



Sacramental Preparation Distance Learning Policies 2020-2021 Academic Year

In order to protect the safety of our Sacramental Preparation students, families, and staff at St. Pius X, we have decided to improve and continue our distance learning efforts for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please see below for the changes to the Sacramental Preparation program, as well as the prescribed policies and procedures for 2020-2021:

- Due to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, we are unable to plan for a classroom-based instruction model. Instead, we will use online resources with which families can engage from home. We will supplement the online curriculum with the Baltimore Catechism that is appropriate for your child's grade level.
- In addition to the resources provided, the Sacramental Preparation program will include simple weekly assignments for students to complete.
- All assignments for Sacramental Preparation will be completed and submitted online.
- A live, family component is part of this Sacramental Preparation model. Each child and at least one parent must participate in six live sessions with Father Sam and Shari Garcia to further assist in your child's preparation. These sessions will not last more than one hour.
 - There are two options for participating in these sessions: 1) in person (pre-registration required for each session) **OR** 2) an online live session (link/call-in number provided for each session)
 - The live sessions will take place on six Tuesday evenings throughout the year in the Community Room at 5:30pm, following all social distancing requirements in place.
- It is especially crucial for parents to assume their role as the first and best catechists for their children.
 - As such, we strongly recommend and encourage each parent to engage with the provided materials during their child's preparation – by watching the assigned videos with your child, helping read the workbook pages, discussing the material at dinner, etc.
- Information regarding where to submit assignments, how to join the six family sessions, and more will be communicated in your confirmation email after your child's registration has been processed.

Registration

The registration deadline for the 2020-2021 academic year is **August 21, 2020**. Space in the program is limited to parishioners of St. Pius X Parish and is filled on a first come, first served basis. All new registrations must include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate (unless the Baptism took place at St. Pius X) and record of any other Sacraments they have received.

Online Assessment and Classwork Completion

Enrollment in Sacramental Preparation at St. Pius X is a year-long commitment. Your student's completion and submission of their online, weekly assignments is crucial to be fully prepared to receive the sacraments. If any extenuating circumstances arise in your family that result in an inability to complete the work on time, please contact Shari Garcia at sgarcia@st-pius.org immediately. We understand this is a major change and want to make sure we can help your family as best as we can.

In addition to weekly participation in online assignments, parents and children enrolled in sacramental preparation must attend SIX (6) MANDATORY preparation sessions as part of the requirements to receive the sacraments. Each session will only be offered on the specified date/time and must at least one parent must attend with their child. These dates will be communicated clearly in our calendar and will be included in your registration

confirmation email allowing plenty of time to schedule accordingly. In order to observe all social distancing guidelines, each session will be offered live via Zoom in addition to the in-person option. Attendance at the in-person will require registration in advance, as space in the Community Room will be limited. Sign-ups for the in-person sessions will take place online one week prior to the meeting.

If you or your child has any specific questions or comments, we are always here to help! Just submit your questions to askfathersam@gmail.com and we will get back to you with all the tools you need to be the best catechist for your child. As always, if you have any learning or behavioral special needs, please let our staff know at the time of registration so that we can best you.

Material Pick-Up

Each student will receive hard copies of their workbooks before the beginning of the year. Instructions for socially distanced pick up of these materials will be communicated in your confirmation email upon processing your registration.

Communication and Calendar

Important details regarding your child's preparation, important dates, changes to the calendar and policies, etc. will be sent via email or text message using Flocknote. Flocknote is designed for parish use and allows us to communicate with you effectively and efficiently regarding this important time in your child's spiritual life. We will also post these updates on our Facebook page, <https://fb.me/SPXSacramentalPrep>, and the Sacramental Prep webpage, www.st-pius.org/sacrament-prep-home. Please be sure to provide an accurate cell phone number and at least one email address that your family checks regularly on your registration. Our staff is not responsible for any missed communications due to a faulty email address or phone number.

Classes begin the week of September 14, 2020 and run through the week of May 3, 2021. First Communions will be celebrated at Masses on Saturday, May 8 and May 15, 2021 barring any further Mass restrictions or complications that may arise. Confirmation dates will be announced as soon as we have received them from the Office of the Bishop.

Due to the ever-evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, these policies and decisions are subject to change. Any changes will be in line with suggestions and regulations from the CDC, the WHO, the State of Connecticut, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport and will always be communicated in a timely manner.

Sacramental Preparation Parent Agreement

As a Catholic parent, I desire that my children know, love, and serve God. I want my child 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 at their Baptism I promised to be the primary educator of my child 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 Days of Obligation
- * I will attend the six scheduled family sessions with my child and make an effort to learn more about our Catholic faith
- * I will set an example of maturity and respect towards staff, catechists, classmates, and other families that that my children will follow
- * I will supervise my child's engagement with the Sacramental Preparation resources.
- * I will pray with my children at home

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.