Imagine what you can do because you are made in God's image.

Cover Art by The Bolcar Family

To Grow

Imagine what you can do because you are made in God's image.
Welcome to the 2017-2018 Faith Formation Program!

Here at Ss Peter & Paul and St Lawrence, we see ourselves as part of your family. This Catholic Community is committed to loving you and your family as you are. We are also committed to raising happy and healthy children with you who have a relationship with God.

**Program Components and Expectations**

Like in any relationship, there are expectations that family members have for one another. Having clear expectations is the key to having a healthy relationship with one another. These will also help us educate children more effectively, joyfully, and lovingly in the faith. Below are what we expect from you, the parent:

**Worship by . . .**

- **Come to Mass on Sundays**
  - Bring the family to the Children’s Mass: 9am at SPP & 10:30am at STL. Additionally, make sure to come to this Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the Month for a special presentation for the children. Every Sunday we will provide every child in the program with a weekly pamphlet that is meant to be used at home to make Mass more meaningful for them.

**Serve by . . .**

- **Getting involved.** We invite all parents to get involved in some way, whether that is through helping out with a small group or serving coffee at the coffee social. Help build our community to be a more hospitable and charitable place.

**Grow by . . .**

- **Participating in the Faith Formation sessions, activities, and events.** Refer to the calendar in this handbook to see when your child’s appropriate sessions take place.

**Connect by . . .**

- **Attending community events and registering with the parish.** Throughout the year we have other events that we do outside of the sessions to put our faith into practice. This includes service projects, worship events, like the Christmas Pageant and the Stations of the Cross, and community gatherings.

**Give by . . .**

- **Continuing to support the parish through envelopes or Faith Direct.** In addition to registering with the parish, in order for programs like Faith Formation to continue it needs the ongoing support of the parishioners. We invite every working person to donate their first hour’s wage to support this work we do for our families.

**St Lawrence**
- **Sun, Feb 18**
  - Family Assembly
  - 10:00 am • Parish Center

**Ss Peter & Paul**
- **Sun, Feb 4**
  - Family Assembly, Section A
  - 10:00 am • Lower Church
- **Sun, Feb 11**
  - Preschool & Kindergarten Faith Formation
  - 10:00 am • Primetime Building

Remember to keep wearing your Family Assembly T-Shirts to our gatherings. We ask that everyone wear their special Family Assembly t-shirt so that we can build a sense of belonging right here in our church. Wear them proudly!
Family Assembly Recap:

Some people think that only artists are creative. But that’s not true at all. Every person on this planet has a creative soul because that’s the way we were created. You can be creative in SO many different ways. It doesn’t matter what your gift is. It could be math, science, horticulture, or even sports. The key is imagining what you can do with that gift in order to honor the one who gave it to you. Sometime this month, I want you to imagine a way to use your gifts to help those around you.

Creativity is imagining what you could do because you’re made in God’s image.

When God made us in His image, he wanted us to GROW into something BIGGER. Because God has BIG plans for each of our lives. And the Sacrament that continues to help our faith to grow in the Fruits of the Spirit is CONFIRMATION! So parents and kids, this week at dinner or before you go to bed, remember to take a moment to share your CREATIVITY and GROWING stories with one another and about what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life!

Thanks to all who contributed to making our pageant such a success!

The Bolcar Family

“Hello from the Bolcar family! We have been members of St Lawrence since we moved to the neighborhood back in 2005. It has been wonderful to see the church really grow and flourish over the last 4 years. For us, it’s important that a church provide more than just weekly services. We want our girls to experience a sense of community and fellowship, and St Lawrence really provides that environment. Our girls are also big fans of the Family Faith Formation program. Nick, Katie and the crew really work hard to make it interesting and fun for them. We are so grateful to be a part of the St Lawrence family!”

Happy Birthday to our January birthday boys and girls!

George
Alice
Reese
WILLIAM
AMELIA
Anna
BAXTER
Blathnaid
JAMES
Kayla
MATTHEW
NICHOLAS
Logan
SEAN
Jude
JACK
SOPHIE
Caterina
Emilie
SOPHIA
DYLAN
Patricia

Enjoy your special day!

Happy Anniversary to all of you celebrating this month!

If you would like to have you anniversary acknowledged, please kindly email Nick: nick.leeper@spphoboken.com
Feast of the Epiphany

January 7, 2018

Oftentimes we hear things and don’t really understand them. Here are 10 facts about the history and meaning of Three Kings Day.

What is the Epiphany? Epiphany is the 12th Day of Christmas. The Church generally celebrates it liturgically on the Sunday closest to January 6. Although some use the Epiphany as an ‘unofficial’ end to the Christmas Season, the liturgical Season of Christmas actually ends with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jesus by St. John the Baptist, this year transferred to Monday, January 8.

The six Sundays which follow Epiphany are known as the time of manifestation. The Twelfth Night (Epiphany) also marks a visit to the baby Jesus by The Magi, (the three Kings, or Wise Men). The word ‘Epiphany’ comes from Greek and means ‘manifestation’. It celebrates ‘the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ’.

In the West, Christians began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century, associating it with the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus.

The three kings - named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar - followed the star of Bethlehem to meet the baby Jesus. According to Matthew 2:11, they offered symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus’ birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

During the medieval period, Christmas was celebrated for the 12 days from Christmas Eve on December 24, until the Epiphany. Even up until the 19th century, January 6 was as big a celebration as Christmas Day.

For many Protestant churches, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6 until Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. The last Sunday of the Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday. Others, including the Catholic church, observe Epiphany as a single day. Some Catholic dioceses in the US mark the Epiphany feast on the Sunday after January 6.

Orthodox Christians, however, celebrate the holiday on January 19 each year.

Across the world, the day’s festivities vary. In the Spanish speaking world Epiphany is known as Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings’ Day). In Mexico, for instance, crowds gather to taste the Rosca de reyes - Kings’ bread. In other countries, a Jesus figurine is hidden in the bread.

1. The three Kings (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represented Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.

2. Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany in honour of Christ and the three Kings’ visit.

3. Whoever finds the small statue of a baby Jesus hidden inside their slice of the Rosca de reyes throws a party on Candlemas in February.

4. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings’ horses.

5. According to Greek Orthodox Church’s traditions, a priest will bless the waters by throwing a cross into it as worshippers try to retrieve it.

6. In Bulgaria too, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and the men dive in - competing to get to it first.

7. In Venice a traditional regatta that started as a joke in the late 1970s has been incorporated in the celebrations of Epiphany Day.

8. In Prague, there is a traditional Three Kings swim to commemorate Epiphany Day at the Vltava River.

9. In New York, El Museo del Barrio has celebrated and promoted the Three Kings’ Day tradition with an annual parade for more than three decades. Thousands take part in the procession featuring camels, colorful puppets and floats.

10. The day’s activities involve singing holiday carols called aguinaldos.
Thanks to our parishioners, we were able to donate supplies to the many ministries of Hoboken!

MBS Thanksgiving Dinner
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark
The Waterfront Project
The Hoboken Shelter
St Matthew’s Lunchtime Ministry
Dear Parishioners -

For six years I have served as Director of Music Ministries at Ss Peter and Paul and my time here has been filled with so many memorable moments that will remain with me for the rest of my life. It is never easy to say goodbye, but it very easy to recall all of the wonderful things this parish family has done for me since my arrival, just after Christmas in 2011. I will be forever grateful for the experience of working with Fr. Bob and the team of staff that he has built up for the parish. This community has truly been fortunate to have such a great group of dedicated leaders who use their expertise and talents to further the parish mission. For me in particular, it has been Fr. Bob and his willingness to support and invest in the Music Ministry that has enabled me to do things that I might not have otherwise been privileged to be a part of. The group of talented cantors, choir members, and instrumentalists that have come forward in my time made for such a rewarding musical experience, and I hope that others may follow their example of giving and consider the many ways they can contribute to bringing life and light to the worshiping assembly through music. Perhaps some of my most fond memories will be the delightful liturgies and performances with our children, so many of which I have watched grow up and be enriched in their faith and love of Jesus. They have become shining examples of what it means to live with child-like faith in the message of God's love that we are instilling in them. I pray that this parish community may continue to devote everything possible to the development of their faith formation through music and children's liturgy. I am very grateful for the gracious understanding and guidance I have received from Fr. Michael thus far and I am fully confident that he will have many good things in store for the future of this parish. Finally, please know of my prayers for each of you - all of those who have encouraged me and supported the work I have done here. You will all remain close to my heart and I will never forget you. Please pray for me as I pursue new ventures and follow the path God has laid before me.

With sincerest appreciation,

Matthew Still

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**WHY FAITH DIRECT IS BETTER THAN ENVELOPES**

Currently a portion of our collection is electronic: a simpler, safer and more predictable way for our parish to collect your contribution:

- **It's safer than checks or cash.** It’s more secure than giving by cash or check, both of which can get lost, stolen or mis-tracked. Online gifts through FaithDirect are secure and sent directly to the parish’s bank account.

- **It creates faithful giving:** recurring gifts help you make giving a priority. For the parish it makes income more predictable, budget planning an easier process and keeps giving consistent.

- **It reduces the administrative burden of the parish financial team.** It eliminates the printing, mailing, processing and recording of donations of the envelope system. FaithDirect allows you to track your donations and access tax statements as any time.

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Creating an account is simple. You can enroll online or by mail, so you can give to your church in a way that works best for you.

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Ss Peter & Paul Parish Code: NJ627