**7th Grade Religion – Key activities and dates**

1. **Mon, September 25, 2017: 1st Saint Paragraph due at beginning of class**
2. **Tues, October 10, 2017: 2nd Saint Paragraph due at beginning of class**
3. **Mon, October 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm: Parent and Student Meeting in School Hall with Mrs. Nunn, DRE**
4. **Tues, October 24, 2017: 3rd Saint Paragraph due at beginning of class**
5. **Tues, November 7, 2017: 4th Saint Paragraph due at beginning of class**
6. **Thurs – Fri, November 9-10, 2017: Parent-Teacher Conferences**
7. **Tues, November 21, 2017: 5th Saint Paragraph due at beginning of class**
8. **Sun, December 3, 2017: Advent begins**
9. **Mon, December 4, 2017: 6th Saint Paragraph due at beginning of class**
10. **Advent 2017: Prayerfully considering my Confirmation Saint (who am I choosing? Who is choosing me?)**
11. **Fri, December 8, 2017: Geography Bee**
12. **Wed, December 20, 2017: Submit to Mrs. McGraw the name of my Confirmation Saint**
13. **Thurs, December 21 – Tues, January 2, 2017: Christmas Holiday**
14. **Sat, December 30, 2017: Youth Music Festival (Bishop O’Connell)**
15. **Thurs, January 4, 2018: In-class, review the Confirmation Saint Project**
16. **Fri, January 19, 2018: March for Life**
17. **Wed, February 14, 2018: Ash Wednesday**
18. **Mon, Feb 26, 2018: Parent Meeting in the School Hall with Mrs. Nunn, DRE (optional for school parents)**
19. **March 2018 (date TBD): Confirmation Saint Project due**
20. **Sun, March 11, 2018 at 7:45 am: Contract of Investiture Mass - Contracts signed by students and parents in the school hall at 7:45 am. All attend 8:15 am Mass together.**
21. **Thurs, March 29 – Sun, April 8, 2018: Easter Holidays**
22. **Sat, April 14, 2018: Diocesan Science Fair**
23. **Wed, May 9, 2018: May Procession**

**On the Road to Sainthood**

**Our children’s vocation right now….**

1. **Child of God**
2. **Member of the Family (son/daughter, brother/sister, friend, etc.)**
3. **Student**
4. **Everything else comes after the above 3…**

**Spiritual Development**

* **PRAY as a family**
* **PRAY individually**
* **Attend MASS weekly together**
* **CONFESSION frequently together**
* **Read SACRED SCRIPTURE**
* **Discuss THE FAITH**
* **POWERFUL PRAYERS to say as a family: Divine Mercy Chaplet and The Holy Rosary**

**Emotional Development**

* **Connect as a family everyday: TALK about your day, eat dinner together, review homework and agendas, etc.**
* **Remember that….1 minute they are still little kids, and the next minute…becoming young adults – they are all over the map! We remember, right?**
* **Not all students have access to phones, iPods, social media, etc. Different rules for different families.**
* **“Unplug” and help them create boundaries**
	+ **No cell phone or social media use before the school day begins**
	+ **No cell phone or social media use during homework**
	+ **Consider…..cell phone or social media use in the common areas of the house, only**
	+ **Consider…..limiting cell phone and social media use in general, as they are still being “formed” - they are fragile (lacking in maturity, temperance, self control, etc.)**
	+ **“Friending”, “following them”, and “seeing everything” they do on cell phones and social media, does not prevent the disaster**
		- **Would you drop them off in Times Square in NYC and watch what happens?**
		- **Would you give them the keys to the car if they weren’t ready? Because following them won’t prevent the crash…**

**Physical Development**

* **8+ hours of sleep**
* **Exercise**
* **Limit screen time**
* **Daily showers**
* **On time to school, ready with our backpack and lunch the night before (perhaps)**
* **Not just wearing the appropriate uniform, but wearing it WELL**
* **Reinforcing that inner beauty is far more important that outer beauty, and that there are many different versions of outer beauty - and they are beautiful just as they are!**