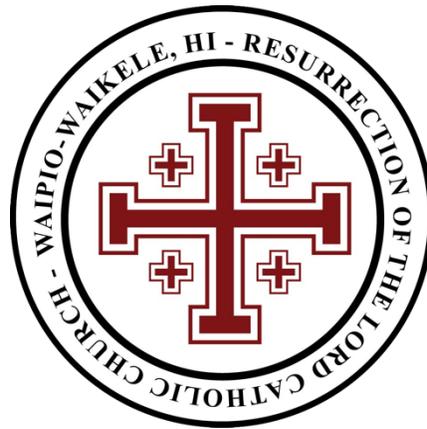


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY HANDBOOK 2021 -2022



"A Church Without Walls for a Love Without Limits."

Resurrection of the Lord Catholic Church

94-1260 Lumikula Street Waipahu, HI 96797 PH: 676-4700

Email: ralexander@rcchawaii.org

Website: resurrectionhawaii.org

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I. Our Mission *“A Church Without Walls for a Love Without Limits.”*

The mission of our parish religious education program is to help participants deepen their Christian faith and identity through liturgy and sacraments, instruction in the Church’s teaching, and formation in the Christian way of life. We are committed to proclaiming the mysteries of faith, fostering community, encouraging worship and prayer, and motivating service to those in need.

The goal of the program for children and youth is to support and enhance the efforts of parents and guardians who want to share their Catholic faith with their children.

II. Objectives of our Parish Catechetical Program

- ✚ To present a comprehensive and systematic formation in the faith, that integrates knowledge of the faith with living the faith
- ✚ To center on initiation into the life of the Triune God
- ✚ To be appropriate to the age level, maturity, circumstances, language and ethnic background of each participant
- ✚ To involve all members of the parish community, particularly the parents
- ✚ To focus on the symbols, rituals, and prayers of the Church
- ✚ To enable the believers to live out their faith in their everyday life

* from the *National Directory for Catechesis*, 2005

III. Responsibilities

The Pastor of the parish has the ultimate responsibility for all parish religious education. The Religious Education coordinator oversees and directs the program, serves as resource person, executes the sacramental preparation programs, supervises and supports teachers and catechists, and prepare for parent meetings and communications. The Children’s Ministry Coordinator will prepare our children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion.

Pastor	Rev. William J. Kunisch II	676-4700
Religious Education Coordinator	Roana Alexander	223-2942
Pre-Kindergarten Ministry Coordinator	Melissa Kasik-Requilman	494-4292
Children’s Ministry Coordinator (Gr. K-5)	Anna Acebo	282-5333
Edge Coordinator (Gr. 6-8)	Lester & Maile Orsino	989-0050
Life Teen Coordinator (Gr. 9 – 12)	Rev. William Kunisch II & Staff	

IV. Volunteers***

The parish catechetical program welcomes and needs volunteers to assist in some of the activities and service projects throughout the year. Anyone interested in volunteer service such as child-care, Catechist, Aide, monitor, etc., should contact the Religious Education coordinator.

****NOTE:** In the Diocese of Honolulu, all volunteers who have substantial contact with children and youth under the age of eighteen (18) are required to complete the Diocese of Honolulu Safe Environment Training and have a background check. This can be arranged by contacting the RE coordinator.

*****Effective 8/1/21, ROL requires all Catechists, volunteers and child-care aides to be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine (with documented proof of vaccination).**

V. Registration

Registration information is published in the parish bulletin and on the website. Please cooperate with all deadlines. This helps with program planning. Registration for Children's Ministry, Edge, Lifeteen, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation are held late in August.

VI. Tuition & Fees

There are **no fees** for our Religious Education program and for students preparing for their sacraments.

VII. Curriculum

All student curriculum is approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and found to be in compliance with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Teens in middle school and high school will engage in various activities and experience various themed presentations, relating to peer, community and world issues and topics.

VIII. Sunday Mass

It is our belief that the Christian faith is taught primarily through the Church's liturgy. Participation in Sunday Mass is an obligation for Roman Catholics and therefore it is expected that students in all of our religious education formation and sacramental preparation programs and their families view online or attend Sunday Mass each week.

IX. Sacramental Preparation

A. Baptism and RCIA Adaption for Children

This Rite is designed to meet the needs of children who are eight years old or more, but not yet adults and want to be baptized and/or come into full communion with the Church.

Children who have not been baptized may receive preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist - with the help of their parents, guardians, sponsors, and catechists. Enrollment and active attendance for at least 2 consecutive years in RE classes are encouraged throughout the process. The celebration of the Sacraments will be held at the Easter Vigil.

B. First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion

Preparation for the first reception of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Holy Communion is part of the faith formation curriculum in Grade 2. Students preparing for these sacraments must be baptized Catholics. Parents or guardians will be asked to provide their child's baptism certificate before receiving their sacraments. Family workshops are also required in preparation for a child's reception of these sacraments. The Diocese of Honolulu requires a child be enrolled in two consecutive years of Children's Ministry, Edge, or Lifeteen prior to the reception of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. It is further expected the student participate in sessions regularly, to further supplement their preparation in receiving their sacraments.

C. Sponsors/Godparents

Sponsors/Godparents are required for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Sponsors/Godparents must meet the qualifications as set forth in the 1993 Code of Canon Law:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Have received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion
- Must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church
- If married, must have been married in the Catholic Church
- Must be committed to the faith formation of the candidate
- Godparents are limited to one (male or female) or two people (one male, one female)

X. Special Needs

Parents of children with special needs should contact and inform the Pastor or RE Coordinator for assistance. Placement of children with special needs will be given every consideration, with consultation of the parents. Parents are always welcomed to accompany their child during classes and church events.

Faith formation and sacramental preparation is available for the homebound and for those with developmental and physical disabilities.

XI. Parish Catechetical Policies

A. Attendance Policy

We encourage as much as possible, participation of our on-line sessions as well as our on-site classes. We further expect, our children preparing for their Sacraments to be in attendance on a regular basis, which is important to further their understanding and knowledge of their faith.

XII. Safe Environment

Resurrection of the Lord fully complies with guidelines promoting and practicing Safe Environment policies set forth by the Diocese of Honolulu and the Office of Safe Environment, as also mandated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops who developed the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. This document guides our efforts to promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, religious or lay employees and volunteers.

All of our Religious Education staff, ministry leaders that interact with children and volunteers are certified through the VIRTUS program that supports our safe environment policies.

A. Online Children's Ministry, Edge, and Lifeteen

In compliance with safe environment practices, it is imperative that the child viewing the session be accompanied by an adult. This is to ensure that the child and parent are fully aware of the content being presented and are appropriate and enriching for the spiritual and well-being of our young people.

B. Communication

The primary means of communication will be through the use of parents' email and cell phone numbers.

Flock Note is a national parish communications app, through which our Religious Education program utilizes. Flock Note is a one-way system (Catechist to parent only), replies cannot be received. Other means of communication from the parish to families will be the parish bulletin and the parish website (resurrectionhawaii.org).

Note: By means of providing your family's email and phone number(s), permission is being granted to Resurrection of the Lord to contact you if needed, via Flock Note, email and/or phone.

Since the Catechist has the most direct contact with your child, parents should discuss any classroom problems with the Catechist first. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, parents should speak with the Children's Ministry coordinator. If still unresolved, the problem may be brought to the Pastor and/or Religious Education coordinator.

It is important that parents provide emergency contact and allergy information on the registration form.

C. Training

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Diocese of Honolulu requires that the parish offer training in creating safe environments for children and youth. All teachers and catechists and aides who are 18 or older have completed background checks and the *Virtus* training program. In addition, safe environment training is to be provided annually to children in all grade levels and parents. Parents have the opportunity to review the materials presented to their children. Parents may also opt to keep their children at home on the day of the safe environment lesson and the absence will be excused.

D. Sexual and Other Types of Harassment

Harassment, racial slurs, fighting, smoking, drugs, or other inappropriate (or gang - related) conduct among students will not be tolerated. Violations of this rule will warrant immediate notification of parents/guardians of the child involved, and may warrant suspension or even dismissal of the involved from the program.

XIII. Expectations

Students are expected to make time dedicated to religious education classes. As applicable, we expect students to:

- Be punctual and prepared for class.
- Wear clothing that is appropriate for church. Clothing with words or images contrary to our Christian faith is not acceptable.
- Obey safety rules at all times.
- Always show respect for themselves, teachers and catechists, other students, and program personnel.
- Always be courteous and considerate of others.
- Use language and actions expressive of Christian behavior.
- Follow arrival and dismissal instructions given by the teacher/catechist.
- Be present only in areas of the building for which they have permission at a specific time.
- Be cooperative and participate in all sessions and activities to the best of their ability.
- Complete homework as assigned.
- Treat parish property and that of fellow students with respect.
- Help clean up their work area upon request.
- Avoid bringing cell phones, gadgets, food, drink, or gum to class.
- Never intentionally injure another person by physical or verbal abuse. Physical violence and bullying are not tolerated.
- Never bring firearms, knives, explosives, dangerous items, illegal substances, or anti-Christian items to class.

A. Discipline

In the case of unsatisfactory conduct, the teacher/catechist will speak with the student. If misconduct continues, the matter will be submitted to the Children's Ministry coordinator who shall contact the student's parent/guardian. If the misconduct is serious or continues over a period of time, it may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

XIV. Parent/Guardians Conduct

Parents/Guardians should be respectful and courteous to program administrators, volunteers, and other students at all times. Concerns should be communicated respectfully and at appropriate times and places. Misconduct may be grounds for dismissal of the parent/guardian's children from the program.

XV. Class Days/Times

Our scheduled classes are as follows:

- Childcare for our young children, ages 2 – 4 years is during our 9:30am and 6pm Masses (not available until further notice).
- Children's Ministry (K-5) begins on Sunday's at 11:30am with a gathering assembly and concludes at 12:45 pm.
- Our Edge (Grade 6 – 8) sessions are held once (1x) a month.
- Life Teen (Grade 9 – 12) will have 6 retreat-life sessions throughout the academic year.

XVI. Health

Parents should inform the RE Coordinator and the teacher/catechist about their children who have health problems or special needs. Be sure to complete this information on the registration form. If a child has a food allergy, please inform the teacher/catechist. First aid will be administered in the event of an injury or illness. Volunteers may not administer any medication to any child. Medication may only be dispensed to a child by a parent on premises.

As an added measure to safeguard student and families during the COVID-19 pandemic, ROL has added a supplemental COVID-19 Health Protocol Guidelines. Please review this protocol in the appendix of the handbook to assist us in keeping our students and families healthy.

XVII. Safety

Remind your child to cooperate with all safety rules and procedures whether on-line for their sessions or on campus for classes. **Minor children should never be unattended while online and on the campus**, therefore, parent compliance is a must. Any safety concerns should be reported to the teacher/catechist or the Coordinator immediately.

XVIII. Right to Amend

Resurrection of the Lord Catholic Church reserves the right to revise and amend the policies included in this handbook at any time.

RAlexander 8/11/21

XIX. APPENDIX

COVID 19 – Health Protocol