

*Family Life † Respect Life Office
Archdiocese of New York*

Education for Parenting Ministry

List of Parenting Centers and Programs

These programs provide vocational nurturing and support for parents raising children in our Catholic faith. *Education for Parenting* workshops and meetings provide a spiritual and faith perspective, age-appropriate behavior information, discipline and communication skills, and a Catholic parenting support network.

Listed below are programs in parishes which offer on-going Education for Parenting throughout the academic year. Other parishes throughout the ten counties of the Archdiocese (*Staten Island, Manhattan, Bronx, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Ulster* and *Sullivan*) sporadically offer one-session parenting workshops. Here there are descriptions of the on-going Education for Parenting meetings, grouped geographically, by New York City borough and then upstate county locations.

Information about the standing programs described here can change without immediate notice to the Education for Parenting Coordinator in this office/website. One must check with the leaders before attending. In some parishes groups meet on several days a week, in others there is just one weekly meeting, others meet monthly. Dates, days of the week, times, and room locations are all subject to change. Please proceed by calling the parish, inquire about how to get in touch with the Parenting Ministry Director or Leader, who can then give you correct information about meeting room locations, times, etc., and answer your questions.

Fees for all programs vary from parish to parish because of the different types of programs and workshops, their duration, and whether crafts are included at the daytime meetings. Leaders should be consulted to learn about the fee, which is sometimes collected session by session or per semester for daytime programs, or collected in advance for multiple-session evening workshops. If a family cannot afford the fee, it can be adjusted or alternate arrangements can be made. Lack of money need not prevent anyone from participating. If you would like to start a parenting center in your parish, or would like to help facilitate a current parenting center, please contact Sue DiSisto at susan.disisto@archny.org.

THREE BOROUGHES, WHICH ARE ALSO COUNTIES, WITHIN NYC

Staten Island:

Church of St. Clare (Great Kills)

110 Nelson Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10308
(718) 984-7873

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Guastella, Pastor

Director: Catherine Adinolfi, familyministry@stclaresi.com

- *Play and Learn:* Educational leader-led discussion groups for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers, on child-raising topics, on Wednesday mornings, two sessions: 10:15-11:15 and 11:45-12:45. There is play-care for the children in the same room with parents
- Blessing for Expectant Parents, by birth or adoption, at Mass twice yearly, with presentation of baby blankets made by St. Clare's Shawl Ministry, and a reception
- Blessing of Little Children in September
- Family Jesse Tree Service during Advent
- Family Stations of the Cross for Lent

- Yearly Archdiocesan Education for Parenting Coordinator presentation
- Evenings, special one-session presentations throughout the year, with babysitting
- Vacation Bible School: 2 weeks during the summer
- Ice-cream social for the family during the summer

Our Lady Queen of Peace (New Dorp)

90 Third Street
 Staten Island, NY 10306
 (718) 351-1093
 Reverend Pancrose Kalist, Pastor
Director: Frances Giblin

- Preparation for Baptism meeting, once monthly

Manhattan:

**Church of St. Paul the Apostle
 Mother Church of the Paulist Fathers**

405 West 59th Street
 New York, NY 10019
 (212) 265-3495
 Rev. Gilbert Martinez, CSP, Pastor
Leader: Rev. Robert Collins, SJ

This program is on hiatus until further notice

- *Sharing Our Heritage:* Lectio Divina for Parents. Monthly gathering of parents which includes moments of reading, reflection, responding to, and resting in the Word of God, with the aim of nourishing and deepening one's relationship with God. This practice, devoted to parents, develops their faith and strengthens their roles as spiritual leaders of their children.
- Supervised childcare in a nearby room

Transfiguration (Chinatown)

29 Mott Street
 New York, New York 10013
 (212) 962-5157
 Reverend Raymond J. Nobiletti, M.M., Pastor
Leader: Chris Chen, cccchan@gmail.com

- Approximately ten S.T.E.P (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) programs per year, dealing with topics such as nonviolent communication and human development, eight weeks per session. Meetings held in Mandarin language
- Monthly support groups for parents who have taken the STEP course, with differing topics and using contents from the manual
- Chris Chen also hosts a radio show that discusses parenting for the Chinese community.

Our Lady of Sorrows

213 Stanton Street
 New York, NY 10002
 (212) 673-0900

- Fr. Thomas Faiola, O.F.M., Cap., Pastor

Leaders: Damaris Saliva, Ricardo Avalos

***THIS PARENTING PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH**

- Occasional Common Sense Parenting, six-session workshops for parents of children ages 6-16, which teach discipline skills, in Spanish and English

Bronx:**Our Lady of the Assumption**

1634 Mahan Avenue

Bronx, NY 10461

(718) 824-5454

Reverend Monsignor Anthony Marchitelli, Pastor

Leaders: Denise Matranga olaparentingcenter@yahoo.com

- OLA Parenting Center educational meetings are held for parents and caretakers of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers on most Monday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. Guest speakers and/or leader-led discussions address general topics about raising children and also faith-based issues
- There is supervised play-care for children in a separate room
- Yearly Archdiocesan Education for Parenting Coordinator presentation
- Occasional special programs such as parties for the children, and holiday time outreach of gifts to women and babies at a shelter for unwed mothers

St. Clare of Assisi Church

1918 Paulding Avenue

Bronx, NY 10462

(718) 863-8974

Reverend Robert Aufieri, Pastor

Leader: Liz Varenne, scparentingcenter@weebly.com

- *St. Clare's Parenting Center:* Educational meetings are held for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers on most Tuesday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. Guest speakers and/or leader-led discussions address general topics about raising Catholic children
- There is supervised play-care for children in the same room
- Occasional special programs such as outings and parties for the children

Mary's Little House / La Casita de Maria

Sacred Heart Learning Center

1651 Zerega Avenue

Bronx, NY 10462

Director: Sister Cora Lombardo clombardo@ascjus.org***THIS PARENTING PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH***This program is suspended until further notice – currently exploring alternative location*

- Parenting center educational meetings are held for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers on most Thursday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. Leader-led discussions address general topics about raising children and also faith-based issues. Meetings are conducted in both Spanish and English
- There is supervised play-care for children in a separate room

COUNTIES EAST OF THE HUDSON RIVER (NORTH OF THE CITY)**Westchester:****St. Patrick's (Bedford)**

7 Pound Ridge Road

Bedford, NY 10506

(914) 234-3668

Rev. Msgr. George P. Thompson, Pastor

Leader: Kathleen Collins

- *Mom and Tots (more than just a playgroup):* Parents of young children have the opportunity to participate in small group discussions. They address a variety of common parenting issues and concerns in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Playgroups and craft activities are available for toddlers. This is a wonderful chance to pick up some great parenting skills and tips and to connect with other parents of young children

Sacred Heart (Dobbs Ferry)

18 Bellewood Avenue

Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

(914) 693-0119

Rev. Timothy J. Scannell, Pastor

Leader: Patti Hartnett

- *PACT: Parents and Children Together:* Educational sessions for parents, grandparents, and caregivers of infants, toddlers, preschoolers come together for parenting education and support on Wednesday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. There is supervised play-care for the children in the same room, parents have leader-led group discussions on topics related to raising children, with occasional guest speakers
- Children's parties throughout the year

Resurrection (Rye)

910 Boston Post Road

Rye, NY 10580

(914) 967-0142

Rev. Msgr. Donald M. Dwyer, Pastor

Director: Ellen Schiavone, parentingcenter@resurrectionrye.com

- Mrs. Ellen Schiavone offers parents and their children an informal and relaxed discussion group. The program's focus is on families with children from birth to age three. Topics include developmental and behavioral issues as well as encouragement and advice for dealing with the ups and downs of caring for, loving, and teaching babies and toddlers
- Occasional programs for parents of elementary school children and teenagers

Immaculate Conception (Tuckahoe)

53 Winter Hill Road

Tuckahoe, NY 10707

(914) 961-3643

Rev. Eric P. Rasser, Pastor

Director: Michelle Horvers, chorvers@optonline.net

Leaders: Michelle Antenucci, Sister Cora Lombardo, ASCJ, Regina Thomson, Diane Wade

- *Morning Out! Learn and Play!* Support for Caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. While your child plays, parents discuss social, developmental and discipline topics related to raising young children. Tuesday mornings in autumn, winter and spring
- Occasional Common Sense Parenting, six-session evening workshops for parents of children ages 6-16, which teach discipline skills
- Occasional single-session evening workshops for parents of elementary school children and/or teenagers
- *Parents Connect:* Connect with other parents as we discuss parenting books and topics. Our mission statement: *To provide an opportunity for parents to connect and learn from each other in a welcoming, open and faith-filled environment.*

St. Patrick's Church (Yorktown Heights)

137 Moseman Road
 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
 (914) 962-5050
 Rev. Joseph F. Bisignano, Pastor

Director: Nan Gollogly

Group Leaders: Melanie Darensod, Pat Sumner

- *Parentcare*: Weekly leader-led group discussions on child raising topics, in the mornings on Mondays and Wednesdays in autumn, winter and spring, with supervised play-care in same room
- Pre-Natal Blessing for Expectant Parents at Mass, twice yearly
- Blessing of Little Children (birth to kindergarten) held annually in October
- Yearly Archdiocesan Education for Parenting Coordinator presentation
- Occasional Common Sense Parenting, six-session evening workshops for parents of school age children ages 6-16, which teach discipline skills
- Occasional single-session evening workshops for parents of teenagers and/or elementary-school children

Putnam:**St. James the Apostle/Our Lady of the Lake (Carmel)**

1 Doherty Drive
 Lake Carmel, NY 10512
 Rev. Anthony D. Sorgie, Pastor

Leaders: Monica Marsich, motherofmany.com@gmail.com

Stephanie Nix (845) 225-4250, nix96@msn.com

Program operates at Chapel of Our Lady of the Lake

- *Parentcare*: Educational sessions for parents and their infants, toddlers, preschoolers, Thursday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. There is supervised play-care for the children, parents have leader-led group discussions on topics related to raising children, occasional guest speakers

Dutchess:**Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (LaGrangeville) -**

1925 Route 82
 LaGrangeville, NY 12540
 (845) 227-1710
 Msgr. Desmond O'Connor, Pastor

Leader: Kira Zaikowski Gorman, kirazgorman@yahoo.com

- *Parent-Child Connection*: Informal group discussions about general topics for parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers on Tuesday mornings in autumn, winter and spring at 10 AM
- Crafts and snacks for children during the session

St. Denis (Hopewell Junction)

602 Beekman Road
 P.O. Box 10
 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
 (845) 227-8382
 Rev. Robert Porpora, Pastor

Director: Karen Lynch

- Monthly support group meetings for parents of children with special needs, on first Thursday of the month, in the evening. Babysitting can be available with advance notice from parents

St. Mary, Mother of the Church (Fishkill)

P.O. Box 780

103 Jackson Street (deliveries only, not mail)

Fishkill, NY 12524

(845) 896-6400

Rev. Joseph A. Blenkle, Pastor

Director: Catherine Cwiakala, MSW

- *Nurturing with Joy for Our Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers* on Wednesday mornings in St. Mary's Chapel during autumn, winter and spring, on Bedford Avenue
- *1, 2, 3, 4 Parenting Program*: For Parents of children from 1 to 4 years of age – Free Introductory Sessions – offered for groups, individuals and/or couples; offered in October
- *Active Parenting Now*: For parents of children from 5 to 12 years of age – also offered for individuals and/or couples in the fall
- *Active Parenting of Teens Program: New 3rd Edition*: Also offered for individuals and/or couples. Free Introductory Sessions, offered in October
- *Rainbows for All God's Children*: A support group for children who are experiencing parental separation for various reasons and/or divorce, offered the end of October to march
- *Prism*: A support/education program for separated parents for various reasons, divorced and step-parents. Step-parents are welcome, offered the end of October to March
- Topics presented in the *Active Parenting Programs* include: choosing to be an active parent; encouraging our children's self-esteem, courage and responsibility; understanding our children's behavior and redirecting misbehavior with effective discipline; developing family problem-solving with cooperation and communication; and family spirituality
- Expectant parents' Masses in October
- Children's blessing in October
- Bereavement programs for children, teens, and their parents: We are preparing this program and will give more information as it develops
- Yearly Archdiocesan Education for Parenting Coordinator presentation
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COUNTIES WEST OF THE HUDSON RIVER (GOING NORTH FROM NYC)**Rockland:****St. Francis of Assisi (West Nyack)**

128 Parrott Road

West Nyack, NY 10994

(845) 634-4957

Rev. Robert F. McKeon, Pastor

Leader: Sister Pat Hogan

- *The Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS)* is a gentle program of self-awareness and awakening to the spirituality of motherhood, which brings about a sense of belonging, hospitality, faith sharing, and genuine community. It is a seven-week experience for mothers to come together once a week for two hours to share their stories and bond by gaining insight into their current experiences

St. Margaret of Antioch (Pearl River)

115 West Central Ave.

Pearl River, NY 10965

(845) 735-4746

Rev. Msgr. John J. O'Keefe, Pastor

Leader: Mary McAleer, mmcaleer@hotmail.com

- *Parenting Center* educational meetings are held for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers on most Wednesday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. Guest speakers or parenting leaders address general topics about raising Catholic children
- There is supervised play-care for children in same room
- Occasional special programs such as outings and parties for the children
- Occasional Archdiocesan Education for Parenting Coordinator presentation

Orange:**St. Anastasia Parish (Harriman)**

21 N. Main Street

Harriman, NY 10926

(845) 238-3844

Rev. Michael Keane, Pastor

Leader: Edie Famularo, Actonfaith@optimum.net

- *Children of God Parenting Center* educational meetings are held for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers on most first Fridays of each month throughout the entire year. Guest speakers address general topics about raising Catholic children
- There is supervised play-care for children in an adjoining room
- Blessing of Little Children conducted in the fall

Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Middletown)

90 Euclid Avenue

Middletown, NY 10940

845 343-4121

Rev. Patrick McGuigan, O. Carm, Pastor

Director: Michelle Bartels, mvbartels@gmail.com

- *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parent Group*: Educational meetings are held for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the morning in autumn, winter and spring. Leader-led discussions and occasional guest speakers address general topics about raising Catholic children
- There is supervised play-care for children in the same room

Holy Cross (South Centerville)

626 County Route 22

Middletown, NY 10940

(845) 355-4439

Father Michael G. Cedro, Administrator

Leader: Lisa Bohr

- *Parenting Group*: Educational meetings are held for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers on most Wednesday mornings in autumn, winter and spring. Guest speakers with a combination of leader-led discussions address general topics about raising Catholic children
- There is supervised play-care for children

Sullivan:**First Way Life Center (Monticello)**

481 Broadway, Suite 3

Monticello, NY 12701

(845) 796-5305, (845) 796-5332

Leader: Annette Rein, info@monaic, www.1stwaylifecenter.org

- First Way Life Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women with unexpected pregnancies. In addition to providing parenting support, the center provides pregnancy tests, options counseling, adoption information, physician referrals, maternity clothes and baby items, help obtaining child support, and more