

**The Church of Saint Ann
A Christian Community in the
Roman Catholic Tradition
Parent Religious Education
Handbook 2019-2020**



1253 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

(609) 882-6491 ext.235

Website: www.churchofsaintann.net

Parish Role

The Parish Religious Education Program's primary purpose is to assist parents with the faith formation of their children. We all strive to help children develop intimate relationships with God through prayer, knowledge, moral formation, participation in the Church, and the cultivation of a missionary spirit. A person's faith formation is a journey to living in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. Faith Formation takes place within the context of a family and the community of the faithful. Our Religious Education Program partners with parents and guardians to pass on faith and lay the seeds for life long learning about God and His divine plan. We are thankful that our families embrace this partnership and allow us to journey with them.

Family Role

Children gain more from religious instruction when families celebrate the sacraments together with their faith community. Families are asked to celebrate the sacraments regularly.

Mass Schedule - Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedules are on the website and published in the church bulletin.

Confession - Saturdays 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment

Communication - As with any partnership, communication is essential. The Religious Education staff makes every effort to keep parents informed through the website, church bulletin, and by email.

Sharing pertinent information about your child helps us ensure that our staff is providing the most loving and understanding learning environment. We hope you are comfortable sharing any challenges your child has with us. Any information families share about their children is strictly confidential.

Parish Life - In addition to attending Religious Education classes, families are asked to participate in at least five liturgical or social events in the parish. It is our hope that by participating in parish events, our church family will grow stronger.

FAMILY ROLE (continued)

Attendance - Regular attendance helps to make the classroom for your child a safe and comfortable learning environment where everyone recognizes their value and importance to our church community. When someone is absent he/she is missed. Of course children get sick. If your child cannot be with us please review the chapter he or she missed at aliveinchrist.osv.com/family/in_the_home/grade_1/187. There will be an overview of the main ideas of the chapter for you to share with your child. You can do an interactive review of the chapter to ensure the main ideas are understood. If there are extenuating circumstances surrounding your child's absences, please communicate with the Coordinator for Religious Education (CRE) at the time of the absence if possible.

PROCEDURES

Arrival – Doors open 15 minute before class begins. Please park your car in the parking lot and walk you child into the school building. Children cannot be admitted earlier because there is no adult supervision. Please be prompt at arrival. Children wait in their class lines in the gym for dismissal to the classrooms with their teachers.

Dismissal – All cars are to park in the designated spots in the church parking lot. Doors to the school will open at 11:40 am on Sunday and 7:10 pm on Monday. The children are brought by their teachers to the gym for closing prayer. At the conclusion of the prayer, parents can pick up their children in the gym. **NO CHILD WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT AN ADULT.**

Please be careful when leaving the parking lot as there is much movement during dismissal. If a child is to be picked up by someone other than the parent, please send a note to your child's teacher.

PROCEDURES (continued)

Early Dismissal – Our time with your child is limited. The catechists have planned lessons for all but five minutes of this time. We, as a community, will be using the remaining five minutes in prayerful reflection. Therefore, early pick-up is discouraged. However, **if your child must be picked up early, please send a note to the catechist on the day of the early dismissal. A parent must come into the building to sign the child out.** This is for the safety of the children.

Emergency Closing - If the Religious Education classes need to be canceled due to inclement weather, it will be announced on the church website and an email will be sent if possible. Keep in mind that if St Ann's school has been closed or had an early dismissal due to inclement weather, then Religious Education is canceled.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Our goal is to provide a loving learning environment for every children. The environment reflects honesty, respect, and consideration for both self and others, which is necessary for learning and faith sharing.

Students are asked to cooperate with the catechist in order to maintain a Christian atmosphere of mutual respect, participate fully and appropriately in group activities and treat others and the property of others with respect. When challenging situations arises, children are encouraged to ask themselves-what would Jesus do?

To help each student reach their full potential, the catechist and CRE will review possible classroom management techniques to help each student make good choices. The parent will be notified about any inappropriate behavior, if it persists. If a student is unable to cooperate, the CRE will work with him/her in the RE office or call the parent to pick him/her up early.

Curriculum Guidelines for Religious Education in the Diocese of Trenton

It is the hope that at the culmination of eight years of instruction our children possess a strong knowledge of Catholicism but more importantly they have been led to a love of God and active participation in their parish family. All concepts listed below are taught at an age appropriate level. Each level's concepts build on the previous level's learning.

Level One: Bible/Trinity/Baptism/Jesus' forgiveness/Liturgical events/
Jesus calls us to love and care for His creations.

Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Grace before Meals

Level Two: Incarnation – Son of God became human/
Transubstantiation – bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ/Grace/Commandments/the Mass/Types of Sin/Preparation for the reception of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Prayers: Act of Contrition, simple Mass responses, Stations

Level Three: Four Marks of the Church – One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic/Kingdom of God/Apostles/We are created in God's image/
Life is a gift from God/Types of Prayers – Adoration (loving), Supplication (asking), Thanksgiving and Praise/Prayer is part of our daily Catholic life

Prayers: Apostle's Creed

Level Four: Divine Revelation-God makes Himself and His loving plan known to us/Ten Commandments/the Beatitudes/Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy/Gospels

Prayers: Rosary

CURRICULUM (continued)

Level Five: Seven Sacraments (Healing, Service, and Initiation)/
Communion of Saints, Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory/Theological
virtues – Faith, Hope, and Love (charity)/Eucharist is the center of
our life as Catholics-True Presence – Christ is truly present in the
Eucharist/Liturgical year and colors

Level Six: Precepts of the Church/Magisterium/Sacred Scripture/
God's covenants/Old Testament/Mutual Forgiveness/Liturgical year –
Saints' days and holy days/We are Christ's disciples and are called to
be holy and evangelizers.

Level Seven: Mysteries of our Faith – Trinity, Incarnation, Paschal
Mystery/Mission of the Church/Parts of the Mass/Saints/Social
Justice/Confirmation Preparation

Prayers – centering prayer and guided reflections

Level Eight: Sacraments of Initiation, Service, and Healing/Moral
Formation/The Holy Spirit who came to us at Pentecost is active in
the world and guiding the Church/Confirmation Preparation

TEXTBOOKS

Our Diocesan approved textbook series is Our Sunday Visitor, Alive in
Christ. The same publisher is used for sacramental preparation for
Reconciliation and Eucharist. Confirmation preparation materials are
Decision Point supplemented with Loyola Press' Called to Be Catholic
(7th grade) and Confirmed in the Spirit (8th grade).

SACRAMENTS

Though immediate preparation is given to children before receiving the sacraments, children are expected to receive a Catholic upbringing in their family, which includes regular Mass attendance and consistent formal religious education classes. Moreover, Participating in weekend Mass is a gift for every Catholic and helps a learner of the faith have a clearer understanding of God's love.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST

Children in the second level of religious education prepare for the healing sacrament of Reconciliation and the initiation sacrament of the Eucharist. Parents are asked to journey with their children as they prepare to receive by reviewing work at home, attending Sunday Mass, and modeling forgiveness and contrition at home. Parents are invited to attend the Parent Reconciliation class (11/12/19) and Holy Eucharist class (1/28/20). Parent and child will also attend a retreat together **(Date TBA)**

CONFIRMATION

Candidates prepare for Confirmation during the seventh and eighth level of study and receive in the spring of eighth grade. Their preparation includes prayer, study, retreat, and service. Parents are invited to attend the Parent Confirmation classes (10/1/19-7th Grade Parents and 10/22/19-8th Grade Parents). Sponsors and 8th Grade candidates attend a retreat together **(Date TBA)**.

**Religious instruction is held on Sunday mornings,
10:30am to 11:45am and Monday evenings, 6:00pm to
7:15pm in Saint Ann School**

September 8, 9	Catechists' Meeting at St. Ann School
September 15, 16	Religious Education Session 1
	CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 'Stay With Us'
September 22, 23	Religious Session 2
September 29, 30	Religious Education Session 3
October 1	Tuesday—7th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting 6:00—7:00 pm JPCR
October 6, 7	Religious Education Session 4
October 13, 14	NO INSTRUCTION ~ COLUMBUS DAY
October 19	Saturday, 7th Grade Confirmation Rite 5:00 pm Mass
October 20	Sunday, 7th Grade Confirmation Rite 11:00 am Mass
October 20, 21	Religious Education Session 5
October 22	Tuesday—8th Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting 6:00-7:00 pm JPCR
October 27, 28	Religious Education Session 6
November 3, 4	Religious Education Session 7
November 10, 11	Religious Education Session 8
November 12	Tuesday—2nd Grade Reconciliation Parent Meeting 6:00 –7:00pm JPCR
November 17, 18	Religious Education Session 9
November 24, 25	Religious Education Session 10
December 1, 2	NO INSTRUCTION ~ THANKSGIVING
December 8, 9	Religious Education Session 11
December 15, 16	Religious Education Session 12
December 22, 23	NO INSTRUCTION ~ CHRISTMAS
December 29, 30	NO INSTRUCTION ~ CHRISTMAS
January 5, 6	Religious Education Session 13
January 12, 13	Religious Education Session 14
January 19, 20	NO INSTRUCTION ~ MLK
January 25	Saturday, First Reconciliation Prayer Service 9:30 am
January 26, 27	Religious Education Session 15
January 28	Tuesday—2nd Grade Communion Parent Meeting 6:00-7:00pm JPCR
February 1	Saturday, 8th Grade Confirmation Rite with Sponsor 5:00 pm Mass

February 2, 3	Religious Education Session 16 8th Grade Rite with Sponsor 12:30pm Mass
February 9, 10, February 16, 17	Religious Education Session 17 NO INSTRUCTION ~ PRESIDENT'S DAY
February 23, 24	Religious Education Session 18
March 1, 2	Religious Education Session 19
March 8, 9	Religious Education Session 20
March 15, 16	Religious Education Session 21
March 22, 23	Religious Education Session 22
March 29, 30	Religious Education Session 23
April 5, 6	Religious Education Session 24
April 12, 13	NO INSTRUCTION ~ EASTER
April 19, 20	Religious Education Session 25
April 19	8th Grade Profession of Faith 9:30am Mass
April 26, 27	Religious Education Session 26
April 26	8th Grade Profession of Faith 11:00am Mass
April 29	FIRST EUCHARIST PRACTICE for 9:30 Mass 6:00 p.m. (FDC)
April 30	FIRST EUCHARIST PRACTICE for 12 Mass 6:00 p.m. (FDC)
May 2	FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION – 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (FDC)
May 3, 4	Religious Education Session 27
May 14	CONFIRMATION PRACTICE For 9:30 a.m. Service is at 6:00 p.m until 7:00 p.m. (FDC)
May 14	CONFIRMATION PRACTICE For 11:30 A.M. Service is at 7:30 p.m. Until 8:30 p.m. (FDC)
May 16	CONFIRMATION – 9:30 and 11:30 am (FDC)

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Families who enroll their children in religious education understand how important it is for a child to have a source of faith in his or her life. Fostering faith requires family and community to work together. Our program could not function without the generosity and support of many parents, grandparents, and guardians who share their gifts in our program. If you want your child to value his or her religious education, it is important for you to be a part of the program as well. All of our volunteers have completed Diocesan Safe Child Training and have FBI clearance. Please consider filling one of the roles described below, completing the form on the next page, and return to the Religious Education Office in the school or the Faith Development Center.

CATECHIST: Anyone willing to work (with children) to bring Jesus' love and compassion into their lives. Training and guidance are provided. You will not walk alone.

SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST: Someone who would be interested in sharing their time with children. Lesson plans and materials are provided.

CLASSROOM AIDE: Individuals to assist the teacher with various tasks, i.e. attendance, paperwork, and classroom management. Great way to try "teaching". (Adult or teen)

HALLWAY HELPERS: Responsible people to supervise, direct, and redirect movement of children before, during, and after classes. (Adult or teen)

SECURITY: Adults who can help with an orderly arrival and dismissal in the parking lot and monitor the building during classes.

BAKING: We need bakers for various receptions throughout the school year – Sacraments, Celebrations, etc.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Child(ren) names: _____

Position: _____

Detach from booklet, fold at the line and drop off in the FDC
Welcome Desk or the School Office. Thank you very much.

Fold on line and return. Thank you.