

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PROGRAM

PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome

Welcome to St. James the Apostle Religious Education Program. We are pleased to be of service to your family.

The Religious Education staff hopes that this handbook will offer your family valuable information about our program. For any questions, please call the parish office or email me at liz.sjapostle@gmail.com.

Elizabeth Flores, RE Coordinator

Office Information

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Website: www.sjapostle.net

Goals

The goals of St. James' Religious Education Program are:

- Development of children in the Christian community by embracing the teachings and values of Jesus.
- Full participation in the life of the Roman Catholic Church through the Sacraments.

The Role of Parents

Parents are the primary educators of their children. The Religious Education team is eager to help you fulfill this responsibility and requests that your family cooperate in the following ways:

- Attend Sunday Mass regularly and punctually.
- Participate actively in the sacramental and community life of the parish.
- Share your faith with your children by discussing Bible stories and Bible readings.
- Pray with your children and help them understand, appreciate and memorize traditional prayers like the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Rosary.

Mass Schedule

Daily (Mon-Sat):	8:30AM
Saturday (Anticipated Mass):	5:00PM
Sunday:	8:30AM
	10:00AM
	12:00NN

St. James the Apostle is committed to giving an excellent Religious Education program to its valued parishioners. Parents who wish to discuss issues regarding its classes or matters relating to the conduct of the classes are most welcome to do so. Kindly call the parish office and set up an appointment with any catechist or the Religious Education Coordinator.

The Role of the Child

Each child has a responsibility to cooperate in order to benefit from the program. He/She is expected to:

- Be respectful at all times.
- Listen carefully, follow directions and participate in class and all its activities.
- Complete home assignments.
- Share what they have learned and experienced in their class with parents and other family members.

Attendance/Absences

Coming to class on time and being present at every class are most important if your child is to grow in their understanding of the Roman Catholic faith. If it is necessary that your child miss a class because of an illness or an unforeseen event, please call the catechist before the scheduled time so that the class will not be needlessly delayed. Should your child miss a class, you will be responsible for the lesson(s) missed. Due to the importance of these teachings and to the limited time of these sessions, only four missed classes are allowed, otherwise your child will not advance to the next level and/or receive the necessary recommendation for another program.

Visitors

Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit and sit in classes. Kindly make prior arrangements with the catechist for the convenience of all concerned.

Sacramental Life

There is some misunderstanding by Catholics about the Sacraments, in particular, the Sacrament of Initiation or Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. Some people believe that it is enough that children receive these Sacraments after completing their Religious Education and be declared Roman Catholics.

Sacraments will require a response from each one of us. Living the Sacraments is a life-long commitment to Jesus and His teachings and need to be nurtured so it may grow and flourish.

At Baptism we are welcomed into God's people and our parents commit to raise us in the Roman Catholic Church. When we receive our First Communion we are reminded that we need to be nourished by God's Word each time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist at mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the way we celebrate and receive God's forgiveness.

It is therefore very important that living the Sacraments of the Roman Catholic faith be an integral part of your family life.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion is a two-year process. Introduction to prayers and the church holidays begin in Level 1 and continue until the completion of Level 2. The catechists guide the children through their lessons, but it is the parents' responsibility to

ensure that their children are prepared in receiving the Sacraments.

General Calendar

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| <u>July/September</u> | - | Registration |
| <u>September</u>
(4 th Week) | - | Orientation
Book Distribution
Safe Environment Training |
| October | - | Start of Classes |
| <u>December</u>
(Advent) | - | First Reconciliation
(Level 3 & up are invited to receive this Sacrament) |
| (Christmas Eve)
(Dec. 25-1 st Week) | - | Nativity Program |
| January | - | Christmas Break |
| <u>April</u>
(based on calendar) | - | Easter Break/Super Saturday |
| (Last Week) | - | End of Classes |
| <u>May</u>
(8 th Sunday) | - | First Communion 10AM Mass |
| <u>June</u>
(18 th Saturday) | - | Confirmation 5PM Mass |

Program Overview

Basic Introduction to the Roman Catholic Faith

- Level 1 - Introduction to God and Life of Jesus
- Level 2 - Sacraments, concentrating on Reconciliation and the Eucharist
- Level 3 - Church Community, Eucharist, Bible
- Level 4-6 - Jesus in the Sacraments/Bible

- Confirmation - Commitment to Church Community

***TEXT BOOKS USED ARE FROM CATHOLIC PUBLISHERS**

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