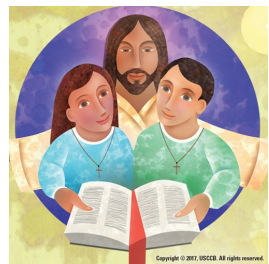




Did you know that we have 16 youth attending the **National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)**, November 16-18, 2017, in Indianapolis, Indiana? *They are:* Julia Brzac, John Curley, Julia Curley, Will Degan, Christopher Diotte, Jenna Fazzone, Fiona Fitzgerald, Mikayla Joslyn, Mary Kate McGuirk, Emmie Paluch, Kendall Paluch, Ryan Pardo, Mary Pegarella, Emmie Roberts, Olivia Rowley, and Abigail Rys.

Check out our pictures and bio's in the Gathering Space! We are so excited to share our faith and share our experiences with you! Thank you!

"Living as Missionary Disciples." Is God calling you to share your faith with our parish?



Please give Rosemary Gavin or Kristi Pegarella a call at 518-785-1605 to explore the many ways you can help in our Faith Formation program. Many hands make light work!

NCYC FUNdraising!



Support our teens traveling to NCYC by joining us for **Meatball and Italian Sausage Subs** on **Saturday, September 30 from 4-7 pm**. Eat in or take out! **\$10** dinner includes a sub, salad and soda. Pre-sale tickets available after masses on September 23/24 or in the Youth Ministry Office during the week.

Gift Basket Raffle - Stop in the Gathering Space after mass on September 23/24 and check out the gift baskets. Purchase tickets for a chance to win! Drawing to be held at the Meatball and Italian Sausage Sub Dinner on September 30!



Friday October 13th, 2017 @ 6:30pm

A delicious and exclusive evening created entirely by our own Executive Chef Burke!

Menu: Appetizers...cheese plate...Assorted Adult Beverages and soft drinks
 1st course~ Cold zucchini soup with croutons
 2nd course~ Melon w/ Prosciutto
 3rd course~ Salad greens with specialty dressing
 4th course~ Grilled Tuscan Chicken/ Grilled Pork Tenderloin with seasoned vegetables
 Dessert ~ Gelato and Italian cookies



There are only 16 tickets available for purchase for \$50 each, which entitles the bearer to bring ONE guest.

There will be an additional raffle drawing of 9 tickets (selling for \$10 each) which will entitle the bearer to bring ONE guest.

There is a maximum of 50 guests for this dinner.

Tickets will be available for sale Saturday, September 30th through Sunday, October 8th after masses and through the Youth Ministry Office. Drawing at 12 noon 10/8.

Our Lady of the Assumption
 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
 498 Watervliet-Shaker Road
 Latham, NY 12110
 (518) 785-1605

Fall 2017
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Living in Faith

A Newsletter from the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Office

Faith Formation at Our Lady of the Assumption

And so it begins again..."I love back to school season!" one of my daughters said...I didn't realize it was a season, but I can see why she said that. Back to school, back to Faith Formation, back to practice, back to piano lessons, back to Scouts, back to an "it's not summer anymore" routine...we get it! Everyone is busy. But please remember, God goes with you everywhere. He is with your children on the bus, meeting the new teacher, scoring the winning goal, taking the test,...Give him your worries and he will carry them for you. God knows you and your children like no other!

Take a moment to join me in prayer. Cut out this little blue box and tuck it in your car visor, or your wallet or calendar...we can all lean on God and feel his arms wrapping us in his strength. Know that the Faith Formation team is here to support you and your family in any way possible. We hope to be your shelter in the storm and the door that's open when you just need someone to listen.

May the coming "season" be filled with blessings,

Kristi-Lynn Pegarella, Pastoral Associate

A Prayer for Back to School

Our Heavenly Father,

In a season of life when parenting decisions seem to loom larger than life itself, we humbly ask for your guidance. While the shoes still smell new... and the pencils point crisply, our hearts sense the need for a stronger connection with your love and a deeper reliance on your grace. Would You help us to remember that You know every thought we have as a parent? Would You remind us that the feeling of having our hearts walk around outside our bodies is one You are ever so familiar with? And would You provide the wisdom from above as we walk this new ground for a new school year? We praise Your name for doing so.

In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen.



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Dates to remember!

- **Elementary Sessions** begin Sept. 17
- **High School Sessions** begin Sept. 25
- **Mid-Level Sessions (Gr. 6-8)** begin Sept. 19
- **Meatball and Sausage Sub night** Sept. 30
- **Night in Tuscany** Oct. 13

Family Sessions? What does that mean?

Are you kidding me? They want me to be at one more thing!? (OK, so maybe you didn't say it, but you thought it!)

If you checked out the Elementary Faith Formation schedule (on the next page), you will notice a Family Session each month. These sessions will be held at the same time (Sunday, 9-10:15am) but we will meet in the Church. We ask that at least one family member attends with your child. By family member, we mean, Mom, Dad, a grandparent, or any adult who would love to share their faith with your child. Children will sit with their family and not with their catechist. (Unless, of course, your Mom or Dad IS a catechist.) Younger and older siblings are invited to attend as well. Bring the whole gang!

In October we will need everyone's help as we create a living Rosary, giving each person an opportunity to lead us all in the amazing prayers that create the Rosary. We will also teach you

a little about the Rosary, and make sure that every child in our Sunday program leaves with a Rosary of their very own.

In November look for our Saints Stations as we learn more about a few of the Saints. And in December, we'll share part of our Advent celebration as we prepare for the birth of Jesus! And don't forget our favorite celebration of family, the Christmas Pageant. This year it will be held on Saturday, December 16. (And we built in a snow day, just in case! - Sunday, December 17 at 12 noon.)

It is our expectation that these sessions be attended by each family. Attendance will be taken. But it is our hope that you'll enjoy each session and model our faith for your children.

God does not ask us to do great things **for** him. Rather he works **through** us. But we have to show up and allow him to work through us. This takes courage! Let us help you find that courage. We learn the faith from those around us...be that light for your child and lead the way!

Shaker Jr High School

Builders Club Food Pantry

OLA Faith Formation and the Youth Ministry Team is collecting food pantry items for students at Shaker Jr. High School. Please bring any of the following items with you to your Faith Formation Session and place it in our collection box.

- Box of oatmeal packets
- Mac and Cheese
- Juice Boxes (100% Juice)
- Boxed pastas, plastic jars of sauce
- Hearty soups; canned veggies or beans.
- Plastic jars of Peanut butter and jelly
- Individual size granola bars, applesauce, crackers or pudding
16oz. Size or less please!



GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.



VIRTUS is an educational program for the prevention of sexual abuse of children and youth. All paid and volunteer ministers who work with children and young people are required to attend a VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" training session. The Diocese of Albany mandates attendance at one of the

VIRTUS programs for all who have contact with children and youth.

We will be offering a VIRTUS training session here **at Our Lady of the Assumption on Wednesday, October 18 from 6:30-9pm.** If you plan to volunteer in any capacity to work with the children and youth at OLA, this is your opportunity to join us! Please sign-up directly through the Diocese website at www.rcda.org. Select Protecting Children, and then Virtus Training. You will find our session listed under the Albany Diocese. On-line registration is required prior to your attendance at the session. If you have any questions, or need assistance registering, please contact Kristi Pegarella at 518-785-1605.

OLA Faith Formation Calendar 2017-18

Subject to change due to program planning and/or weather!

Elementary Dates Grades 1-5 Sundays 9-10:15 am	High School Dates Grades 9 & 10 Mondays 7-8:30 pm	Mid-Level Dates Grades 6-8 Tuesdays 7-8 pm
September 17— Opening Celebration September 24	September 25	September 19 September 26
October 1— Family Session October 8—No Session October 15 October 22 October 29	October 2 October 9—No Session October 16 October 23 October 30	October 3 October 10 October 17 October 24 October 31—No Session
November 5— Family Session November 12 November 19 November 26—No Session	November 6 November 13 November 20 November 27	November 7—No Session November 14 November 21 November 28
December 3— Family Session December 10—Pageant Rehearsal Sat., December 16—Christmas Pageant@9:30 a.m. (Snow Day—December 17 @12 noon)	December 4 December 11 December 18 December 25—No Session	December 5 December 12 December 19 December 26 – No Session
No Sessions 12/17, 12/24, 12/31, & 1/7 January 14— Family Session January 21 January 28	January—HS Retreat TBD	January—Mid-Level Retreat TBD
February 4— Family Session February 11 February 18 & 25—No Sessions	February 5 February 12 February 19—No Session February 26	February 6 February 13 February 20—No Session February 27
March 4— Family Session March 11 March 18 March 25—Last Session (Gr. 1, 3-5)	March 5 March 12 March 19—Last session for Grade 9	March 6 March 13 March 20—Last Session
Sat., April 14—First Eucharist Prep. Children only 9-10 am Sat., April 21—First Eucharist Prep. with parents 9-10:30 am Sat., April 28—First Eucharist 9 am	April 2—No Session April 9—Confirmation Prep April 16—Confirmation Prep Date of Confirmation Retreat to be determined.	



More detailed plans will be given out at your child's Faith Formation sessions. If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 518-785-1605 to check the messages for cancellations or to speak directly with us.

Don't forget to check our website at www.olalatham.org.