

**BAYONNE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**2023-2024 PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK**  
**GRADES K-9**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ;

In years gone by, if you asked any Catholic “Why did God make you?” that person, without hesitation would answer: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.” We do not have the students memorize the Baltimore Catechism anymore, rather, it is the aim of our Religious Education Program to help everyone to know that God desires to be in relationship with them. At the same time, we want to help teach them to accept His love and the make an appropriate response of praise and gratitude.

We thank you for your desire to pass the gift of faith to those entrusted to your care. At their baptism, you accepted the responsibility of training your child(ren) in the practice of the faith, so as to live always in union with Christ and His Church. Living in His love as Jesus taught us, by loving God and our neighbor, we follow in His footsteps through this life so as to enjoy life in Heaven forever.

God’s love is without condition or limit, but we must make sure that we continue to on the right path. Holy Mother Church offers us the Precepts of the Faith as the bare minimum to achieve this goal. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 2042-2043), the Precepts of the Church are:

1. You shall attend Mass each Sunday and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year
3. You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

You have chosen to enroll your precious children in our Religious Education Program. We thank you for entrusting them to our care. This is not really a program, but rather a process which lasts 9 years to prepare them for lifelong faith formation. It is our desire to help them to develop a solid faith foundation based on Sacred Scripture, tradition and the teachings of the Church. Classroom participation is only one part of this process. Active participation in Mass each week as well as a lived experience of faith in the home also are necessary in their formation. During the course of this process, these youngsters in the faith also complete their Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and Confirmation).

Kindly and carefully read this handbook, sign the **Family Acknowledgement Form** on page 12, and submit it along with your registration form to your parish office. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your family. Your parish is here to help you encounter Christ in the world and to be a place to offer praise and thanksgiving for the many blessings He bestows upon us. Do not hesitate to reach out to us, so that we can all continue to be one family, united in Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Zenon Boczek, SDS  
Pastor  
St. John Paul II Parish

Rev. Raul Gaviola  
Pastor  
St. Henry Parish

Rev. Sergio Nadres  
Pastor  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Rev. Philip Sanders  
Pastor  
Bl. Miriam Teresa  
Demjanovich Parish

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**PARISH STAFF AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Parish</b>
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Website: [bmtparish.org](http://bmtparish.org)      Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BMTParish/>

Address: 326 Avenue C, Bayonne, NJ 07002

Tel: 201-437-4090    Fax: 201-437-0388

Email: [secretary@bmtparish.org](mailto:secretary@bmtparish.org)

Pastor: Rev. Philip Sanders

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Moris Montoya

Religious Education Office:

Phone: 201-437-4090

E-mail: [ccd@bmtparish.org](mailto:ccd@bmtparish.org)

Mass Times at St. Mary's Church:

Sunday - 7:30 a.m. (English); 10:30 a.m. (English); 12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Daily Mass – 6:30 a.m. (Monday-Friday)

Mass Times at St. Andrew Church:

Saturday - 4 p.m. (English)

Sunday - 9 a.m. (English)

Daily Mass – 9 a.m. (Monday-Saturday)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays at St. Andrew Church from 3 to 4 PM.

<b>St. Henry Parish</b>
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Website - [sthenryrc.org](http://sthenryrc.org)      Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/124774720872895/>

Address: 82 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

Tel: 201-436-0857    Fax: 201-823-4611

E-mail: [sthenryrc@optonline.net](mailto:sthenryrc@optonline.net)

Pastor: Rev. Raul Gaviola (Ext. 112)

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Alfie Pangilinan (Ext. 114)

DRE: Marie Pope

Phone: 201-436-0857 (Ext. 110) or 201-339-0319 (Ext. 116) or 908-612-6674

E-mail: [reeree4819@gmail.com](mailto:reeree4819@gmail.com)

Mass Times at St. Henry Church:

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m.; 10 a.m.; 12 p.m. (livestreamed on Facebook)

Daily Mass: 12:00 p.m. (Monday–Friday); 8:30 a.m. on Saturday

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays: 9:00-9:45 a.m. and 4:30-5:15 p.m.  
Confessions will be heard any time at the Rectory. Please call to make an appointment.

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<b>St. John Paul II Parish</b>
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Website: [johnpaul2parish.com](http://johnpaul2parish.com)

Address: 39 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002

Tel: 201-339-2070      Fax: 201-339-3676

Email: [stjp2church@gmail.com](mailto:stjp2church@gmail.com)

Pastor: Rev. Zenon Boczek, SDS

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Grzegorz Szewczyk, SD

DRE: Blanca Cisneros

Phone: 201-339-2070 ext. 10

Email: [reledstjp2@gmail.com](mailto:reledstjp2@gmail.com)

Mass Times at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English)

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. (English); 8:30 a.m. (Italian); 9:45 a.m. (English); 11:00 a.m. (Polish); and  
12:30 p.m. (English)

Daily Mass: Monday–Saturday {except Thursday} 8:00 AM (Polish); 9:30 AM (English)

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. (English); Thursday: 6:00 p.m. (Polish)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated daily (Mon-Fri) after each Mass at OLMC Church and by request at the rectory. Please call to make an appointment.

<b>St. Vincent de Paul Parish</b>
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Website - [www.stvincentdepaulchurchbayonnenj.com](http://www.stvincentdepaulchurchbayonnenj.com)      Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Stvin979/>

Address: 979 Avenue C, Bayonne, NJ 07002

Tel: 201-436-2222      Fax: 201-437-5235

Email: [stvin979@verizon.net](mailto:stvin979@verizon.net)

Pastor: Rev. Sergio O. Nades

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Juan Rojas

DRE: Rose Finnegan

Phone: 201-436-2222 ext. 16

Email: [svdpccd@gmail.com](mailto:svdpccd@gmail.com)

Mass Times at St. Vincent de Paul Church:

Saturday: 5 p.m. (English)

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (English), 12 p.m. (Spanish)

Daily Mass: 8 a.m. (Monday-Saturday)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays from 4-4:45 p.m.

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.” CCC 2226**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Religious Education Program in the City of Bayonne is an essential part of the mission of our parishes. We support the parents/guardians of the children who are the primary teachers of the faith. The goal of the program is to form the students to be disciples of Jesus Christ, capable of living life with Catholic-Christian values. The program is rooted in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist where the entire parish draws strength from both Word and Sacrament. The Religious Education Program is open to all families who desire formal Catholic religious education for their children.

**GOALS**

To promote and encourage:

- Worship of God through private and liturgical prayer with the Catholic Christian community at Sunday Mass.
- Development of an authentic relationship and discipleship with Jesus Christ
- Knowledge and proclamation of the Good News as revealed through Jesus Christ
- Service to the local and universal community
- Parents/Guardians in their role as primary catechists of their children

Our Religious Education Program is a continuous faith formation process by which the Catholic Faith is taught. Sequential participation in Grades 1-9 is required.

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATING WITH YOUR CHILDREN IN THE HOLY MASS**

**Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” - Mt. 19: 14.**

*The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324)*

The Mass is a vital part of the religious education of our children. When we bring our children to Holy Mass, we are bringing our children (as well as ourselves) directly to Jesus; Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in the Eucharist! Our children are our gifts from God. As parents/guardians, it is our responsibility to bring them to God to teach them to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in the world.

**WHEN WE PARTICIPATE IN THE MASS:**

- We receive grace which is being poured out during the liturgy and is essential for daily life.
- We develop a love and fascination for God and sacred things.
- We more quickly learn the language/traditions of the Catholic faith.
- Faith in Jesus becomes interwoven into the “fabric” of our lives.
- The whole family develops a love for and hungering after the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

**FAMILY COMMITMENT PRAYER**

God, Our Father, you have blessed us and bestowed on us the gift of family. You created the family to be the image of the love and unity revealed to us in the Blessed Trinity. We commit ourselves to model this love and unity in our daily lives and in all relationships.

Guide us on our journey as we read and reflect on your Holy Word. Help us as we strive to be faithful to your command to “Keep Holy the Sabbath Day” by participating in the Holy Mass each Sunday. Transform us by your Word, so that, by our witness, we may come to be transformers of the world today.

May the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us through our Baptism, shine through our actions within our family, through our encounters with others, our care for all, especially those who are less fortunate and in need, and our work for a just world.

May all families within our parish become hearers and followers of the Word, so that our parish family might mirror the love, unity and service of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN.

WE, the \_\_\_\_\_ Family, make this commitment in Jesus’ name. AMEN.  
*(fill in your family name in the blank space and pray this prayer often.)*

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**ENROLLMENT**

All students (new and returning) must be enrolled in the Religious Education Program. The enrollment form is available at all Parish Rectories and/or Religious Education Offices.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION FEES**

- 1 child - \$85.00 if registered by August 31<sup>st</sup>. \$110 if registered on September 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 or more children \$135.00 if registered by August 31<sup>st</sup>. \$160 if registered September 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **IMPORTANT - Please note:** Registrations will not be accepted after September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FEES**

- Reconciliation/First Communion preparation fees will be \$85.00 per child.
- Confirmation preparation fee will be \$110.00 per child – there will be no additional registration fees and **no early discount**.

**BI-LINGUAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

All Religious Education classes will be taught in English. Bi-lingual (English/Spanish) textbooks will be available upon request at your parish. If your child needs Religious Education taught in a language other than English, please contact the Pastor of your parish.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism**

All children enrolled in the Religious Education Program must be baptized Roman Catholics before receiving any further sacraments. Parents/Guardians who wish their children to become baptized Roman Catholics or received into the Catholic Faith are welcome to inquire about our program. Please contact the pastor of your parish to arrange time for instruction and preparation for their Baptism or Reception into the Church.

**First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is a two-year process. Generally, these sacraments are received in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. More information regarding preparation for these sacraments will be available from the parish at which your children are enrolled for religious education.

Parents/Guardians of children who begin the program in grade 2 or above who have not received the Sacraments of Reconciliation or First Holy Communion must contact the Director of Religious Education to arrange time for instruction and preparation to receive these sacraments.

It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Newark that all children must be prepared for these sacraments in the parish in which their family is registered. The Religious Education Program in the City of Bayonne offers the option to prepare candidates for these sacraments in any of the four parishes. Parents/Guardians of children enrolled in Catholic Schools are responsible for contacting the parish in which their family is registered for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation information.

**Confirmation**

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **PLEASE NOTE:** *According to the policies of the Archdiocese of Newark, completion of all prior grades (usually 1-8) is required before entering Confirmation preparation. Students who have not had this prior catechesis need to receive catechesis appropriate to their age and ability before they enter the program of immediate preparation for Confirmation. This usually means that they will receive Confirmation at a later age than those who have participated in graded catechesis consistently since first grade.* Students who have not completed religious education grades 1-7 will be assessed by the Director of Religious Education to see where in the program they can best begin. It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Newark that all children, whether enrolled in Catholic or public school, must be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish in which their family is registered. The Religious Education Program in the City of Bayonne offers the option to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation in any of the four parishes. You will receive more information about preparation for this sacrament from the parish at which your children are enrolled for religious education.

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**Celebration of the Sacraments**

It pertains to the pastor of the parish where the family regularly worships and is registered to celebrate the First Holy Communion of children, and likewise Confirmation is received in the parish where the family regularly worships and is registered. In extenuating circumstances, a child may receive these sacraments at another parish only with the written permission of the pastor of the parish where his/her family is registered. If a family, with cause, requests that their child receive the sacrament at a parish other than the one where they are registered, the PCL is to contact the pastor of the parish where the family is registered for written permission. Only with the written permission of the pastor of the parish where a child is registered can he/she receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation at another parish.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Absences:** According to the policy of the Archdiocese of Newark, at a minimum, parish religious education programs are required to include 35 hours of instructional time per year. Hours of instructional time are not defined as a child's time spent in front of a catechist or in front of a screen, but time engaged in learning under the guidance and direction of catechists and parents.

Regular attendance is essential to your child's development and formation in the Religious Education Program. Children are expected to attend every class (including online sessions). Attendance will be taken at all class sessions and parents/guardians will be notified about each absence.

***The policy for the City of Bayonne Religious Education Program is no more than four absences in Grades 1-8. Candidates enrolled in Grade 9 Confirmation Preparation are allowed only two absences.***

The parents/guardians of a child who accrues more than the allotted absences must meet with the pastor and Director of Religious Education to assess the readiness of the family to participate in our program.

**IMPORTANT** - There are some required class dates and retreats for sacramental preparation (First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation) that cannot be missed. Please refer to the class schedule of the parish at which your child is enrolled for more information.

**Reporting Absences:** If your child will not be attending class (including online sessions), the parent/guardian must call or email the Director of Religious Education of the parish in which your children attend classes. Include your child's name, grade and reason for their absence in your message. Please refer to pages 2 and 3 for the contact information for all parishes.

**Make-up Work:** All assignments missed during an absence are the responsibility of the parent/guardian to complete with their child. The catechist and Director of Religious Education will review the lessons missed and prepare the necessary lessons for the parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians are asked to contact the Director of Religious Education to make arrangements for a child who has a long-term disability or illness.

**Tardiness:** Children must arrive promptly for the beginning of class (including online sessions). ***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian when they enter the building. Students who arrive late will be escorted by a religious education staff member to class.

**Early Pick-up of Students:** ***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** Every effort must be made to schedule appointments for your children at times that do not interfere with their religious education. If you need to pick up your child early, the parent/guardian must put the request in writing and submit it to the Director of Religious Education at least 24 hours prior to the day of class. Your written request must include the reason for early dismissal and the name of the parent/guardian or designated adult who will be picking up your child. Your child will be picked up at the Religious Education Office, not the classroom. Early dismissal should not be a regular occurrence.

**CLASS CANCELLATION**

***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** Whenever the Bayonne Board of Education cancels classes or issues an early dismissal for the public schools due to inclement weather, our Religious Education classes for that day are cancelled. The Director of Religious Education will contact school administration and an announcement will be made in the schools regarding the cancellation of Religious

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Education classes. In the event of inclement weather on Sundays and/or any other emergency conditions, the catechists will attempt to contact families if classes are cancelled. For all cancellations of religious education classes, families will be contacted via email and/or through social media. If there are multiple days cancelled make up dates may be assigned at the discretion of the Director of Religious Education.

**PICK-UP OF STUDENT/CUSTODY ISSUES**

***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed.***: All students are to be picked up on time and in the designated area of the program your child attends. Every family is required to sign the Religious Education Dismissal Form for each child in our program. This form will be distributed by the Office of Religious Education where your child is enrolled. Any legal custody concerns must be communicated to your Director of Religious Education in writing along with copies of supporting legal documents.

**CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed.***: Any student who brings a cell phone or any electronic devices to Religious Education class must turn it off in the building. There will be no use of phones and electronic devices in class unless directed by catechists. Abuse of this policy will result in the removal of the phone/electronic device by the catechist. Parent/Guardian must pick up the phone/electronic device from the Director of Religious Education after class dismissal. If you need to contact your child in the event of an emergency, please call the Office of Religious Education (see contact information on pages 2 and 3).

**BEHAVIOR:**

It is the expectation that children will come to class (either online or in-person) ready and prepared to learn and to participate in class discussions in a thoughtful, prayerful and respectful manner. If a child becomes disruptive, he/she will be given the opportunity to correct their behavior. If the child does not cooperate, he/she will be asked to meet with the Director of Religious Education to complete the lesson. The DRE will notify the parents/guardians. If the behavior continues, a meeting will be scheduled with the pastor of the parish, the DRE, the parents/guardians, and the child to assess the readiness of the child to participate in the program.

**EXPECTATIONS**

Parents/Guardians:

- Ensure that your family participates in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation faithfully.
- Ensure your children are present for Religious Education classes regularly and on time.
- Communicate any special needs/circumstances that may affect your child's ability to participate in our program.
- Be an active part of your children's faith formation and be involved in the parish family.
- Comply with all policies and guidelines of our Religious Education Program.
- Notify the Office of Religious Education of any changes/updates to your contact information.

Students:

- Behave and dress in a Christian manner at all times (for both online and in person classes)
- Show respect and be cooperative with adults and other students.
- Actively participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, as well as, in all classroom activities/discussions.
- Attend Religious Education classes regularly and complete all assignments.
- Have respect for parish property and the property of others.
- No tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or weapons of any kind are allowed on the premises. (See Health Concerns and Medications section for policy on prescribed medicines.) Violation of this policy will result in the immediate removal of the child from the Religious Education program and the notification of proper authorities.
- Bullying/Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated in our program.



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**HEALTH CONCERNS AND MEDICATIONS**

***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** Information on students who have health issues, allergies, or are on medications must be noted on the registration form and parents/guardians must notify the Director of Religious Education of these and any other health issues. Accommodations will be made to the best of our ability to address such concerns.

***NO MEDICATIONS ARE ALLOWED TO BE ADMINISTERED BY ANY STAFF MEMBER OR VOLUNTEER OF OUR PARISHES.*** Only a parent/guardian can administer medication to their child and must be present at Religious Education sessions. Such a parent/guardian must fulfill the requirement of the Child Protection Policy, undergo the background check and attend Protecting God's Children as required by the Archdiocese of Newark.

Children with crutches must be escorted to and from class by an adult for safety reasons. Please advise the DRE in advance if your child is using crutches.

**CLASSROOM TREATS**

***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** Due to food allergies, snack foods and beverages will not be provided for children.

**RESTROOM FACILITIES**

***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** The use of restroom facilities should be limited to emergencies only. The constant use of the facilities is disruptive to the class. Children should use the facilities prior to the start of Religious Education class.

**COMMUNICATION**

Communication is key to the success of the Religious Education Program. Updates to the program will be sent electronically, posted on parish websites, summarized in the parish bulletin and, when necessary, by mail. Please notify the Office of Religious Education if there are any changes to your contact information. Your questions and concerns are always welcome.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Each child will receive a textbook and, if needed, access to its digital content for online faith formation. Children will be responsible to bring their books to and from class. Children will have follow-up activities and discussions to share with their family following their weekly class and an assessment of the lessons learned will be done. If a child loses the textbook, parents will be responsible to purchase a replacement book.

**SAFETY**

**Child Abuse:** Consistent with the Archdiocesan Policy and New Jersey State Law, the parish catechetical staff has a moral and legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse to authorities to ensure the welfare of a child. All staff, catechists, and volunteers undergo a background check and are required to complete the "Protecting God's Children" program and satisfy the mandates of said program. In addition, all staff, catechists and volunteers are required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read and understood the ethical and personal conduct code of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Any catechists who suspect a child to be a victim of abuse must alert the Director of Religious Education and must notify The New Jersey Department of Children and Families and the pastor immediately. The parish professional staff will then relieve the catechist of further investigative responsibility and initiate follow through.

**Building Access:** ***For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed:*** In order to maintain a safe environment for our children, unauthorized adults (including parents/guardians and all family members of our children) may not be present in the building during class time without the knowledge and authorization of the Director of Religious Education. Parents/Guardians may never enter the classroom during religious education class without prior authorization by the Director of Religious Education and notification of the catechist.

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**Fire Safety and Crisis Preparation: *For in-person sessions, the following policy will be followed.:***

Students will be instructed on the proper procedures for any emergency situation. Fire/Lock Down Drills will be conducted twice a year. In the event of a real emergency, children will be taken to an evacuation site as directed by the police. Parents/guardians will be contacted using the information supplied on the Emergency Contact Information section of the registration form. Please report any changes to this information immediately.

**RIGHT TO AMEND**

This handbook is primarily a means of communication. It is meant to provide you, the parent/guardian, with helpful information regarding the Religious Education Program of the Catholic parishes of the City of Bayonne. The Pastors and Directors of Religious Education of the parishes of Bayonne reserve the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parents/Guardians will be notified, in writing, if changes are made to any procedures or information contained in this handbook.

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

The Archdiocese of Newark continues to use digital tools as needed to serve the young people and families of the parishes in the City of Bayonne.

Parish program facilitators may choose to deliver virtual programming and content for its participants, through online platforms in addition to in-person programming. Additionally, if circumstances warrant a temporary pause of in-person faith formation classes, parish program facilitators will notify families of alternate virtual programming. The program(s) will use software, tools and applications provided by third-parties that participants, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and/or staff will access via the internet and use for purposes of communication, programming, and potential content creation. These platforms may include but are not limited to: Google Classroom, GoToMeeting, Webex, and Zoom.

To enroll in any of these programs, you must provide your consent and release for your child to participate in these online applications for distance-based, virtual program purposes. Please be aware that each application collects different information about its users and has its own privacy terms and conditions to which members must adhere and which parish or diocese cannot control or assume responsibility. Please review these carefully before registering your child.

Our commitment to keeping the children and youth we serve safe is always our number one priority. To that end, we will actively monitor participant activity of children while engaged in our digital learning platforms. It is parents' responsibility to monitor their child's internet usage as a whole, including their use of any internet sites that are outside of our digital learning platforms. All online activities contemplated hereunder must also comply with the Archdiocese of Newark Safe Environment Protocols and must also follow any use requirements developed by the Archdiocese of Newark and/or the Department for the Protection of the Faithful.

**EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN - PARISH IMPLEMENTATION**

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, mandates training for children on how to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse and exploitation. Cardinal Tobin's mandated implementation of the Virtus K-12 safe environment program, Empowering God's Children, continues to represent the commitment that the Archdiocese of Newark has made to protect the children in our care from all types of abuse and to be advocates for their safety. ***Beginning in September of 2022, parish catechetical programs for children attending public schools are required to implement this program.*** Parishes will decide how to best implement this program with their parish children and their families. The program is available in English and Spanish. More information regarding the implementation of this program will be made available at your parish.

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**FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

This is to acknowledge that our family has received the Bayonne Religious Education Program Parent/Guardian Handbook. We have read, understand, and agree to cooperate with the DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY for online class sessions and all policies set forth in this handbook. No participation in programming may be permitted without the signed Acknowledgment below.

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*Parent/Guardian Signatures*

*Date*

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*Parent/Guardian Printed Names*

Student Signatures:

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*Name*

*Grade*

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*Name*

*Grade*

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*Name*

*Grade*

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*Name*

*Grade*

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*Name*

*Grade*

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*Name*

*Grade*