

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM  
2019-2020**

***Cancellation of class***

If it is necessary to cancel classes, announcements will be made at the public schools before dismissal. We will also make every effort to contact you via email/text. In the event of a public school closing or early dismissal due to weather conditions, religious education classes will not be held.

***Homework***

Check your child's folder each week for any memos, flyers, or homework. When your child is assigned homework, please see that the homework is completed and brought back to class. Make up work will be checked when they return to class. Any incomplete homework will be sent home again to be finished.

***Textbooks***

Each student has received a new book and folder **to be brought to class every week**. If a textbook is lost, the cost of a replacement is \$25.00.

***Cell Phones***

**Use of cell phones and other audio devices is not permitted during class time.** If seen, these items will be confiscated and held until the end of class.

***Restrooms***

Restrooms and drinking fountains are available for students. However we have very little class time and trips to the restrooms can disrupt class.

*Our program seeks:*

*To support parents in the formation of their children in the Catholic faith.*

*To help the students to experience the presence of God in their lives.*

*To nurture the student's desire to develop a deep and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*To help students appreciate the beauty and traditions of our Catholic faith.*

*To form lifelong disciples who will know, love, and serve the Lord.*

**POLICIES**

***Mass Attendance***

Mass attendance is an essential part of your child's faith formation. Mass attendance goes hand in hand with the Religious Education Program. One cannot do the work of the other. Religious lessons are prepared with the presumption that the students are familiar with liturgy through regular participation in the Mass. To be eligible to enter our parish sacramental program, a child must attend Mass regularly.

***Class Schedule***

Classes begin promptly at 5:45PM for Monday night students and continue until 7:00PM. Tuesday night classes begin at 6:30PM and end at 7:45PM. Students should be **in their classroom and ready to begin on time**. Lateness disrupts the class in session. For security purposes, outside doors will be locked during class time.

### ***Attendance***

All grade levels of religious education are important. Students are expected to attend every class in order to gain the knowledge and experience appropriate to their age group and to continue to grow in their faith and to increase their awareness of the responsibilities as a disciple of Jesus Christ. No more than four excused absences per school year will be accepted without medical documentation or reasons deemed legitimate by the program directors. Excessive absence, beyond four, may delay the reception of sacraments or eligibility for promotion to the next level. Please call the office before class begins if your child must be absent.

### ***Communication***

Communication between parish and family is essential. We will communicate to you mainly through emails. We rely on you to keep us informed of important developments in your family life that affect our ability to serve you.

### ***Sacramental Programs***

**Your child must be baptized in order to be eligible to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.** A minimum of two years of preparation is also required. There will be parent meetings to address the specifics of each of the sacraments. We ask that at least one parent from each family be present at these meetings.

### ***Special Needs***

Please let us know if there are any medical conditions, learning or physical needs which may affect your child's learning experience. Our goal is to provide a positive, affirming atmosphere in which all students can learn and grow in their faith.

It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to advise program directors of any court ordered restrictions on the legal rights of a non-custodial parent.

### ***Fees***

Registration fees for the 2019/2020 school year are \$75.00 per child and \$125.00 per family.

### ***Safety***

To ensure the safety of your children:

All children should arrive no more than 10 minutes before the beginning of class.

Parents should be on time when picking children up after class.

**Outside doors will be locked during class time.**

### ***Behavior***

We require all students to behave in an appropriate manner in order to create a productive learning environment. Respect for the catechist and for each other is expected. We cannot sacrifice the religious education of the whole class because of the disruptive behavior of one student. If a student's behavior is generally disruptive and uncooperative, it will be necessary to take disciplinary action.

### ***Disciplinary Action***

**1st Offense:** The student will be sent to the office and a parent will be notified.

**2nd Offense:** A parental conference with the program directors will be required.

**3rd Offense:** In the unfortunate event of a third visit to the office, the student will be placed on probation. A probationary contract will be signed by both student and parent in the presence of the pastor and directors. At the conclusion of the probationary period, the student's behavior will be reviewed by the pastor and directors.

**4th Offense:** Student will be formally removed and will not be eligible for reapplication to the program.

**September 24, 2019**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the Religious Education Program of St. Joseph's Parish Community. There is little in the ministerial life of a parish which is more important than supporting, in word and deed, the faith life of the next generation. The goal of our program is to assist you, as a parent or guardian, in passing on our rich Catholic tradition for, as the Rite of Baptism instructs, "parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith."

I remind you of your commitment, made at the Baptism of your child:

Priest: "You have asked to have your child baptized.

In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God's neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

Parents: "We do."

(Excerpt from the Rite of an Infant Baptism)

St. Joseph's Parish stands ready to support you as Catholic Christian parents. I express my gratitude to our teachers, all volunteers, for their commitment to the faith development of our young people.

May the inspiration of St. Joseph be with all of us as we begin a new year of Religious Education.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Joseph Perrault  
Pastor

**Pastor – Rev. Joseph Perreault**  
**Deacon – Deacon Joseph A. Murphy**  
**Parish Center 263-8696**

**Coordinators of Religious Education**  
**Karen Torroni**  
**Jean Pittaluga**  
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**Email: [religioused@stjosephsic.org](mailto:religioused@stjosephsic.org)**  
**Address: 126 44<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Sea Isle City, NJ 08243**

**Catechists**

**Level 1 - Mary Beth Libro**

**Level 2 - Karen Torroni**

**Level 3 - Lauren Barnhart**

**Level 4 - Alexis Keefer**

**Level 5/6 – Clancy Larkin**

**Level 7 - Ray Poudrier/Kris Gallagher**

**Level 8 - Bill McGinn**

**Sunday Class – Joann Gallagher/Toni Grdinich**

## ***A Family Prayer to Mary***

***O Mary, Queen of Peace,  
teach us to live  
together in harmony  
and treat each other  
with respect and dignity.  
May our home be a model  
of peace for all who enter,  
and may our family grow together  
in the love of your Son, Jesus.  
Amen.***



**ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
POLICY HANDBOOK  
2019-2020**