



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Reverend Aidan Lacy, Pastor

Susan Molloy  
Director of Faith Formation

The Religious Education Program at St. Patrick Church provides Catechist instructed classes for students from Pre-school/Kindergarten through Confirmation.

Our text books—The **Faith & Life** series in grades 1 thru 8 & **Understanding Scripture** from the **Didache** series for grade 9 are in compliance with the curriculum guidelines and requirements of the Diocese of Palm Beach.

In accordance with the diocesan policy, students receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in Grade Two, and the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade Nine.

In preparation for the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation, it is required that a two-year preparation be completed. Parents are required to attend scheduled meetings.

Requirements for the sacraments include a copy of the baptismal certificate at the time of registration from the parish where the student was baptized unless the baptism took place at St. Patrick.

Contact Susan Molloy, Director of Faith Formation  
[susan@stpatrickchurch.org](mailto:susan@stpatrickchurch.org) or call 561-626-8626

***Religious Education enables students to value Christian living as our response to God's love.***

**Goal:**

We will help the students develop as persons who recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the gift of God's love in their life.

**Objectives:**

We will assist parents, the primary educators in their child's faith, by teaching the truths of the Catholic Church enabling them to claim these truths as their own.

We aim to lead students to the realization that Catholic Christian living is our response to God's covenant relationship with His Church.

We will encourage families to celebrate the Lord's Presence in Life and Liturgy.

We will provide education and opportunities which enable students to grow in age-appropriate maturity and understanding of the Catholic faith.

## **Registration Requirements:**

Registration is a simple online process:

- Visit the parish website – [www.stpatrickchurch.org](http://www.stpatrickchurch.org)
- Click on the circle “Faith Formation”
- Click Religious Education where you will find the link for registration.
  - Simply complete the form and submit.

With the change in registration, students enrolled in the Religious Education program will be required to re-register on-line for the 2017-2018 school year program. Each year following you will simply need to email me: [susan@stpatrickchurch.org](mailto:susan@stpatrickchurch.org) to let me know that your child will be continuing his/her Religious Education at St. Patrick.

Admission to the Religious Education program is open to all families who are registered members of St. Patrick parish. New students transferring from another parish should bring a letter from the former program stating your child’s participation.

Registration fee for one child: \$50.00

Two or more children: \$100.00

## **Policies and Guidelines**

### **Attendance:**

We encourage regular, prompt attendance for class. Once the teachers have prayed with their class, it is disruptive when students continue to enter the classroom.

Students in the sacramental classes may only miss 3 sessions unless there is an illness.

Please call prior to the class so the teacher may be notified.

### **Cancellation:**

In the event of an emergency need to cancel classes, you will be notified through the parish app.

***FOR THE EASIEST WAY TO DOWNLOAD OUR APP:  
TEXT WITH YOUR PHONE:***

***stpatrick1 to 555888 for apple devices***

***stpatrick2 to 555888 for android devices***

### **Morning Dismissal:**

Parents are required to pick up their students using the “pick-up line.” Please, use the north drive all the way to the back of the church property; follow around to the south drive where your son/daughter will be at the end of the walkway. We ask that you:

- Do not walk into the line of waiting students. Simply drive up to the pick-up point. **This is for your child’s security.**
- After bringing your child to the parish hall for Religious Education, we ask that you leave the campus and return at 11:35 for pick-up. This is necessary as our parish parking is at a premium.

### **Evening Classes:**

In order to provide security during the Sunday evening classes, a security guard has been hired to monitor all persons entering the parish hall.

- All students in grades 6 thru 9 will receive a name badge at the start of the school year.
- Badges must be worn each week and shown to the security guard on duty.
- In the event that a badge is lost, the security guard will contact the teacher to make certain that the student is in the evening program.

### **Respect:**

A respectful attitude toward the teacher, those assisting and fellow students is expected. Should there be a problem regarding this policy, the Director of Faith Formation will notify the parents to discuss the matter.

### **Discipline Policy**

Religion teachers are **Volunteers** who are giving their time and effort for the benefit of our children at St. Patrick. Teaching time is limited each week, so spending time correcting students is not what we plan to do. The learning environment is important. Should behavior problems arise in class, parents will be notified to discuss the matter.

Cell phones may be brought into class, but must be set on mute and not left out on the desk.

### **Homework:**

Teachers may assign homework as a follow up to the lesson presented and in preparation for the following week. When that assignment requires the religion books will be taken home. It is important that the homework and the books are brought to class the following week.

Parents, you can be of great help by inquiring as to what was taught and what is expected for the next class.

### **DRESS CODE:**

Dress is casual; however, it should be appropriate for class or church. Sometimes teachers choose to take their classes to the church.

- Shorts may be worn, but must be an appropriate length.
- Tank tops, half shirts are not acceptable.
- Shirts advertising alcoholic products or cigarette products, offensive language, or suggestive words are unacceptable.
- Baseball caps are not to be worn in class.

### **CUSTODIAL RIGHTS:**

In the case of divorced parents, the religious education program will interact with the parent who has legal custody of the child. If there is anything the Director of Faith Formation or Teacher should be aware of regarding your child, please make this known at the beginning of our program in the fall.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

Parents, please provide an emergency number in case we need to call you during the class session. This number should be another number other than your home phone. Cell phone numbers are included in this request.

## **MASS ATTENDANCE**

In the matter of priority, religious education classes are not a substitute for weekly Mass attendance. Weekly Mass attendance by the entire family should always be a top priority. Living our Catholic faith through the Sacraments reflects our desire live according to truths and precepts of our faith.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Religious education is an ongoing process. Continuous participation in the program from grades 1 through 9 is required for the reception of the sacraments. A student who is removed from the program between grades 2 and 6 is not properly prepared for the Pre-Confirmation program. Prior to the first year of Confirmation preparation, these students will be evaluated to determine his/her readiness for the class.

While sports activities, dance classes and other extracurricular activities have an important role in the lives of the students, they should never outrank religious education as a priority. We know that religious education is important to you as parents and that is why you have enrolled your son/daughter. It becomes confusing when the secular activities in which your child is enrolled are given priority over the religious instruction in which he/she is also enrolled.

## **ABSENCES**

**In the event that your child will not be able to attend Class, we ask that you follow the following protocol:**

1. Contact the Faith Formation Office prior to class. 626-8626
2. Obtain the child's homework upon the student's return to class.  
return to class
3. Return make-up assignment to the student's catechist.

We ask that your child have no more than three absences. This expectation is for all classes, however, if a student in a sacramental program misses more than the three classes, the Director may find it necessary to delay the reception of the sacrament until the student is prepared.

Grades one and two are preparation classes for First Communion while Grades 8 and 9 are preparation for Confirmation.

## **LATE ARRIVAL**

Every effort should be made so that the students arrive on time for classes. Three occurrences of tardiness will be considered one absence. *A student who arrives more than 15 minutes tardy for a class will be marked absent.*

## **REQUIRED BOOKS**

Each student is responsible for his/her religion book. Supplies for the class are distributed by the teacher. If a book is lost, it will be replaced at the student's expense.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF  
THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

We do not operate alone. It is a parish community effort that involves **Families** who profess their faith and live their Christian values, **Ministers**, who believe, proclaim, and exemplify the Good News to the parish community, and **Professional and Volunteer Staff** members who respond to the call of Discipleship by sharing the message with this community.