



St. Anthony of Padua Parish

1359 Acushnet Avenue • New Bedford, MA • 02746

Phone: 508.993.1691 • Fax: 508.999.4775

www.saintanthonynewbedford.com

Father Octavio Cortez, IVE

August 2016

Dear Parents of Students in the CCD Program,

I am very happy that you are planning to enroll your child in our CCD program. I hope this cover letter provides you with information about our program, answer some commonly asked questions, and communicates very clearly the expectations we have for you and your child.

Here some of the fundamental aspects of our program:

Our CCD program is a 52-week program — The most important part of your child's instruction, like every Catholic's, happens at **Mass**, where Jesus speaks to us in Sacred Scripture and offers us his body and blood in the Eucharist, as our spiritual nourishment on earth. Just like every faithful, practicing Catholic, **your child is expected to attend Mass every Sunday of the year and every holy day of obligation** — preferably with you.

New Curriculum — this year we are changing our curriculum to RCL Benzinger "Be My Disciple". It will teach scripture, doctrine and liturgical celebration as well as integrate faith and life through activities and faith choices. Please feel free to check out their website - <http://www.bemydisciples.com/parents>.

Safe Child Curriculum – The diocese requires us to teach each class about personal safety. The Office for Child Protection has developed a DVD program for each different age group. These DVDs will be viewed within the first few weeks of class in the classrooms and you are welcome to join the class to watch the videos and discussion. Also, if you prefer your child not participate in this, you will need to sign a waiver.

Check in — CCD begins with will be **Mass** at 8:30 (where your child should sit with you, or, if unaccompanied, with teachers and other students). After Mass, we will proceed downstairs where the children will have a brief restroom break. Formal classes will be held in the school building from 9:30- 11:00. You can pick-up your children at 11:00 am at the Nye Street side of the school.

Day of Recollection — each class will have a Day of Recollection given by their teachers in the parish classroom on one Saturday throughout the year. These recollections are listed on the CCD schedule. These Days of Recollection will begin with Mass at 9:00am, followed by a mini retreat on a specific subject, and end at 12:30pm. In the event your child cannot attend his/her class retreat, he/she will be required to attend the next retreat day.



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Prayer Sheets — In order for your son or daughter to enter a grade, they will need to know the corresponding level of prayers on the prayer sheets given out in past years and available on our parish website. Students entering second grade must know the level one prayers (the Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition, etc.); students entering third grade must know the level one and two prayers (the prayers of the Mass); students entering grades five and above must know the first two levels and be familiar with the third level, which are basically the prayers of the Rosary. Please help them to learn them by heart and to understand their meaning.

Please fill out the registration sheet and turn it into the sacristy before or after Mass, to the parish office by mail or by visiting between 9 am to 3 pm, Monday through Friday, or by giving it to me, Mrs. Monique Marshall, your CCD coordinator. All registration sheets should be turned in by September 11th. The registration fee is \$50 for the first child and \$40 for each additional child in families of 2 or more registering children. This fee includes books and all other associated costs. If a family is in dire financial need, they are encouraged to approach Fr. Octavio or myself to discuss options.

If your child was not baptized at St. Anthony's, then you will need to obtain for us and include with the registration a copy of his or her baptismal certificate. (If you turned in such a certificate in a previous year of CCD here at the parish, then you do not need to do it again this year).

If you have any questions, you may see me after Mass on Sunday, email me (monique@saintanthonynewbedford.com) or leave a message for me at the Parish Office. The catechists and I are all looking forward to working with you to help your child grow more and more as a disciple of Jesus this year!

In Christ,

Mrs. Monique Marshall