOTE: “Older candidates” are welcome!)**

NOTE: “Older candidates” in Grades 3-12 are always welcome to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Confession and Communion! Call our church office (937-6888) as soon as possible!

 - Thursday night Sacramental Prep classes for **Grade 2** and **SPARK On Ramp** (Sacramental Prep Candidates in **Grades 3-5**) meet almost “every other” Thursday from October to April
 - “Older candidates” in **Grades 6-8** (now referred to as **EDGE On Ramp**) and in **Grades 9-12** (now referred to as **IGNITE On Ramp**) meet with Mrs. Frances for weekly afternoon classes after public school dismisses (except on public school holidays). Mrs. Frances will contact the parents before the classes begin!
 - More Sacramental Prep details will be provided at **two mandatory Parent Meetings** for parents of First Communion students. The dates of these meetings are published in the First Communion section of the Schedule of Classes and Activities handout.
- **Make-up packets for Elementary Religious Education and Sacramental Prep absences**

When a child is absent, the parent should download necessary packets from the Elementary Religious Education and/or or First Communion pages of our church website, review info with child(ren), and print out, sign, and return the last page of each packet to Mrs. Frances.
- **Elementary Gift Bearers at Weekend Masses throughout the School Year**
 - Fr. Metrejean encourages elementary children and their parents to serve as Gift Bearers for **weekend Masses** (4:00 pm, 8:00 am, and 11:00 am).
 - Parents can begin signing up tonight!
 - Each week, Mrs. Frances will send a text reminder to those particular parents.
 - To fill some of the empty spots, Mrs. Frances may send out a small group Flocknote requesting replies (names, dates, and Mass Times) from volunteering families.
 - REMEMBER: Although parents may be shy about serving in this ministry, their children may want to serve our church parish!
- **Students can join choirs for Sunday Masses!**
 - Parents are notified of dates for occasional rehearsals (for approximately 1½ hours before singing for 11:00 Mass on the same day) through the following Flocknote groups:
 - **Children’s Choir** (Grades 1-5; seating is limited, so grade levels may sing on separate dates)
 - **EDGE Choir** (Grades 6-8)
 - The **Youth Choir** (for high school students) provides music each week for the 5:00 p.m. Mass. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings and/or Sunday afternoons before Mass. Join Flocknote for weekly updates!