

Saint Lucie Catholic Church

St. Lucie Catholic Church

Religious Education Department



"I am the Good Shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me..."
—John 10:14

Religious Education Handbook

To the Families of St. Lucie Parish,

Our desire in Religious Education is to partner with mothers and fathers by providing a solid program designed to aid your children in knowing God and loving Him. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states in its prologue, "The Life of Man - To know and love God."

As your partners in faith we will do whatever we can to assist you as the primary educators of the faith. Our hope is that the Religious Education program will not only inspire your children but you as well. The Catholic Church believes and professes that, "The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family is richly called 'the domestic church,' a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity." (CCC 1666) It is the parent's right and role to pass their faith on to their children. Our role here is to do all we can to support, assist, and encourage you as you model a Catholic Christian lifestyle for your family by your love, and example. Please make every effort to attend Mass as a family each Sunday, to maintain a Catholic Christian atmosphere in your home and to ensure that your children attend religious education classes weekly on a yearly basis. We also encourage parents and guardians to attend adult enrichment opportunities that may be offered annually. Ongoing faith formation provides support and direction to our lives and guides us in discovering meaning with help from our Catholic faith and tradition. We encourage you to learn more about your Catholic faith right along with your children. This year will prove to be one of positive change and growth.

Peace to all of you,

Andrea Draper, OFS
Religious Education Director

Father Mark Szanyi, OFM Conv.
Pastor

Contact Information

Main Office (772) 878-1215

Ms. Andrea Draper, OFS
Religious Education Director

Mrs. Loretta Barnes
Youth and Family Life

Religious Ed. Office Hours

Sunday: 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Monday: 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Thursday: 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday: Closed
Saturday: Closed

Hours change during the summer months

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Schedule for Religious Ed Saint Lucie Catholic Church

Sundays

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Sacramental Prep for Children

Sacramental Prep Teens

Mondays

4:30 -5:30 PM

Kindergarten, Communion Prep I and II Classes, Levels 3, 4, 5

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Communion Prep I and II Classes, Levels 3, 4, 5

6:00 – 7:30 PM

6, 7, 8 – Middle School (EDGE)

Tuesdays

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Communion Prep I and II Classes (Ages 6-8)

Communion Prep I and II Classes (Ages 9-12)

6:00 – 7:30 PM

6, 7, 8 – Middle School (EDGE)

Wednesdays

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Communion Prep I and II Classes (Ages 9-12)

5:30 - 7:30 PM

High School Confirmation

Thursdays

5:30 - 7:30 PM

High School Confirmation

****All baptized children must undergo a 2 year preparation for First Holy Communion.*

RULES AND POLICIES

Family Commitment to Religious Education

Registering for Religious Education indicates a commitment on the part of your family to participate fully in the program. While we recognize that family life can be busy, we ask that you make the religious education of your children a priority. Please make every effort to free your children's schedules of activities during class times.

Drop-off and Pick-up

All children must be signed in and out at the beginning and end of each class. Please make every effort to drop your children off for religious ed. prior to the start of class. We start every class with prayer and it is disruptive to the classroom environment when children come to class late. Please respect the time the catechists freely give to the Religious Education program by making every effort drop off and pick your children up on time. If you have an issue with arriving on time, please let the teacher know in advance.

Attendance/Make-up Work

When your child is absent they will be marked with an unexcused absence. Please see the catechist for work that was covered in their class that day. More than three unexcused absences will result in your child repeating the grade in which they are enrolled. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Cell Phones, Snacks and Personal Items

Cell phones are to be turned off when students arrive for class. Students are not to bring snacks or drinks into the classrooms. No toys or personal items are to be brought to class unless the catechist has asked the children to. We cannot be responsible for them and they are a distraction

to other students. These items will be confiscated and then returned to the student at the end of class.

Dress Code

Children should be dressed comfortably and appropriately for a church/classroom setting. Flip flops are not recommended

Early Dismissal

Children, who need to be dismissed from Religious Education classes early for reasons other than illness, must report to the Religious Education Office. Persons picking up students early must check in at the Religious Education Office prior to proceeding to the child's classroom. If someone other than the parent is picking up the child, they must be listed on the Emergency information form.

Family Updates

Please be sure to check with your children for materials that have been sent home. The church bulletins and website are our primary method of communication with your family. Please make time to reinforce your child's lesson. Every child will take their book home and it must be brought back to class each week. If you lose the book there will be a \$10.00 replacement fee.

Progress Reports

Students will receive a progress report during the school year. It is to be reviewed, signed by the parents and returned to the student's teacher the following week. The purpose of the report is to keep you updated and informs you as to your child's growth in learning their faith and to see what areas they may need your assistance.

Cancellations

In severe weather conditions it may be necessary to cancel Religious Education. We will follow the directives given by the St. Lucie County School Board. Notifications are made on local radio, television news broadcast and websites.

Open Door Policy

Our policy is to always offer an open door to anyone with questions, concerns or problems. Please feel free to contact the Religious Education Office at (772) 878-1215

Discipline Policy

It is our mission to provide a loving, faith-filled environment where every student has the opportunity to learn and grow in his or her faith. In the case that a child becomes disruptive in the classroom and persists as a discipline problem, the following steps will take place:

1. Warning
2. Sent to the Religious Education Office. They will be kept in the office to explain exactly why they were sent and will be spoken to about their behavior.
3. If the student is sent to the office again, a letter will be sent home for the parent to sign and will be asked to accompany the student with the letter.
4. If the student is sent to the office a third time, parents/guardians will be called to take the child home. A conference will be set up to discuss future admittance to class.

A reflection on the Role of Parents in a Child's Journey of Faith

In the beginning there were the parents. They listened to the Word and brought it home, where it shone forth at table, in the fields, and before the hearth. They spread the Good News from generation to generation as easily as they planted and harvested the seed.

They were a simple people, these ancestors of ours who tilled the land in Germany, tended the vineyards in Italy, and gathered the potatoes in Ireland. They never studied a catechism, built a school or heard of Religious Education. Yet they had a deep abiding Catholic faith. How could that be?

They lived their faith daily. They told time by the convent and church bells and bowed their heads in prayer at the Angelus, wherever they were. Their whole village fasted during Lent and feasted on holy days. They married each other. For most, their whole world lay within their village and that world went unchanged for centuries. Life was harsh, but faith was easy to pass on.

Then they crossed the ocean to the land of opportunity, America and they were bewildered. New and alien forces attacked the family structure. The children began asking why they were different, and, faced with the fear of losing their children to this strange new culture, the parents turned to their church.

They sought and received leadership from the pastor, the parish father. He advised them on many matters, from voter registrations to preserving the faith of their children. Out of this leadership the Catholic schools were born.

IN THE MIDDLE, there were the "They's" -- nuns, priests, and school. The parents relaxed. Parents concentrated on furnishing a better life for their families and left the job of religion to the "They's". They would teach the commandments. They would teach the children their prayers. They would baptize the children, run the schools, and preserve the faith of generations. And they did a magnificent job.

So the parents began doing less. No longer did they pray together as a family or sing together the old hymns. When the school began to send the children to First Communion as a class, the family stopped celebrating it as a family milestone. When the school began teaching units on the saints, the family stopped having special name day festivities. Hundreds of ethnic customs were lost. Religious storytelling in the home became obsolete.

Eventually the parents forgot how to pray together as a family. They became embarrassed to sing together. They could no longer talk about God or religion comfortably.

So they blamed the "They's". Why weren't they teaching their children to pray, to believe, to accept, just as they had always done before. And the "They's" - the priests, nuns, and directors of religious education - explained that they were no longer able to do it alone. Teaching religion wasn't enough. To be lived, religion had to return to the family.

IN THE END, there is the beginning, the Christian family. We are the parents, the beginning and the end of this saga. How we let Christ's Words shine forth again at table and in front of the TV set or the computer in our Future Shock culture will largely determine our children's present and future faith.

Dolores Curran. From: In the Beginning There Were the Parents. Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, 1978.

Great catholic websites

stlucie.cc

ewtn.com

newadvent.org

usccb.org

catholic.com

catholic.org

catholiccompany.com

vatican.va

ignatius.com

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