

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Religious Education Program

K through Eighth Grade



Sacred Heart Church
814 St. Louis Street
Lewisburg PA 17837

St. George Church
775 Forest Hill Road
Mifflinburg PA 17844

www.sacredheartofjesus.org

Father Mark Wilke, Pastor
Deacon Richard Owen, Director of Religious Education

Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program

Welcome to the Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program

At your child's Baptism, you promised to bring your child up in the practice of the Faith. We are here to help you with this awesome responsibility. The Parish has put much time, talent and treasure into our Religious Education Program, Kindergarten through Eighth Grade.

All of us involved with the Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program consider it a privilege to assist in your task of handing on the faith to your children. We are most eager to have your suggestions and desire to work hand in hand with you in this most important endeavor.

Please read this handbook carefully and share the information with your child. In this way there will be good communication. The handbook may also be found on the Parish website:

www.sacredheartofjesus.org/religious-education

CALENDAR

Please review the Parish web site for the calendar of events.

The Parish Religious Education Program is held at Sacred Heart Church.

We can assist you best if you plan your family schedule so that your child is present at all required hours of instruction. We are confident that your child will be absent for only the most serious reasons. If there is an absence, contact the catechist to find out how your child can catch up on whatever was missed.

Morning Sessions at Sacred Heart Church are 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Evening Sessions at Sacred Heart are 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program

Children should be in their assigned room by the start time and ready for instruction. Tardiness is frowned upon and is disruptive to the rest of the children. Children are not permitted in the building without a staff person present.

In the event that Religious Education sessions need to be canceled you will be notified through the Parish website at www.sacredheartofjesus.org and via email.

SUNDAY LITURGY

Our Religious Education Program is an important part of the responsibility of parents to bring their children up in the practice of the Faith.

Participation in the Celebration of the Eucharist is equally important. Of course, the best way for children to learn is by example. Parents are urged to take seriously this obligation, for themselves and their children. Masses at Sacred Heart are Saturday at 5PM, Sunday at 8AM, 10AM (At St. George), and 12Noon at Sacred Heart.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

All children in grades three through eight have the opportunity to receive this Sacrament of Penance with their parents throughout the course of the year on Saturdays, with specific dates during the season of Advent and Lent. These Parish Family Penance Services are noted in the Religious Education calendar, the web page calendar and the Parish bulletin.

CURRICULUM

Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program uses instructional materials that are Diocesan approved and meets all Diocesan curriculum requirements for each grade, including the “Formation in Christian Chastity” program.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation is a two-year program. Children are required to attend all sessions to be eligible. Parents

Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program

are also required to attend parent meetings as noted on the Religious Education calendar. At that time parents will be given further information on the policies of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Sacred Heart Parish regarding the reception of the Sacraments.

PARKING

Parents are asked not to block the parking lot with their cars when dropping off/picking up your children. This creates a potentially dangerous situation for our students who may dart between these cars in order to get to their destination, especially at dismissal time.

Kindly obey the restricted parking areas clearly marked for handicapped and emergency vehicles and the one way traffic pattern.

BEHAVIOR

All children are expected to behave in a manner that is proper and respectful at all times. It is most difficult to conduct a session in which there are constant disruptions, verbally or otherwise.

When there is a minor problem such as persistent talking during a session, or similar disruptions, the student will receive a verbal warning/reprimand from their catechist. However, if a major problem develops, it will be formally addressed as follows:

- The child will be removed from the session and the parent will be called.
- The Parent, Catechist and DRE will meet to discuss resolutions to the problem.

Removal from the program would result if a resolution cannot be reached. Major discipline problems would include, but not be limited to:

- Disrespect towards any Parish staff member
- Disrespect towards other students
- Fighting
- Foul and/or abusive language

Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program

- Destruction of church property, stealing, or any other activity that may be viewed as a potential threat to another child or staff member.

CELL PHONES

Out of respect for the catechist and other children, cell phones will be collected at the beginning of the session and returned when the session is over.

FIRE DRILLS

To insure your child's continued safety, there are two fire drills scheduled throughout the course of the year. These are mandated as a means of giving the students the skills they need to evacuate the building in the event of a fire or other emergency.

CONTRABAND

All the buildings and grounds of Sacred Heart Parish (Sacred Heart and Saint George sites), are Drug/Smoke Free School zones by law.

At no time is any child permitted to have in his or her possession a weapon, novelty or otherwise, that may pose a perceived or real physical threat to others. These items include but are not limited to all types of knives and firearms.

If such an incident occurs, the State Police will be notified immediately. Parents/Guardians will be contacted second. Immediate dismissal from the program would occur if any student is found in possession of any weapon and/or illegal substance/tobacco products.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In the event of a physical emergency with your child during the regular course of any session or religious education event, the staff will make every attempt to contact the person or persons whose name appears on the religious education registration form as legal guardian or emergency contact. If our efforts are unsuccessful, and it is determined by a staff member that the condition warrants immediate medical care, a call will be

Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program

made to the 911 emergency service to secure proper medical assistance and possible transport to the nearest hospital.

Please be advised that no one associated with the Religious Education Program is permitted to administer any medication to your child. All medications should be kept at home.

CATECHISTS/STAFF

All of our Catechists have attained, or are working towards, the Basic Catechist Certification from the Diocese of Harrisburg.

These dedicated men and women instruct your children in their Catholic Faith as well as give witness to the Good News of Jesus by their love and example. We are blessed with these dedicated volunteers and ask you to pray for them and give them your support.

Besides a catechist for each room, there will also be available either the Director for Religious Education or the Program Principal at all Religious Education Program sessions.

We are always in need of Catechists, Substitutes, Classroom Aides, etc. If you can help us in anyway, please contact the Director for Religious Education.

All paid staff and volunteers are required to meet the clearances defined by the Youth Protection Act, as established by the National Council of Catholic Bishops. If you would like to become involved, please contact the Parish Office at 570-523-3104 for assistance in securing the appropriate clearances or check the Parish website at www.sacredheartofjesus.org/youth-protection.html.