



Welcome Back!

Saint Lawrence Parish Religious Education Program



Family Information Packet **2020-2021**

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer days are spent and once again we turn our attention to the continuation of the formal religious education of the school age children of our parish. Our humble attempts to pass on the truths of the faith can only make sense in light of a loving family. Let us pray for one another in the days and months ahead that we can be the presence of Jesus for one another, allowing the love and kindness of God's Spirit to grace our homes, our neighborhoods, our religious education program and our world.

God bless us all!

The Goals of the Saint Lawrence Parish Religious Education Program

We see this program as an extension of the parents' responsibility to proclaim the message of our salvation for they are the primary teachers of their children.

In accordance with archdiocesan policies and guidelines, our goals are:

- to offer to the children in our parish who attend public school or are home schooled formal religious instruction in accordance with our Catholic tradition.
- to offer additional opportunities throughout the year to develop their faith and become involved in the Christian community.

Please take time to review the packet as it includes new information and important dates.

Attendance

Because the information your child is receiving each week includes material they need to know in order to receive their sacraments, their attendance is important. Please contact your child's teacher if they are not able to attend class, whether they are attending face-to-face or virtually. If you are aware of an upcoming date when your child will be unable to attend, please let the teacher know ahead of time to aid them in planning their lesson for the week. Missed work will need to be completed at home. Please be advised that if your child misses more than 5 classes within the school year, he/she may be asked to complete a summer makeup packet and/or repeat the grade. Attendance is recorded weekly and is filed with the Office of Religious Education in Philadelphia.

Homework

Each child in our religious education program will receive a workbook to use in class and keep at the end of the year. During this time of extra care to remain safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, they will bring it home each week if they are attending face-to-face and so will be able to review information and/or complete homework. In order for them to retain the material covered in class, parents should discuss with their children the lesson presented to them that week. Our dedicated catechists offer their time to provide weekly instruction to assist children in faith formation. However, as parents, you are your child's first teacher of the Catholic religion.

Drop-off and Pick-up

All students attending face-to-face will meet at the back entrance to the Parish Hall in the basement of the church. Students should come to the rear door on the right side of the church to have their temperature taken using a no-touch forehead thermometer and to answer some general virus related questions; students in grades 1 through 4 should be accompanied by an adult who can assist in answering these; face masks must be worn when approaching the building and the entire time that any individual is in the building. Students may leave through any door. Please make a plan with your child(ren) as to where they should meet you at pick-up time. Also, please pick up your child(ren) promptly at 9:20 am because many of our teachers attend the 9:30 AM Mass. Children attending virtually must be in attendance in the "class" before the start of class at 8:30 AM.

Inclement Weather

In the event of bad weather and the need to cancel classes, we will notify you by mass email. Please be sure we have your current email address on file. You may call a teacher or director if you are unsure or not notified. In the event of an unusual circumstance, teachers will call.

First Holy Communion

Second or third grade is the usual time for a child in our program to receive First Eucharist. Diocesan policy requires that each child be in preparation for two years. Our teacher(s) will provide information to all candidates and their families for First Eucharist preparation.

First Holy Communion for out 3rd and 4th graders who were unable to receive the Sacrament in the Spring due to the COVID-9 pandemic has been rescheduled for September 27, 2020, or by special arrangement during the year.

Reconciliation

The children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (penance) for the first time in second or third grade, prior to receiving First Eucharist. Our teacher(s) will help prepare the children for this day of celebration.

All classes who have already received this sacrament will be given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at or before the beginning of the Lenten Season, exact date to be determined.

Confirmation

Our 7th and 8th grade students will continue preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in this second of a two year program.

The next Confirmation will take place on April 18, 2021.

Class and Mass Days (2-hours)

Attending Mass is a vital part of our identity as Catholics. It is our hope that as we make efforts to teach our faith to our parish children, that we have parent support in teaching these same values of Christ.

Therefore, we have scheduled two days this year in which the children will have a double class. The second part of class will be attending Mass with a family member in attendance with them, following all the in force church rules regarding masks and social distancing. Children may also “attend” Mass virtually through Facebook as our 9:30 AM Mass is live streamed each week. These classes appropriately tie in with our curriculum and will count as two PREP classes on each of those days.

Class and Mass Days are scheduled for November 8, 2020 and February 14, 2021.

Safe Environment Lesson

In accordance with diocesan policy our students must participate in a program entitled “Keeping God’s Children Safe”. It is an age appropriate lesson about unsafe and inappropriate touching by strangers, as well as people we know. If you choose not to allow your child to participate in this class, you must sign and return the parental opt-out form prior to the scheduled class. This paper is an important part of your child’s records that will be on file within archdiocese. Parents are welcome to join us.

The Safe Environment class for the children is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Community Service Projects

Our Parish Religious Education Program will choose one to three service projects each year to benefit our community or charities. We will tentatively update our cookie tray donation project in December with a donation to the Saint Luke’s Hospital NICU from our families to be determined. We will help stock the shelves at The Lord’s Pantry in Ottsville with Souper Bowl fun. We may offer other projects as the year progresses. We encourage all families to participate.

Altar Servers


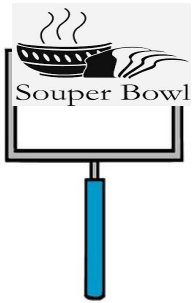

Boys and girls in 4th grade and older are encouraged to become an Altar Server. Children may choose which masses at which they would like to serve, as well as how often they would like to serve. Even one per month would be a big help as ***we are in need of servers***. Please contact the Parish Office or let a teacher know about your interest.

Gift Offering During Mass

We would like to give the children the opportunity to participate in taking up the offerings at our Class and Mass sessions and will offer this to our students who have already received their First Holy Communion. We understand that many children would enjoy the opportunity to have this important “job” during this special part of mass. This is a great way for your child to be directly involved in the mass.

Christmas Eve Mass – possible Candlelight Procession at 4:00 PM Mass – as the holiday approaches, we will determine what will be possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020-2021 Schedule

<p>October 4 October 11 October 18 October 25 November 1 November 8</p>	<p>Opening Day of PREP, Family Day – Details to follow Normal session Normal session Normal session Normal session <u>Class and Mass 2-Hours.</u> Students arrive at the normal time and will join in a special activity in the classroom. Please see the previous Class and Mass Day Description <i>This day counts as two PREP classes for the year.</i></p>	
<p>November 15 November 22 November 29 December 6 December 13 December 20 December 27 January 3 January 10 January 17</p>	<p>Normal session Normal session NO PREP. Happy Thanksgiving! Normal session Group Lesson and Jesus' Birthday Celebration! No PREP. Merry Christmas! No PREP. Happy New Year! Classes resume, normal session Normal session Normal session <i>Souper Bowl Service Project Kick-off for the Lord's Pantry; soup/canned food donations accepted.</i></p>	
<p>January 24 January 31</p>	<p>Safe Environment Lesson for all grades <i>Soup/canned food donations accepted – Help us make our Goal!</i> Normal session <i>LAST DAY for soup/canned food donations.</i></p>	
<p>February 7 February 14</p>	<p>Normal session <u>Class and Mass 2-Hours.</u> Students arrive at the normal time and will join in a special activity in the classroom. Please see the previous Class and Mass Day Description <i>This day counts as two PREP classes for the year.</i></p>	
<p>February 21 February 28 March 7 March 14 March 21 March 28 April 4 April 11 April 18 April 25 May 2</p>	<p>Normal session Normal session Normal session Normal session Normal session (Palm Sunday) NO CCD. Happy Easter! Normal session Normal session for grades 1-6; Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders Normal session Last day of PREP.</p>	

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We feel truly blessed to have this opportunity to get to know them in our short time together each week. Please contact us if you have any questions about our PREP program.