

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/ FAITH FORMATION Handbook



St. Pius X Catholic Church
3418 Highway 60 East
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303
(270) 684-4745

St. Pius X Catholic Church

Mission Statement

Called to a deep, personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ, the Church community of St. Pius X guided by the light of the Holy Spirit, is committed to living and sharing our Catholic faith expressed in love.

Families in Faith

Religious Education Mission Statement

We seek to offer families with opportunities for studying our Catholic faith, living out our faith, and teaching our children about the Catholic beliefs and traditions. We praise God for calling us to faith and to share with others the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The spirituality of every person needs cared for from the second of conception to the moment of passing from this life to eternity. We the people of St. Pius X are a **“family in faith,”** we are Church to each other and the world. We are called to be a light to the world shining from this hilltop. The focus of the religious education program is a working partnership with parents in educating their children in the Catholic faith. Religious education or Catholic schools is not a substitute for parental involvement and example. We respect and support the role of parents as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic faith. Through an active involvement in a child’s spiritual formation, parents, families, and catechists grow in their faith commitment and understanding of the faith.

With the above stated, it only makes sense that parents and facilitators work together sharing the light of our faith with the children/youth of this parish and with each other. We are called to live God’s Word every day so that it is not viewed as something that is done only on Sunday.

CATECHISTS

The role of catechist is one of witness and guide. Working in **“partnership”** with parents and families, we can make learning about the Catholic faith effective and exciting experience.

We, as a parish, are blessed with faith-filled catechists that love sharing their faith with young people and being ministers of spreading the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

For the safety and well-being of our children/youth every one involved in the religious education program is required to fulfill the requirements of the diocesan safe environment program.

- Read, accept, and sign acknowledgement of the Diocesan Safe Sexual Abuse Policy.
- Submit information for criminal background checks.
- Attend Safe Environment Program for adults once every five years.
- Accept and sign the Adult Code of Conduct.

CLASS TIMES

Sunday Morning from 9:15- 10:30 a.m. Schedule is provided in the appendix section of this handbook.

Schedules for First Reconciliation/First Communion Parent/Child Meetings and Confirmation Mini retreats are also provided in the appendix section of this handbook.

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is essential to your child's successful participation in the religious education program. Each *Christ Our Life* lessons builds upon the previous lesson. We understand classes will be missed due to illness and injury or unexpected family commitment, but a missed class means missed information and a void in the development of the subject matter for the absent child/youth. We ask parents to cover the missed material at home with your child when an absentee is necessary; therefore, a note with class information will be mailed or emailed to the parents. **Students and families must make religious education a priority, along with sports, school, activities, and homework.** Religious education is one way one's spirituality and relationship with God is nourished and strengthened.

If a child/youth's attendance is not consistent or misses too many classes, the child/youth may be required to repeat the grade.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students and parents should gather on Sunday mornings in the parish hall. Each Sunday morning at 9:00 doughnuts and coffee will be served. At 9:15 students will be dismissed to their classes after family prayer.

At dismissal time, to insure your child's safety, students in grades preK-6 will be held in the classrooms until a parent signs out the child. **Children should be picked up promptly at 10:30 a.m.** Please be considerate of the catechists and

assistants who may be attending the 11:00 a.m. Mass or needing to leave for a family commitment.

DIOCESAN CODE OF CONDUCT

Expectations of Behavior

- PreK – 3rd**
 - Be kind and say nice things to others.
 - Keep hands to yourself.
 - Take turns and include others in games.
 - Tell when someone is being hurtful or there is an emergency.
 - Be a good listener.
 - Obey classroom rules and respect adults.

- 4th – 6th**
 - Treat everyone kindly and not harm them in any way by words or actions.
 - Take only what is given to you and not take anything which belongs to others without permission.
 - Do not be selfish.
 - Speak truthfully.
 - Take care of your body and not use alcohol or drugs.
 - Do not possess any object to threat or injure another person (i.e. knives, guns, and etc.). The diocese has in place search and seizure guidelines.
 - Extreme cases of misconduct will be reported to parents/legal guardian and legal authorities regardless of time. Parents/legal guardian will be financially responsible for any repairs to destroyed property because of inappropriate behavior. The diocese has search and seizure guidelines in place.
 - Follow instructions of the adults.
 - Tell when someone is being hurt or there is an emergency.

- 7th – 12th**
 - Treat everyone with respect, courtesy, dignity, Patience, loyalty, and integrity and behave in a way respecting the rights of all.
 - Cooperate and do things that promote a good reputation for the parish.
 - Treat property with care.
 - Use of cell phones or pagers is high discouraged, unless an adult grant permission.
 - Possess or use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, Inappropriate videos, reading materials are prohibited.
 - Extreme cases of misconduct will be reported to Parents/legal guardian and legal authorities

regardless of time. Parents/legal guardian will be financially responsible for any repairs to destroyed property because of inappropriate behavior. The diocese has search and seizure guidelines in place.

Diocesan Search and Seizure Guidelines are available for viewing in the Office of Religious Education.

CANCELLATION

In case of inclement weather or hazardous driving conditions, an announcement of class cancellation will be made on these radio stations **WBKR 92.5 FM** and **WBIO 94.7 FM** and the following television stations **WEHT-TV 25**, **WEVV-TV CBS 44**, and **WFIE-TV NBC14**.

REGISTRATION FEE

A registration fee is necessary to cover the cost of textbooks. The cost for one child is \$25; two children \$50; three children \$75; and four children \$100. No family will pay more than \$100. A waiver of the fee is granted to catechists, classroom assistants, clerical support in the religious education office, child care providers, hall monitors, and coordinators of hospitality will pay half of the registration fee.

Since we are a “Family in Faith” working in partnership to teach our children about the Catholic faith, we ask each family to support the religious education program by volunteering in one of the following areas of ministry:

Catechist *(Free tuition; training will be provided; safe environment training required)*

Child Care Provider *Provide child care for children of parents leading religious education classes or attending activities. (Free tuition; training will be provided; safe environment training required)*

Catechist Assistant *(Half tuition; training will be provided; safe environment training required)*

Hall Monitor *(Half tuition; training will be provided; safe environment training required)*

Doughnut Hospitality *(Half tuition; setting up each Sunday, making coffee, picking up milk and juice; safe environment training required)*

Birthday Party for Jesus Assist with party planning and activities. *(Safe environment training required)*

Halloween Trunk ‘n Treating *Assist with the planning and party activities.
(Safe environment training required)*

Christmas Program *Assist with planning and practice (Safe environment
training required)*

Mission Activities *Assist with counting money, decorating boxes for food
baskets, making rosaries and prayer books, Christmas caroling, and etc. (Safe
environment training required)*

Saint Storytelling *Read or tell the life stories of saints to the children
throughout the year. Materials will be provided.*

Phone/Email Tree *Call and email parents and volunteers*

Photographer/Reporter *Take pictures of Families in Faith activities and write
articles concerning the events. Pictures and articles will be submitted to the
Western Kentucky Catholic and placed on St. Pius X web site. (Safe
Environment training required)*

Seasonal Activities *Assist with organizing craft activities, wrapping
presents and filling treat bags, and etc.*

Numerous opportunities are available throughout the year for parents and parishioners to be involved in the religious education of the children/youth of St. Pius X parish and serving of our community.

CHRIST OUR LIFE

Loyola Series

Christ Our Life integrates Scripture and Tradition in the spiral curriculum, originally developed by the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1973, in which each grade builds upon the content of the previous year. This series helps the children/youth become aware that Jesus is Lord and Savior who leads them to the Father through his Spirit. With a focus on Scripture, the four pillars of Catholic faith: Creed—What Catholics Believe, Sacraments—How Catholics Worship, Morality—How Catholics Live, Prayer—How Catholics Pray are blended into the content.

Pre-K4 God Made the World

God Made the World, feature appealing photos, colorful illustrations, and fun activities—all on oversized cards that fit small hands.

God Made the World is part of the **God Made Everything** series and have been found to be in conformity with the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** by the Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism.

Kindergarten God Loves Us

God Loves Us teaches children that God loves them and that they are to love God and one another. This level also presents other simple faith concepts, including silence, reverence for the Bible, being sorry, celebration, and God as creator. Children are introduced to five fundamental prayers, including the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals, and Angel of God.

Grade 1 God Is Good

God Is Good presents God, Jesus, and the Church in their goodness and holiness. The lessons lay the foundation for children's spiritual growth and development by enhancing their knowledge of the Catholic faith. This level teaches important faith concepts, including salvation, love, baptism, and the Holy Trinity. Children practice fundamental prayers, including the Sign of the Cross, Glory Be, Our Father, Hail Mary, Angel of God, and The Way of the Cross.

Grade 2 God Cares For Us

God Cares for Us prepares children for the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. The structure and meaning of the Mass are emphasized throughout the year. The catechesis helps children respond joyfully to God's call to give themselves in love to God and others. This level also introduces children to the Church and to Mary. Prayers include Morning Offering; Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love (short forms); Act of Contrition (short form); Meal Prayers; Come, Holy Spirit (short form); and Consecration to Mary.

Grade 3 We Believe

We Believe presents the main truths that Catholics believe and express in the Apostles' Creed. Children are called to the faith community and learn the ways Jesus is present to us during the Mass. This level also introduces Bible stories; devotions; and the concepts of vocation, healing, and response to God. Prayers include Morning Offering; Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love (short forms); Prayer to St. Michael; Apostles' Creed; Rosary; and Act of Contrition.

Grade 4 God Guides Us

God Guides Us introduces students to the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides for living. Catechists teach children that, as followers of Jesus, we must know these teachings and live them. This level also focuses on kinds of prayer, parts of the Bible, reconciliation, and the communion of saints. Prayers include Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love; Angelus; Queen of Heaven; Come, Holy Spirit; and The Way of the Cross.

Grade 5 We Worship

We Worship teaches celebration and worship through the Eucharistic liturgy. The Eucharist is presented as a gift from God through which to share divine life. Lessons introduce liturgical prayer and guide children to respond to God's

presence through prayer and loving service to others. The text also focuses on the sacramental system and the paschal mystery. Prayers include Come, Holy Spirit; prayers of the Mass; and psalms.

Grade 6 God Calls a People

God Calls a People is devoted to studying God's saving love as revealed in sacred Scripture, particularly in the Old Testament. This study of salvation history helps students gain a deeper appreciation of the person of Jesus Christ and his continued presence in the Church. Lessons also explore the book of Psalms, the concept of "sacred," roots of the sacraments, symbols, and the perfection of God. New prayers include psalms and Memorare to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Grade 7 Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life focuses on the New Testament. The teachings and mission of Jesus, the paschal mystery, and the seven sacraments are the core of this year's program. Students will see Christ as our way to the Father and grow in understanding and love of Jesus. This level, which explores journaling, also discusses respect for justice as well as RCIA. Prayers include Prayer to St. Michael; Morning Offering; Act of Contrition (Rite of Reconciliation); Act of Faith; and Nicene Creed.

Grade 8 The Church Then and Now

The Church Then and Now helps students grow in an awareness of the mystery of the Church and its mission. Students are invited to value their union with Christ in the Church and to live according to his teachings. Lessons focus on the Liturgy of the Hours, centering prayer, reflective prayer, Acts of the Apostles, respect for life, the life of the Church, and the Holy Spirit.

High School Total Catechesis

Total Catechesis is a four-part series addressing the themes of the four pillars of the Catholic faith, as described in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. Each part contains ten to fourteen learning sessions for high school students. Two important resources integrated into Total Catechesis sessions are **The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth** and **The Catholic Youth Bible**.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS

This fall Fr. Richard Meredith and Matt Hunt, with the advice and support of Nancy Greenwell, along with five or more married couples of the parish, will present "Theology of the Body for Teens," a program authored by Jason and Crystalina Evert and Brian Butler, publish by Ascension Press, 2006. It is the first published curriculum which applies Pope John Paul II's *theology of the body* to the lives of teenagers, specifically addressing questions relating to chastity and sexuality. The curriculum includes one session for parents alone and twelve sessions for the teens and is aimed at high school aged teens. During each teen

session we will offer in a different room a simultaneous session for parents using the same material. We believe it is important, at least in the early use of the program, to offer the entire program to both parents and their teens. The twelve teen sessions will be: September 4th; September 18th; October 2nd; October 23rd; November 6th; November 20th; December 4th; December 18th; January 8th; January 22nd; February 5th; and February 19th. A light meal will be available at each session. Program costs will cover the materials used, For more information on the program visit www.TOBforTeens.com.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism

Baptismal preparation for parents seeking baptism for infants or children younger than age 7 is held monthly by appointment only. Parents meet initially with the Director of Religious Education. After the initial meeting, the parents meet with a couple serving on the baptismal preparation team. The preparation meeting takes place in the team members' home. The formation session provides parents and godparents with an opportunity to examine and discuss the commitment of parents as primary educators of their children in the faith, the rite of Baptism, and the symbols used in the celebration of the baptismal rite. If you have any questions or would like to request Baptism for your child, please contact Nancy Greenwell at the parish office, 684-4745.

First Reconciliation/First Communion

This program assists parents in preparing their children for the reception of First Reconciliation and First Communion. When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to bring up their children in the Catholic faith. Parents are the first and primary teachers of the faith. The preparation process at St. Pius X supplements the ongoing preparation occurring in the home with resources and guides (such as home study books, teaching guides, and parent reading materials). This process includes a Rite of Enrollment celebrated at Sunday Mass, two parent/child meetings, and a retreat morning for each sacrament. If your child has reached age 7 (typically in second grade) and is ready to complete his/her preparation for these sacraments or you have questions concerning this program, please contact Nancy Greenwell at the parish office, 684-4745.

**PARENT EXPECTATIONS
FOR
ST. PIUS X FIRST EUCHARIST PROGRAM**

Attend two parent/child meetings: February 7, 2010 9:30-10:30 a.m.
March 7, 2010 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Complete lessons from **Celebrating Our Faith: Eucharist** at home with your child. Books provided. If additional help is needed, please contact Nancy Greenwell at the Parish Office: 684-4745. Read together the chapters in the home study book and assist your child in completing the activities in the child's booklet. **Please do not write in the home study book.** Return the home study book, child's booklet, and parent folder at the prayer retreat, April 17th.

Bring your child to the prayer retreat, April 17th. Parents/Guardians are also asked to participate with your child.

Please attend Mass on Sundays with your child. Attending Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation is a Precept of the Catholic Church. If children are not attending Mass every Sunday and on holy days, children become confused when taught this precept in religion class.

It is very important that your child attends regularly the Families in Faith religious education program on Sundays or is enrolled in Catholic School.

Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children in the faith. Please use the parent guide prepared for you to assist you in your ministry of preparing your child at home for First Eucharist. Please be a witness to your child by discussing your feelings concerning receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. You—with your experience, your faith, your commitment—are the best gifts you bring to sacramental preparation. No program or book can take the place of a parent's personal witness.

During this preparation time please focus on praying with your child.

Review the procedure of receiving Holy Communion with your child. Steps are provided in the parent guide.

Assist your child in making a First Eucharist banner. A banner kit will be provided and handed out at the March 7th meeting. The banners will hang in the Church during the first two weeks of May.

First Eucharist celebrated on May 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

Please read the parent supplemental handouts provided during this preparation process.

Confirmation

For those Baptized and celebrated First Communion in childhood

The preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins in the fall. It will last approximately seven months. St. Pius X invites youth who have reached middle school age and feel they are ready to receive the sacrament to join us for the preparation. The preparation consists of 6 mini retreats and 2 off site retreats. There will also be extra events that would help for preparation but not required. All activities will help the candidates to grow in the faith and community. For more information, contact Matt Hunt at the parish office, 684-4745.

2009-2010 Confirmation Schedule

Orientation

Date: August 16th

Rite of Enrollment

Dates: August 29th & 30th

Time: All the Masses

Baptism: Born in the Holy Spirit

Date: August 30th

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Place: St. Pius X

Christian Service Witnessing to God's Justice

Date: October 2nd-3rd

Time: TBA

Location: Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center

Guided & Strengthened by the Holy Spirit

Date: November 15th

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Location: St. Pius X

Confirmation: Sealed with the Holy Spirit

Date: December 13th

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Location St. Pius X

NET Retreat (National Evangelization Team)

Date: January

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

The Eucharist: Nourished Through the Holy Spirit

Date: January 9th
Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm
Location: St. Pius X

Christian Morality: What does Love Look Like?

Date: February 14th
Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm
Location: St. Pius X

Prayer: Communion with God

Date: March 20th
Time 9:00pm-3:00pm
Location: St. Joseph Monastery (Whitesville, KY)

Confirmation: Celebrating the Rite

Rehearsal/Mini-Retreat
Date: Saturday April 17th
Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm
Location: St. Pius X

Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday April 18th at 5:00pm

YOUTH MINISTRY

High School Youth Ministry: Students in grades 9th – 12th meet once per week on Sunday evenings for two hours. Part of this time is spent in prayer and discussion regarding a specific topic. The remainder of the time is spent playing games, doing various activities and fellowship.

Middle School Youth Ministry: Students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades meet once per week on Wednesday evenings. The youth gather for evening Mass and then continue their session immediately following Mass. The middle school sessions typically last one and one-half hour. Part of this time is spent in prayer and discussion regarding a specific topic. The remainder of the time is spent playing games doing various activities and fellowship.

For all youth activities please call Matt Hunt at the parish office, 684-4745.

FAMILIES IN FAITH
Religious Education/Faith Formation
 2009-2010 Schedule

August	23	Opening Picnic after 11:00 am Mass
	30	Regular Session
September	6	Labor Day Weekend <i>No Session</i>
	13	Regular Session
	20	Regular Session
	27	Regular Session
October	4	Regular Session
	11	Regular Session
	18	Fall Break <i>No Session</i>
	25	Regular Session
November	1	Regular Session
	8	Regular Session
	15	Regular Session
	22	Regular Session
	29	Thanksgiving Break <i>No Session</i>
December	6	Regular Session
	13	Regular Session
	20 & 27	Christmas Break <i>No Session</i>
January	3	Regular Session
	10	Regular Session
	17	Regular Session
	24	Regular Session
	31	Koinonia <i>No Session</i>
February	7	Regular Session
	14	Regular Session
	21	Regular Session
	28	<i>No Session</i>
March	7	Regular Session

	14	Regular Session
	21	Regular Session
	28	Regular Session
April	4	Easter Break <i>No Session</i>
	11	Regular Session
	18	Regular Session
	25	Regular Session
May	2	Regular Session
	9	Mother's Day <i>No Session</i>
	16	Regular Session
	23	Regular Session

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AGREEMENT

As parent(s)/guardian, I have read the Religious Education Handbook and will support its policies.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

As a disciple of Christ, I agree to abide by the rules and policies contained in the Religious Education Handbook.

Child/Youth

Date

Child/Youth

Date

Child/Youth

Date

Child/Youth

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