



**DIOCESE of BUFFALO**  
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

## **BEST PRACTICES FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BOTH SETTINGS** (parish religious education & Catholic schools)

- Utilize the same curriculum in religious education and the Catholic school
- Programs that support family engagement
- Frequent Liturgical and Sacramental celebrations
- Daily Prayer
- Highlight Lives of the Saints
- Service Projects
- Catholic School/ Faith Formation activity integration
- Weekend Mass attendance – Opportunities to participate in the Mass: greeters, choir, readers, offertory, ushers, altar servers
- Shared Reconciliation opportunities (2x/year) for both Faith Formation and Catholic school families to participate during Advent and Lent
- Shared Religious Ed and Catholic School participation in parish and liturgical activities (reference Devotional Calendar), Advent services, Nativity plays, Stations of the cross, Adoration/ Benediction, First Friday, First Saturday, field trips to shrines and holy Catholic landmarks are encouraged
- Family Service Projects
- 7-12th Grade Service Projects
- Students generate ideas, create projects with the intention of giving back to the parish community: painting, planting, cleaning, weeding, free-standing food pantry boxes, rosary garden, etc.
- Students are also encouraged to volunteer at local nursing homes and food pantries.
- Service projects may also consist of students teaming up with national organizations which also seek to assist the needs of others.