

The Parish of St. Patrick

Religious Education Family Handbook



“...teach them to do
everything that
I have told you.”

– Matthew 28:20

ATTENDANCE

1. Please arrive on time. Plan on arriving 5 minutes prior to the start of class time. Students may not enter the classroom unless the catechist has arrived.
2. We try to adhere to a 5 absence policy for levels Eucharist II-Confirmation II. More than 5 absences may result in the student needing to repeat the level.
3. We try to adhere to a 2 absence policy for levels Eucharist I-and Confirmation III. These levels meet for such a short amount of time therefore, attendance is crucial. More than 2 absences may result in the student needing to repeat the level.
4. Snow days will be listed on News 12, Fios 1 and on the parish website www.stpatrickbayshore.org. We will also have an outgoing message on the Religious Education phone line. If Bay Shore Schools are closed or cancel after school activities, we will be closed.
5. If a student will be absent, please notify the Religious Education Office at 631-665-4914 or email the office at stpatreo@optonline.net.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

1. For safety reasons all students must be escorted into class by a parent/guardian each week.
2. Students are dismissed directly to their parent or guardian, **ONLY**, unless we receive written permission to do otherwise.
3. At dismissal *all* parents, guardians or designated adults ***must physically enter the building***. No student will be dismissed unaccompanied.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolled in Religious Education classes are expected to maintain high standards of behavior. Our purpose is to encourage and strengthen each child's character in accordance with Catholic principles and to promote order within the classrooms so that an atmosphere of learning may prevail.

Our team consists of catechists and assistants who give of their time, talents, and energies and deserve the utmost respect, consideration, and support at all times.

Since the true form of discipline is self-discipline, it is our goal to assist the student in acquiring self-control.

All students are expected to:

- + Participate fully in lessons and liturgies
- + Show respect for all persons in words and actions
- + Refrain from doing anything that could cause physical harm to themselves or to another
- + Respect their surroundings by not destroying, defacing, or removing any property from the building
- + Use language and behavior that is appropriate to their dignity as Catholics
- + Comply with the policies set for arrival and dismissal

If a behavior problem should present itself, the catechist will speak directly to the student. After two warnings, the catechist will notify the Religious Education Office and parents or guardians will be called. If the behavior problem persists, the parent/guardian will be asked to attend class with their child to ensure cooperation.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

1. Students are encouraged to use the bathroom prior to coming to class. Only one student is permitted to use the bathroom at a time. Bathroom use is limited to emergencies during Mass and Prayer Services.
2. **Electronic Device Use Is Not Permitted During Class or Mass.** All devices should be silenced and put away, including cell phones.
3. Students are expected to come to class prepared each week. This includes bringing their books to class.
4. If a student misplaces his/her book a replacement can be obtained from the Religious Education Office. There will be a replacement fee for the cost of the book.
5. Our catechists are volunteers. They are called to this ministry and dedicate their time and talents to help foster a firm faith foundation for our children. Every catechist is due respect and cooperation from each student and their family.

MASS POLICY AND TOKENS

1. While all of our students are encouraged and expected to attend Sunday Mass, Eucharist I and Eucharist II students are **Required** to attend **20 Masses** each year.
2. Students who attend the 9:30am Mass in MPH have the opportunity to collect a token after Mass. Once a student has collected 5 tokens he/she may trade those tokens in for a small prize.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Under normal conditions, students receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in second grade, and Confirmation in the eighth grade. Special arrangements will be made for students in other grades who need sacramental preparation. Parents must notify the Religious Formation Office of this special need.

Students must be baptized and have two years of preparation before receiving the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Students must have received First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and attended three years of preparation before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

On-going (grades 1 through 8) religious education provides the student with the best opportunity for reception of any Sacrament to be meaningful. For this reason, we ask for your cooperation in making religious education a priority.

Our expectation is that once the child begins religious education classes, they should attend consistently from one year to the next.

HOME STUDY

For families with students in Level 3, Level 4, or Level 5 who wish to teach religion to their children at home, we offer a program resource that is consistent with standards for each grade level. This option is not available for sacrament preparation years (Eucharist I, Eucharist II, Confirmation I, Confirmation II, Confirmation III, Older Sacrament Preparation, High School I, High School II). Contact the Religious Education Office to register and for more information.

FOOD AND DRINK

Due to severe food allergies that could potentially endanger one or more of our students, Eating or Drinking is NOT Permitted in the Classroom.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Notify the Religious Education Office if your child has any health conditions that may affect his/her routine. This should include allergies, hyperactivity, light sensitivity, hearing problems, ADHD and ADD medications, etc.

Please note: we do NOT have a nurse on site.

If your child has an asthma/allergy reaction during religious education classes, 911 will be called.

NOTE:

Please help us make this experience enjoyable for your child. Inform the Religious Education Office of any special situations that exist within your family, such as: pending divorce, granted divorce, aged grandparents living with you, health problems of other members of the family that may affect the student emotionally, single parent situations, visitation with absentee parents that may cause the child stress or absences, death of a parent or close relative, separation, etc.

The Religious Education Office will share the information with the child's catechist, and confidentiality will be respected.

MEDICATION

Religious Education students are present for no more than 75 minutes a week. Any medication a student would need should be dispensed before or after class at home.

GLUTEN POLICY

We do have some students in our program who suffer from Celiac Disease and some that are gluten sensitive. Below is the parish policy:

1. The individual in need of a “Gluten Free” host is to provide their own host. These hosts are available for purchase at most religious goods stores. The Advent Shop in Bay Shore (631-665-0422) usually has them in stock. The hosts can be left in the freezer.
2. A single host is then brought to the parish for Mass in a pyx, provided by the individual, labeled “Gluten Free”. The pyx can be purchased in most religious goods stores or online.
3. Before Mass place the pyx on the altar and notify the priest that there is a gluten free host.
4. When it comes time to receive the host, the individual is to get on the priest’s line.
5. When the individual reaches the priest they are to tell the priest that they need the gluten free host. The priest will then hand them the pyx saying “The Body of Christ”.
6. The individual will receive the pyx and reply “Amen.”
7. They are then to take the pyx back to his/her seat and self administer the consecrated host.

This policy has been put in place for the safety of all and to prevent any cross contamination.



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