



Religious Education
Grades 1-5 Policies

*Religious Education classes for grades 1-5 are offered monthly as part of our whole family program, **Family Faith Formation** which meets 9 times throughout the school year on designated Sundays after the 9 AM mass from 10:15-11:15 AM. (please see our calendar for specific dates) Parents meet in the APR of the Religious Education building to receive guidance and formation to support the faith development of their children. Children attend a class according to grade level.*

OR

*Students in grades 1-5 may attend a weekly class from 4:30-5:30 PM on either Mondays, Tuesdays **or** Wednesdays.*

Registration: The registration period for the 2017-2018 school year is from **April 17-July 14, 2017**. Classes are filled on a first come first served basis. Registrations must include a parent signature acknowledging program polices. Registrations of returning families will NOT be accepted after July 14th. Unsigned forms will be considered incomplete. All new registrations must include a copy of your child(ren)s Baptismal Certificate(s) (*unless the Baptism was here at St Pius X*) and record of any other Sacraments they have received.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior: Enrollment in Religious Education is a commitment. Consistent attendance is expected and excessive absence will not be accepted. If there is an extenuating circumstance that arises in your family, please contact the office. Repeated absence in the Family Faith Formation program will prohibit a family from that option in the future.

It is expected that parents will stress courtesy, respect, responsibility and Christian attitudes with children throughout the year. Our catechists are all volunteers giving their time freely to share their faith with the children of our parish. Disrespectful and disruptive behavior towards other students, catechists, or learning materials will not be tolerated. Please do let our staff know if your child has any specific learning or behavioral special needs at the time of registration, so that we can best serve them.

Each year we enroll roughly 500 children in the elementary program. We can NOT accept requests that children be placed with friends. We strive to balance the classes and by not placing groups of friends together children will be able to meet other children of the Parish, and will be more likely to give their full attention to their teacher for the short time they are here for class.

Pick Up and Drop Off: please follow all of the marked and communicated traffic directions and pick up procedures

Communication and Calendar: All notices from the Office of Religious Education will be sent via email. *Please be sure that we have on file a current email address for your family that will be checked regularly.* Our calendar closely follows that of the Fairfield Public Schools. Classes begin the week of Sept 18 2017 and run through the week of May 7 2018. First Communions will be celebrated at masses on Saturday May 12 and Saturday May 19.

In case of inclement weather, when Fairfield Public Schools are closed or dismiss early we WILL NOT have class. Class cancelations will be posted on our parish website www.st-pius.org. When Fairfield schools have regularly scheduled early release we WILL have class.

Sacramental Preparation: Children enrolled for their SECOND year of Religious Education will prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Second graders who have not previously attended Religious Education will begin Sacramental preparation the following year in third grade.

Safety Procedures:

Food: There is **NO** food allowed in any of the classrooms at any time.

Medications: We are unable to distribute ANY medications to children. In the case of EPI Pens for allergies we have a form to be signed by both the parents and child's physician to allow for SELF Administering children to keep an EPI Pen with them. If the child is unable to SELF administer a parent must stay on the premises with an EPI Pen during class time.

Building Safety: The Religious Education Building will be locked during class time. The door will be locked from 10 minutes after classes begin until 10 minutes prior to dismissal. Adults (except those with EPI PENS) are not allowed to walk around or linger in the building during this time. **If a student must be dismissed early, a parent may access the office by ringing the doorbell and then must sign out the child(ren).** A representative from our office will go to the classroom and escort the child to the office to be dismissed.

Religious Education Parent Agreement

As a Catholic parent, I desire that my children know, love, and serve God. I want my children to fulfill God's purposes in their lives for His glory, the good of the Church and world, and for their happiness. I acknowledge that I am the primary educator of my children in the faith, and I recommit myself to fulfilling this most important obligation. To this end I specifically commit to the following:

* I will attend Mass with my children every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation

* I will attend the scheduled sessions for parents

* I will discuss with my children what they are learning in religious education classes

* I will pray with my children at home

* I will learn more about the Catholic faith

* I will ensure that my children will act appropriately in class, treating their teachers and fellow classmates with respect.

Thank you for allowing us to share the teaching of our Catholic faith and the joy and love of Jesus with your children. We are committed to their growth in the knowledge of our Church and our growth together as a parish.