



Welcome Back!

Saint Lawrence Parish Religious Education Program

## Family Information Packet

2026-2027

Dear Parents and Students,

We now turn our attention to the continuation of the formal religious education of the school age children of our parish with our four summer sessions and our monthly Sunday sessions from October through May. 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 session includes material they need to know in order to receive their sacraments, their attendance is important. We have found that their comprehension and retention is increased when learning takes place within the classroom setting where they are able to ask questions and interact with the other students and their teacher. Please contact your child's teacher if they are not able to attend class. 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. All missed work will need to be completed at home per the teacher's instructions. Please note that if your child misses more than three of the total twelve sessions (each monthly session and each summer day session counts as one session). in addition to making up the missed work, he/she will be required to schedule a makeup session by contacting the Director of Religious Education, Gina Wydner. If your child needs to arrive late or leave early for any session, any time more than 15 minutes missed will count as a half session: this will count towards the three allowed absences and beyond that, towards required makeup sessions. Attendance is recorded each session and may be filed with the Office of Religious Education in Philadelphia.

### Homework

Each child in our religious education program will receive a workbook or Bible to use in class and keep at the end of the year. They may bring it home after each session 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 session. Our dedicated catechists offer their time to provide this 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 will meet along the front walkway in front of the flagpole by 10:45 AM each Sunday session and 8:30 AM each summer session if the weather is good with the exception of the Class and Mass sessions which require arrival in time for 9:30 AM Mass. If the weather is inclement, please bring your child to the back entrance to the Parish Hall and accompany students in grades 1-4 downstairs; students in grades 5-8 may be dropped at the door to enter on their own. Prior to arrival at Saint Lawrence, please use the below chart to determine if your child should attend their class that day (if not attending due to symptoms, please inform Mrs. Wydner by email for follow up within the week):

| <b>Group A</b><br><b>1 or more symptoms, Do not attend</b> | <b>Group B</b><br><b>2 or more symptoms, Do not attend</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cough                                                      | Chills                                                     |
| Shortness of breath                                        | Rigors (shivering accompanied by rise in temp)             |
| Difficulty breathing                                       | Myalgia (muscle aches)                                     |
| Loss of smell                                              | Headache                                                   |
| Loss of taste                                              | Sore throat                                                |
| Fever (100.4 or greater)                                   | Nausea or vomiting                                         |
|                                                            | Diarrhea                                                   |
|                                                            | Fatigue                                                    |
|                                                            | Congestion or runny nose                                   |

Parking lot; a teacher or assistant will be stationed at the door to monitor pickups. Please pick up your child(ren) promptly at 12:30 for our monthly sessions from October through May, and by 12:00 for the summer sessions. Please see note below under Safe Environment Lesson and early pickup for those opting out of the Safe Environment Lesson on Sunday, 11/1/26.

#### 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. Our next First Holy Communion will take place in the Spring of 2028 during the 9:30 AM Mass, date to be determined.

#### 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. This will be scheduled for late winter of 2028, date to be determined.

#### Confirmation

Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation with this second of the two year program. Confirmation is scheduled for Saturday, 4/24/27, at 5:00 PM; practice date to be determined.

#### Class and Mass Days

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 during the October through April sessions this year in which the children will attend Mass at 9:30 AM followed by their normal class. At this time, the children will attend Mass with their class and teacher, or with their family; family members are welcome to join their child's class. Class and Mass Days are scheduled for December 6, 2026 and March 7, 2027.

#### Safe Environment Lesson – Timing

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 summer session. The Safe Environment Lesson will take up the last hour of the Sunday, 11/1/26, session; parents whose children are opting out should arrange for their child to be picked up at 11:30 AM rather than the usual 12:30 PM on that day. The opt out form is an important part of your child's records that will be on file with the archdiocese if you do choose to opt out. The Safe Environment class for the children is scheduled for November 1, 2026 at 11:30 AM.

#### Community Service Projects

Our Parish Religious Education Program will choose one to three service projects each year to benefit our community or charities. Information will be sent to all families with the details. We encourage all families to participate.

#### Altar Servers

Boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older are encouraged to become an Altar Server. Children may choose at which Masses they would like to serve, as well as how often they would like to serve. Even one time 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.

## 2026-2027 Schedule

Summer week of morning sessions will be held from Wednesday, 6/10/26 – Friday, 6/12/26, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM and Saturday, 6/13/26, arrive prior to 9:00 AM Mass to be followed by presentation/reception for families and Mass attendees, estimated end of day between 11:00 and 11:30 AM. Please see the Attendance Policy on page 2 if your child(ren) will miss any summer sessions.

Monthly sessions from October 2026 through April 2027 (8 sessions):

October 4 Opening Day of PREP instruction-normal session, 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

November 1 Normal session, 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

December 6 Mass and Class session, arrive for 9:30 AM Mass, pickup at 12:30 PM

(Caroling) January 3 Normal session, 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

February 7 Normal session, 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

March 7 Mass and Class session, arrive for 9:30 AM Mass, pickup at 12:30 PM

April 4 Normal session, 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

April 25 Normal session, last of 2026-27 year, 10:45 AM – 12:30 PM Note: Additional

requirement, all students to attend one of the offered Stations of the Cross during Lent.

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

## Saint Lawrence Parish Religious Education Program – Acknowledgment Form

I acknowledge that as parent and/or guardian of the below student(s), I have received and read the Family Information Packet for the 2026-2027 PREP year and understand all the requirements noted in the packet.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent

and/or Guardian Name (print):

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent and/or Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

