



Cluster Parishes of Portsmouth & Chesapeake Religious Education Program Grades K-5



Parents have the unique responsibility for the education of their children; they are the first educators or catechists. They teach by their witness of the faith, through their values and attitudes, by their Christian example of love for Christ and his church. When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to raise their children in the practice of the faith (National Directory for Catechesis 234-235)

Pastor: Very Reverend Anthony Wm. Morris, V.F.

Mission of the Cluster Parishes: "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

Sonia Sorto Children's Formation Coordinator

Email: Christianformation@clusterparishes.com

Tel: 757 4847335 Ext 106

***Main office located at Church of Resurrection 3501 Cedar Ln Portsmouth
VA 23703***

www.clusterparishes.com

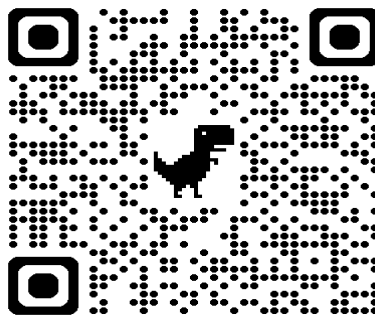
Dear Parents; In a special document entitled Letter to Families, Pope John Paul II wrote:
“Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area; they are educators because they are parents” (16). Your role as parent to love, teach, and lead your child to Jesus is a remarkable and noble vocation. Congratulations and thank you for accepting and honoring this God-given role.

We offer religious education starting from ages 5 and up

***Registration for classes:** June 1st.

Classes begin the second week of September

*For online registration <https://www.clusterparishes.com/childrens-formation>
English/Spanish Registration QR Code



Please go to our website and click Children's formation under Formation, or use our QR CODES with google cam.

We have registration in Spanish and English.

*Paper forms can be found in all 4 churches.

The fee for Religious Formation is 35 dollars.

***Scholarships** *available please contact Children's Formation Coordinator.

Classes are every Sunday at the following times:

Holy Angels 11:45-12:50pm Address 34 Afton Pkwy Portsmouth VA 23701

Resurrection 10:15-11:15 am Address: 3501 Cedar Ln Portsmouth VA 23703

St. Paul 10:00-11:00am Address: 522 High St Portsmouth VA 23702

St. Mary: We currently do not have classes at St Mary. Children may attend any of the other churches for their classes.

Custody

If there are any custody issues the latest court documentation must be on file in order for the directives to be followed

Arrival

*Parents are required to drop and pick up their children inside the church hall or their classroom.

Dismissal procedures

*Children must be picked up by an adult older than 18 years old from Church/Hall or classroom.

Parents are expected to keep control of their children when moving to their car for safety.

*No child will be allowed to wait outside for a parent. If a child is not picked up 15 minutes after class and parents have not notified us about an emergency more than once Child Protective Services may be called

Cancellation of Religious Class

We will follow city guidelines for weather closings. There may be additional cancellations that occur for reasons that are unique to The Cluster Parishes or individual parish.

Communication

Phone: During formation class hours, parents may contact by sending a message the Christian formation cell phone at (757) 392-4820 or email Sonia Christianformation@clusterparishes.com

At all other times, please contact us through the Church office at 757-484 7335 ext 106 or email.

Email: This will be an important means of communication. Please be sure to keep your primary email up to date with us.

Flock note: This is our main means of communication. We will be uploading your email & phone number into this app so that you will receive timely texts and emails should an emergency or important notice need to be sent.

Newsletters: Be sure to check your emails for our Formation or Catechesis newsletters. This will be coming from Formation or Cluster Parishes.

Sacramental preparation:

The cluster Parishes offers the following sacraments for children: First Reconciliation and First Communion for children starting at 7 years old.

Retreats: First communion children's must attend 2 retreats. There are no makeup sessions for those events.

Curriculum

The diocesan Curriculum plan is based in scripture and the teaching of the church and seeks to support families in their mission as “primary educator in the faith” (GDC) This is why parents and children must attend mass every Sunday in order to continue to grow in their faith.

	Holy Angels	Resurrection	St Paul
k-1 Grade	Faith First	Faith First	Faith First
2 nd Grade	Encounter with Christ	Dynamic Catholic	Sadlier
3,4,5 Grade	Faith First	Faith First	Pflaum

By church and books

Homework.

First Communion students must do homework every week at home and study weekly lessons with help of parents.

Prayers your child should know by Grade

Kindergarten and 1st Grade: Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Lord’s Prayer; Angel of God, Hail Mary.

2nd Grade: Act of Contrition and 10 Commandments, Nicene Creed.

3rd , 4th , 5th Grade: Apostles Creed, Stations of the cross, Rosary.

Parents need to ensure they practice these prayers at home with their children.

First Communion and OCIA Sign of the cross; Glory Be; Lord’s Prayer; Angel of God, Hail Mary. Act of Contrition, 10 Commandments and Nicene Creed.

Attendance

We only have 26 session every year. This is why is so important children attend all sessions. First communion students must not miss classes unless sick and make up the miss class at home with help of parents

Retreats: First communion children's must attend 2 retreats. There are no makeup sessions for those events.

Retreat Dates

February 1st First Reconciliation Retreat

March 29th First Eucharist Retreat.

Both retreats will be held at the Church of Resurrection from 4pm to 7pm

Address: 3501 Cedar Ln Portsmouth VA 23703

Activities

Every year the Christian formation children participate in our Christmas play where they sing Christmas carols and represent the nativity.

How You Can Help Your Child Grow in Faith

Here are several points that will aid you in helping your child grow in his/her faith:

- * Attend and participate in Sunday Mass as a family.
- * Participate in special events with the parish such as the patron saint's feast, holiday customs and blessings.
- * Help your child to learn and participate in various types of prayer (i.e. quiet reflection, guided meditation, song, spontaneous, petition, thanksgiving, praise and sorrow).
- * Help your child to learn and pray formal prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Prayer before and after meals
- * Participate in activities for advent and lent to appreciate the significance of these liturgical seasons – e.g. advent wreath, stations-of-the-cross for children

Important Dates

March 8 OCIA Rite of Election @ Church of St Bede in Williamsburg Arrive @9:30am

April 19 Easter Vigil OCIA Sacraments

First Communions

May 10 First communions at Resurrection 5:30pm & St Paul 4:00 pm

May 11 First Communion at Holy Angels 11:00 am English & 1:00pm Spanish
St Mary's 9:00 am

May 17th First Reconciliation for Newly Baptized OCIA Children 10:00 am @ Resurrection

Children's Christian Formation Calendar

2024-2025

September

*Saturday, September 14 -Kick Off Celebration

Session 1- September 15

Session 2- September 22

Session 3- September 29

October

Session 4- October 6 Empowering Gods Children Class 10:00 am at Resurrection's Hall for both Resurrection and St Paul.

Holy Angels at Holy Angels hall 12:00

Session 5- October 13

Session 6- October 20-

Session 7- October 27

November

Session 8- November 3

* November 10 No Class Holiday Veterans Day

Session 9- November 17

Session 10- November 24

December

*December 1-No class Thanksgiving

Session 11- December 8

Session 12- December 15

***December 14 Christmas Play**

December 22 & 29 Christmas and New year's

*No class

January

Session 13- January 5

Session 14- January 12

Session 15- January 19

Session 16- January 26

February

*** February 1st Retreat & First Reconciliation. All churches attend @ Church of Resurrection 9:15 A.M**

Session 17- February 2

Session 18- February 9

February 17 No Class Presidents day

Session 19- February 23

March

Session 20- March 2

Session 21- March 9

Session 22- March 16

Session 23- March 23

Session 24- March 30

March 29th **First Communion Retreat All churches attend @ Church of Resurrection 9:00 am -12:00 pm**

April

Session 25- April 6

April 13 Palm Sunday No Class

April 19- Easter Vigil and OCIA Welcome in to the church. Initiation.

April 20- Easter No Class

April 26- Session 27

May

May 4 - Final Session

May 10 First communions at Resurrection 5:30pm & St Paul 4:00 pm

May 11 First Communions at Holy Angels 11:00 am English & 1:00pm Spanish
St Mary's 9:00 am

May 17th First Reconciliation for Newly Baptized OCIA Children 10:00 am @ Resurrection

