

Grade 3 & Grade 4 program - 2023-2024 – updated 6-8-23

The Grade 3 & Grade 4 program format is a large session with smaller breakout groups within them. As Our Sunday Visitor – Alive in Christ workbook is a spiral curriculum, it enables us to combine the grades for a good sense of community and peer learning, while able to separate the children in small groups based on their grades as to work in their appropriate workbooks.

- The large group session begins as a large group with an opening song, prayer and a theme announced. Following that we will have breakout tables where the kids will have their own workbook and small group teaching by volunteer catechists in their respective grade and workbook. We will enhance the workbook theme with appropriate videos and interactive ways to have the children concretely learn about their faith. **The lessons from the workbook will be done in class.**

Some highlights over the year will include:

- Tour of the Church, introduction to the children's choir, Hummingbirds (grades 3-7) and introduction to Altar Serving by Msgr. Tom (grade 3 and above).
- We will also learn about community service and how we can help others.
- During the large groups we will learn about group prayer, petitions for others and scripture.
- **Grade 3 & Grade 4 retreat** – Sunday, February 4, 4:00pm-6pm ending with meeting parents/family at 6pm Mass- save the date!
- We will also have a few additional speakers of faith offered during certain months on meaningful topics for the children. We will update you on those as soon as possible.
- **Sessions take place in room 102/103 in Meaney Hall.** We ask you to drop your child off through the Meaney Hall main door with their workbooks each week and pick them up at the same door.
- **Group Reconciliation Services** Mon. March 18, 6-8pm & Wed. March 20, 6-8pm grades 3-8, your child may attend one date, open to go with older siblings.
- Consistency of attendance to the same day & time enables the children to establish a faith community with new friends and their volunteer catechists. Your child will need to attend the same session September – March.

Volunteers: Saint Helen has a history of generous volunteers who help us run our religious education programs. The Grade 3 & Grade 4 program will need about 50 volunteers including teachers and check in people, please consider joining our team!

- **The New Volunteer Training Meeting on September 13 at 7:00pm in room 102/103.**
- Lesson plans are provided for you via email the week before each session for you to review along with a catechist guide from Our Sunday Visitor.
- Responsibilities include instructing a small group of about 10 children within the large group session.
- The commitment is one-two times per month from September through March.
- Substitutes are also needed, let us know what days and times you are available if you can't commit to the entire program.

Volunteer Guidelines: Volunteers over 18 who work with children need to take Protecting God's Children or Keeping the Promise Alive and submit a volunteer application along with a background check per the Archdiocese of Newark. Please click on this link from our website to read more about it. <https://sainthelen.org/protecting-gods-children/> We can assist you with this process. You can check off on the registration of your child that you elect to volunteer.

Schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Alive in Christ	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday
Gr. 3 & Gr. 4	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E
2023/2024	3:45-4:45PM	5:30-6:30PM	3:45-4:45PM	3:45-4:45PM	5:30-6:30PM
Large Group Session	Sept. 26	Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 28
Large Group Session	Oct. 10	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 12
Large Group Session	Oct. 24	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 26
Large Group Session	Nov. 28	Nov. 28	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	Nov. 30
Large Group Session	Dec. 12	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 14
Large Group Session	Jan. 2	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 4
Large Group Session	Jan. 23	Jan. 23	Jan. 24	Jan. 25	Jan. 25
Grades 3 & 4 Retreat (Sunday - 4:00)	Sunday, Feb. 4	Sunday, Feb. 4	Sunday, Feb. 4	Sunday, Feb. 4	Sunday, Feb. 4
Large Group Session	Feb. 27	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	Feb. 29	Feb. 29
Large Group Session	Mar. 12	Mar. 12	Mar. 13	Mar. 14	Mar. 14
Lenten Reconciliation Service 6-8 pm	Mon & Wed, Mar. 18 & 20	Mon & Wed, Mar. 18 & 20	Mon & Wed, Mar. 18 & 20	Mon & Wed, Mar. 18 & 20	Mon & Wed, Mar. 18 & 20

Special Notes:

Wed., Feb. 14 - 3:45PM - Ash Wednesday Services

Sun., Mar. 24 – Palm Sunday (Passion Play Masses)

Thurs., Mar. 28 - Holy Thursday

Fri., Mar. 29 - Good Friday – children’s Stations of the Cross – Outside

Sat., Mar. 30 - Holy Saturday

Sun., Mar. 31 - Easter Sunday

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Nicole

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