

Mission Statement

The purpose of the program is to minister to the children by forming them in the faith of the Catholic tradition and by informing them regarding the teachings of the Church so that the students and adults involved in the program will grow in the awareness, knowledge and practice of their faith. (General Directory for Catechesis 87)

Program Goals

The goals of Holy Spirit Catholic Community's Religious Education Program are:

- To provide a program of formal religious instruction for the children of the parish.
- To support parents in their role as primary catechists of their children.
- To offer sacramental preparation for children as they become ready to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.
- To help children discover the richness and challenges of Scripture and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- To build a strong Catholic Identity among the children of the parish.
- To expose students to the liturgical and sacramental richness that is part of Catholic Tradition.

Sacramental Preparation Program

The Sacramental Preparation Program at Holy Spirit Catholic Community is a one year program.

The Role of the Parents

As parents, you have a sacred trust! **You are the primary religious educators of your child.** God calls you to nurture not only the natural life of your child but also your child's grace life received at Baptism. This responsibility requires that you grow in faith yourselves and that you share your faith with your family.

Parents who are enrolling their children in the parish catechetical program must be aware of their responsibilities as parents. It is the role of the parish to **assist** the parents in nurturing the faith of their children. It is essential that the parents agree to follow parish program. In order to promote the faith growth of the children and to ensure a smooth-running program, **parents are expected to fulfill the following expectations:**

- Be a registered member of Holy Spirit Catholic Community
- **Attend Mass weekly in person or virtually and on Holy Days of Obligation with your child.**
- Provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, if the child was baptized at a parish other than Holy Spirit Catholic. **If the child was baptized at Holy Spirit Catholic Community a copy is not needed, however, you must provide the correct date of the child's baptism on the registration form.**
- Take responsibility for your role as primary catechist for your child.
- Assist your child in learning the traditional prayers of the Church. This includes The Sign of the Cross, The Glory Be, The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and the Act of Contrition and the 10 commandments
- Ensure that your child attends class weekly (no more than 3 missed classes).
- Attend mandatory parent meetings (dates and times to be announced).
- Complete 2 hours of community service to the parish.
- Ensure that your child attends the 1st Reconciliation Service (Saturday February 6 at 10:00am in St Anthony's Chapel).
- Ensure that your child attends the scheduled practice prior to First Communion.

All parents are required to sign a Parent Contract acknowledging the above requirements. (1st

Communion parents only)

Holy Spirit Catholic Community
Sacramental Preparation

2020-2021

Parent Contract

I, _____, parent of _____, understand that the First Communion Preparation Program at Holy Spirit Catholic Community is a one year program. I also understand that my child and I must meet the following criteria to successfully complete the program.
(please initial each line below)

___ Attend Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation (virtual or in person)

___ Ensure that my child attends class weekly (no more than 3 missed classes)

___ Assist my child in learning the following prayers at home:

- The Sign of the Cross
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Hail Mary
- The Glory Be
- The Act of Contrition
- 10 commandments

___ Provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, if the child was baptized at a parish other than Holy Spirit Catholic. If the child was baptized at Holy Spirit Catholic Community a copy is not needed, however, you must provide the correct date of the child's baptism on the registration form

___ Attend mandatory parent meetings (dates and times to be announced).

___ Complete 2 hours of community service to the parish.

___ Attend the monthly parent education meetings.

___ Ensure that your child attends the 1st Reconciliation Service (February 22, 2020 at 10 am, St Anthony's chapel).

___ Ensure that your child attends the scheduled practice prior to First Communion

___ This is not a requirement to have padrinos (godparent), this is mainly a Hispanic culture Tradition. If you choose to have padrinos for your child, please be sure to choose someone who will help your child's faith grow. **Catholic with all sacrament.**

I understand that failing to complete the above criteria may result in my child being removed from the First Communion Preparation Program.

Parent signature

Date

Service Hours

One of the requirements for the parents of the children in the Sacramental Preparation Program is to complete 2 hours of service to the Church.

Examples of service hour opportunities include:

- Teaching a Religious Education class *
- Assisting with Vacation Bible School *
- Assisting in a Religious Education class *
- Assisting with celebrations for the children in RE classes, such as retreats and the end of the year.
- Providing snacks for classes
- Polishing the pews in the church

*If you plan to participate in this form of ministry, you will need to attend a Safe Environment Workshop (SEW) prior to the first day of class, per Diocese policy.

Parents are required to track their own service hours using the “Service Hours Track Sheet” provided by the Director. This sheet should be turned in to the Director once 10 service hours are completed.

Office use only:

Class: _____

Hours: _____ Verified: _____

2020/2021 Service Hours Track Sheet

Name of Child/ren: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home or Cell # _____

Date	Name of Volunteer & Relation to child	Service Provided	Start Time	Finish Time	Total Time	Staff Initials

Please Note: It is the parents' responsibility to keep the Service Hour form. In the event it is lost or misplaced, the parish office does NOT have a copy. Please turn Service Hour sheet to the Director when you have completed your hours. Thank you!