

# St. Pius X Religious Education

## Parent Handbook



### Contact Information

**Office Phone:** 609-693-0368

**Facebook:** St. Pius X Religious Education

**Email:** [ccd@churchofstpius.org](mailto:ccd@churchofstpius.org)

**Website:** [www.churchofstpius.org](http://www.churchofstpius.org)

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## **Welcome Message**

At Saint Pius X Church, our Religious Education Program is dedicated to fostering a deep and lasting relationship with Jesus Christ through faith formation, sacramental preparation, and community engagement. We believe that learning our Catholic faith is essential to living a Christ-centered life and that this journey is best nurtured in a strong partnership between the Church, families, and our dedicated volunteers.

Our mission is to provide a welcoming and faith-filled environment where students grow in their understanding of Catholic teachings, develop a personal connection with God, and learn to live out their faith in their daily lives. Through engaging lessons, prayer, and active participation in the sacraments, we strive to enrich the spiritual lives of our students and inspire them to become lifelong disciples of Christ.

We recognize that parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children in the faith, and we are committed to supporting them in this sacred role. Together, as a parish community, we seek to cultivate a love for God, a heart for service, and a strong foundation in Catholic values that will guide our students throughout their lives.

With faith, love, and dedication, we continue our mission to form the future leaders of the Church—one student at a time.

God Bless,

Mark Little – Parish Catechetical Leader

# Rules and Regulations

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## Classroom Expectations

- Students must arrive on time with their books.
  - Bathroom needs should be addressed before class begins to minimize distractions.
  - Students should go directly to the classroom and wait outside if the teacher is not present.
  - Late arrivals should report directly to their class; teachers will record late arrivals.
  - Classes are one hour long. Parents, please wait patiently for dismissal and refrain from knocking on classroom doors.
  - **Students will only be released to a parent/guardian unless written authorization is provided by the parent/guardian.**
  - For safety reasons, children will not be released to the parking lot unattended. Please drive cautiously.
  - ***Please note:*** Lost books must be replaced at a cost of \$25.00.
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## Attendance Policy

- **Weekly Classes** - Students may have up to **four unexcused absences**. If they exceed four, all missed material must be completed on schedule. Makeup assignments will be coordinated with the teacher and the Religious Education Director. ***Failure to complete makeup assignments will lead to the student repeating the grade.***
  - **Family Catechesis Classes** - Students are only permitted to have **one unexcused absence**.
  - **Summer Classes** – Students are only permitted to have **one unexcused absence**. This includes the Advent and Lent lessons due to the limited classes for these programs.
  - If your child is sick, please provide a note for an excused absence. Absences without a note will be marked unexcused.
  - If you need to pick up your child early for any reason please coordinate this with the office and the teacher prior to the start of class.
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## Behavior Policy

- Students are expected to behave respectfully toward teachers, classmates, and church property.
- Disruptive or inappropriate behavior will be addressed in communication with parent/guardian. Repeated issues may result in further disciplinary action.
- Any form of bullying, disrespect, or defiance will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the program.
- Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom. Students must put away all devices prior to the start of class.

## Parent Meetings

Parent meetings provide essential information about sacramental preparation and special events. Meetings are scheduled for:

- **First Penance Retreat (January)**
- **First Communion Retreat (March or April)**
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Preparation Meeting (Generally during January)**
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Meeting (Generally held during first or second class in September)**

A notice will be sent home when meetings are scheduled. Attendance is strongly encouraged to ensure the parents and students receive all the correct information.

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## Tuition Assistance & Volunteering

- **Financial Hardship:** If tuition presents a financial burden, please speak with our Religious Education Office so that we can assist you.
  - **Volunteer Opportunities:** Parents can assist as teachers, substitute teachers, or classroom aides to receive tuition assistance. Contact the Religious Education Director for details.
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## Home Study Policy

We do not offer a general home study program, as we believe in the value of in-class faith formation. Exceptions may be granted in cases of:

- Severe health issues that prevent a child from attending.
- Single-parent households where the parent has a health condition preventing transportation.

**Home study is not approved for scheduling conflicts such as extracurricular activities like sports or dance.** All home study requests require director/pastoral approval.

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## Closings Due to Inclement Weather

If classes are canceled due to bad weather, parents will be notified through:

- **REMIND APP – Codes can be found in the Religious Ed Office**
- **Facebook: St. Pius X Religious Education**
- **Website:** [www.churchofstpius.org/faith-development/religious-education](http://www.churchofstpius.org/faith-development/religious-education)
- **Main Digital Sign – Out in front of building on Lacey Road**

If public schools are closed due to weather, religious education classes will also be canceled, regardless of conditions later in the day.

**PLEASE** do not drop off your child without confirming class is in session.

## **Home Support for Your Child's Faith Journey**

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith. Your active participation and example are vital in nurturing a strong Catholic identity and love for God in your child. To support your child's religious education experience, we ask that you make the following practices a regular part of your home life:

### **1. Practice Daily Prayer**

- Encourage your child to pray daily. Begin and/or end the day with prayer as a family.
- Help your child memorize and understand essential prayers, such as:
  - The Sign of the Cross
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Glory Be
  - Act of Contrition (for sacramental preparation)
- Consider praying together before meals and bedtime.

### **2. Attend Sunday Mass Regularly**

- Participation in Sunday Mass is central to our Catholic faith.
- Children learn best by example - bring them with you and talk about the Mass afterward.
- If your child is preparing for a sacrament, weekly Mass attendance is especially important.

### **3. Talk About the Faith at Home**

- Take time to speak with your child about what they are learning in class.
- Read and discuss the Sunday Gospel together.
- Display Catholic symbols in your home, such as a crucifix or holy images.

### **4. Live the Faith**

- Encourage acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service to others.
- Celebrate feast days and liturgical seasons like Advent and Lent as a family.
- Model moral decision-making rooted in Catholic values.

### **5. Support Religious Education Assignments**

- Help your child complete any take-home materials, review lessons, and study for tests.
- If your child misses a class, assist them in making up the lesson at home.

Together, we form a partnership that helps our children grow in love for Jesus Christ and become active members of the Catholic Church. Thank you for your commitment and witness!

## **APPENDIX**

### **PRAYERS TO KNOW**

These basic prayers and many more can be found by going to  
<https://www.usccb.org/prayers>

#### **The Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **The Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

#### **The Hail Mary**

Hail, Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

#### **The Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

#### **Act of Contrition**

O my God,  
I am heartily sorry for having offended thee,  
and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments,  
but most of all because they offend you, my God,  
who are all good and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,  
to sin no more  
and to avoid the near occasion of sin.  
Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

### **Prayer Before Meals**

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive  
from Thy bounty,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.