

SAINT RITA OF CASCIA PARISH

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

6243 S. FAIRFIELD AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60629
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SAINT RITA OF CASCIA PARISH – AUGUSTINIAN FATHERS
PARROQUIA SANTA RITA DE CASCIA – PADRES AGUSTINOS

PROGRAM POLICIES/*NORMAS DEL PROGRAMA*

Bilingual Edition / Edición Bilingüe

Revised and detailed information of the Policies of the Office of Religious Education
Una revisión detallada de las Normas de la Oficina de Educación Religiosa

IMPORTANT INFORMATION / *INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE:*

- A. This manual contains the policies from the Office of Religious Education. / *Este manual contiene las normas del Programa de Educación Religiosa de la Parroquia de Santa Rita de Cascia.*
- B. We reserve the right to make variations to the policies. Each problem will be treated individually according to the specific context. / *El programa se reserva el derecho de hacer variaciones a estas normas. Cualquier problema que pudiera suceder se tratará de manera individual.*
- C. The policies stated here are subject to changes or to be canceled if necessary. / *Las normas están sujetas a cambios y/o ser descontinuadas si es necesario.*
- D. We will inform parents and students of any changes as soon as they become effective. / *Se mantendrá a los padres y estudiantes informados de los cambios tan pronto como se lleven a cabo.*

All Catechetical sessions will be held at / *las clases de Educación Religiosa se llevarán a cabo en:*

Fairfield Academy School
6201 S. Fairfield Ave. Chicago, IL 60629
Tel: 773-434-9600 ext. 27 & 31
Fax: 773-434-9668

Dear Parents:

The Religious Education program of St. Rita of Cascia parish welcomes you to begin this new catechetical year of 2017 – 2018. We are very pleased that you have put your confidence in us to educate your child in the Catholic Faith. Our Program has wonderful and generous catechists who have volunteered to help teach the faith to the children of our parish. We put ourselves in your hands to help us with your prayer and support to be effective instruments of God so we can spread effectively the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This handbook provides you with the essential information about our religious education program. For this reason, I ask you to spend some minutes to read and process this information. If you are informed with what this manual says, you will know how to proceed or act before any possible event. If you have any question, comment, suggestion that is related with this manual, please feel free to contact us directly with our office of religious education.

It is our intention to work together with you, parents, and us, catechists. Remember that you are the primary educator of your child: *“The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called “the domestic church,” a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity”*. (CCC # 1666). Knowing this statement from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, our team of catechists will help you with the faith education of your child. The catechists will not take your place as parents of your child. Our main goal is assist you in whatever way we can.

Finally, I would like to tell you that this education of your child does not come from you or our catechists only but it comes from the whole Christian community of St. Rita of Cascia Parish, our staff and above all Fr. Anthony Pizzo, our pastor. Together, we will make this catechetical work very productive.

God Bless you all!

Juan Carlos Roca
Director of Religious Education

Requirements for registration in the St. Rita of Cascia Religious Education Program:

Registration starts in the third week of May. All documents and at least the first deposit for tuition must be paid at registration.

Needed documents: Birth certificate, Baptismal certificate, First Communion certificate (if making their Confirmation).

Tuition:	1 Child	\$220.00	or Deposit of	\$130.00
	2 Children	\$280.00	“	\$160.00
	3 Children	\$310.00	“	\$190.00
	4 Children	\$340.00	“	\$220.00

Sacramental fee: First Communion: \$55.00*
Confirmation: \$80.00*

(* Sacramental fee is paid two months prior to receiving First Communion or Confirmation. The sacramental fee covers expenditure for retreats, confirmation gown, and stipend for bishop, music –Confirmation- and some other decorations for First Communion and Confirmation).

St. Augustine Student Scholarship: All families qualify instantly to receive a discount of \$20.00 towards the tuition when you pay in full at the time of registration.

For families registering for the second, or succeeding, year, tuition costs are reduced: \$180 (1 child), \$240 (2 children), \$270 (3 children), and \$300 (4 or more children).

Mission Statement:

The mission of all catechists, volunteers, and all who are involved in our religious education program is to live Jesus' last commandment:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”.

Matthew 28:19-20

The catechists and volunteers of St. Rita of Cascia Parish will work closely with our pastor and parents to provide instruction in the faith, opportunities for prayers, retreats, and liturgical celebrations for the children who are the future and hope of our Church. Therefore, it is expected that each family become actively involved in the St. Rita of Cascia religious education and parish in order to model a living conscious, and active Christian faith and to reinforce the values and attitudes for living that faith. Families and their children also agree to follow any policy written in this handbook. Failure to follow any policy of our program, the St. Rita of Cascia religious education may remove a child from continuing his/her religious education with us.

Our Goals:

1. Recruit, prepare, and enable catechists to effectively share the faith of the Catholic Church with the children and parents of our Religious Education Program.
2. Support parents in their role as primary catechists of their children.
3. Guide the children to see Jesus as the center of their lives, helping them to accept Christian values.
4. Assist the students to discover the richness and challenges of the Scriptures, teachings, and the traditions of our Catholic Church.
5. Provide appropriate instruction for children of seven years-old (or older) who have not participated in any formal religious instructions in the past nor have been baptized yet to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil mass. These young people must enter into RCIA process to have a complete communion within the Catholic Church.
6. Provide appropriate instruction for children who are ready to celebrate their First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.
7. Build a strong Catholic identity among all participants, helping them to experience Church as the family of God.
8. Encourage the students to have full participation in liturgical celebrations, especially Sunday Mass, as well as, personal prayer and devotions, such as, the Rosary, Eucharistic adoration, Stations of the Cross, Novenas, etc.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN:

In June of 2002, the United States Conference of Bishops approved the following process to be effective in every Diocese for the protection of Children. All priests, employees and volunteers must comply with the following requirements:

- Attend the “PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN / Virtus Safe Environment Program”.
- Complete the continuous educational bulletin from Virtus.
- Fill out a “Criminal Background” form.
- Read and sign the acknowledging form of the Archdiocesan Code of Conduct.
- Complete the CANTS (Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System) form.

Since the beginning of 2005, all Catholic schools and programs of religious education have included the “*The Child Lures Program and Called to Protect –Praesidium-*” which helps children to understand and learn how to protect themselves. Likewise, parents also receive information on strategies against child abuse.

ABUSE REPORT:

The legal definition of abuse is the mistreatment of a person under the age of 18 years-old by a parents or responsible caretaker. Neglect is when a parent or responsible caretaker fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or other basic needs for a child.

State Law requires that any adult in supervisory role must report any suspected physical or sexual abuse to the proper authorities. The same Law protects erroneous reporting from liability. Catechists are to report such abuse to their Director immediately. The State Department of Children and Family Services is then informed.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Parents are essential in the formation of our children. Therefore, the excellence and effectiveness of our program depends on our mutual efforts. Communication between parents and the Office for Religious Education will also be important in the formation of our children.

We hope the parents read the material that is sent to be informed of any event within the program. Please always ask your child to give you the calendar each month so that you know what is going on in the Religious Education Program.

1. Remember to ask your child if he or she has homework and make sure it is done.
2. Remember to pray with your children everyday so that they can learn the prayers and create a habit of prayer.
3. Remember to participate in Mass every Sunday as required by our obligation as Catholics.
4. The Office of Religious Education will keep you informed through calendars that we will give every month to your child. Please, remember to ask your child about calendars because sometimes we could have changes in our program.
5. Remember to notify the office by phone when a child is going to be absent.
6. Remember to notify the office before taking a child out of the program.
7. Make sure that your child brings his/her book, notebook, and pencil in class.
8. Remember to pick up your child as soon as classes end.
9. Remember to pay your child's catechesis tuition and fees.
10. As parents, you must participate in the first parent's retreat (*normally a week before classes begin*), every parent's formation class and an annual retreat for sponsors and parents (it is only for those who are in the second year of catechesis).
11. Parents of participants must attend our **Parent Formation Program** every other week as determined by the Religious Education Program.

TUITION AND FINANCES:

In 2009, our pastor Fr. Anthony Pizzo, approved the creation of the **Saint Augustine Scholarship** in order to help all families by providing \$20.00 towards their tuition fees when paying in full at the time of registration.

The Religious Education Program fee helps us to pay all expenses associated with this program: electricity, insurances, office supplies, school supplies that children use for the catechetical year, books, and salaries. The tuition DOES NOT COVER THE CONFIRMATION GOWN OR RETREAT. Therefore:

- **Before classes, the deposit is refundable. After classes begin, there are no refunds.**
- The book and at least the deposit fee must be paid when the child is registered.
- ***If you still have a balance of your tuition, it must be paid before the end of February of the present catechetical year.***
- If your child's tuition fees are not up to date, we reserve the right to suspend your child from class until it is paid.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS:

- Catechists are to presume that schedule of classes, meetings, workshops, and sacraments will be followed as it is printed in the annual calendar (the Office will give you a calendar at the beginning of the catechetical year).
- If the Chicago Public School cancels classes (for example, if there is a snow storm, either the day before or the day of our schedule events) our event is likewise automatically canceled.
- The program assumes responsibility for notifying you of any other schedule changes by phone messages or text messages.
- If there is an emergency and classes must be cancelled without prior notice, we will post signs on the building that morning and we will call you to notify any cancelation.

VISITORS:

- ✓ For your and our security, everyone entering into the building must report their presence at the main office.
- ✓ Visitors must ask permission to the main office to enter into the building
- ✓ Visitors need permission from the main office and the catechist before entering into a classroom.
- ✓ If you require a meeting with the catechist, let her know ahead of time.

PARKING LOT DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES:

The Church parking lot rules for drop-off and pick-up are as follows:

- ❖ The main entrance is on 62nd Street (the door closest to Washtenaw Street).
- ❖ Please do not block the front sidewalk on the entrance of the school.
- ❖ Please, remember to park your car in appropriate places.
- ❖ Students should enter through the front doors of the building not through the parking lot doors.
- ❖ No student should ever be outside unaccompanied.
- ❖ All students need to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult during drop-off/pick up.

MASS ATTENDANCE:

Sunday Mass is mandatory for the whole family. At the end of Mass, a stamped bulletin will be given to those who attend it. That bulletin is expected to be given back to the catechist on the following Saturday. If you do not attend mass at St. Rita, make sure to bring the parish bulletin from the church you normally participate.

St. Rita of Cascia normally has the family Mass every second Sunday of the month at 12:00PM. Families who have children in the program are expected to participate. Children have to bring non perishable food to be given in this mass. Please read carefully your annual calendar so you will know the exact dates of these family Masses.

LIST OF SUPPLIES:

Parents must make sure that children should bring for classes:

- Catholic Bible (we sell bibles for \$10.00).
- Book for class.
- 1 sharpened pencil with good eraser.
- 1 highlighter for making key points in book.
- 1 box of regular tip markers for activities.
- 1 box of 8 crayons for activities.
- Small bottle of Elmer's glue.
- 1 pocket folder for papers.
- 1 back-pack or canvas bag large enough to carry a 9 x 12 folder and supplies.

Thanks for helping your child/teen to stay organized and ready for each session. Please be sure not to lose the book given at the beginning of the program. The cost per book is \$25.00 if it is lost.

FOOD FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE (SOCIAL JUSTICE):

Starting September, every other week we will be collecting food for the less fortunate of our community. We ask that each participant bring non-perishable food for our brothers and sisters with limited resources. Please help us by motivating your children to share. You will see a symbol of food in your calendar. This indicates that you should share food with those in need.

Before bringing any non-perishable food, check the expiration day at the bottom of the can. **DO NOT BRING PERISHABLE FOOD!** We pray to the Lord to continue blessing you and may He multiply your gifts.

ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE:

Attendance to Saturday classes is mandatory. No child should be outside of the building while classes are in session. For your child's safety, parents will be contacted if a child is absent without prior notice.

- Participants should be lined up inside the gym at 9:00AM and not in the hallways.
- Communal prayer starts at 9:05AM.
- Students arriving later than 9:15AM will be brought to the office and marked "tardy".
- We do not accept tardiness: 3 late arrivals equals to 1 absence, 3 consecutive absences equals to a cancelation of your child's participation in the program. There are exceptions when there is an emergency. If your child cannot attend to classes, parents should notify the office.
- Catechists will accompany students up to their classrooms. **Students should never go alone to their classrooms.**
- No child should take anything from the classroom if it does not belong to them.
- It is imperative that students participate in all sessions.
- Catechist will register their class and mass attendance at the beginning of each session.
- When your son or daughter returns to school after being sick or having some kind of contagious illness, you have to present a note from the doctor to justify the absences.
- We request that every child should respect everyone in the program. When a serious issue happens, the child will be removed from his/her class and parents will be contacted.
- A fight, graffiti, etc. equals an instant expulsion from the program (see graffiti area in this handbook).
- **Early dismissal to attend sport practices or similar activities is not allowed.** Religious Education is a priority.
- Students are not allowed to bring things of great value to class, such as, MP3 players, cellphones, videogames, large amount of money, etc. The parish is not responsible for the loss of any items.

INFORMATION/ADDRESS CHANGE/PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

The Office for Religious Education **must be notified immediately** when you change address, telephone and/or cellphone number. Our files must be up to date so in any event of emergency we could reach you promptly.

BATHROOM USAGE AND BREAKS:

Saint Rita of Cascia's Religious Education is a safe space; therefore, to ensure it, we must understand that:

- a) Participants will have access to bathrooms under the supervision of their respective catechist.
- b) No student should take markers, pens, or sharp instruments to the bathrooms.
- c) In case that we find a student writing on bathroom walls, we will proceed as stated under graffiti. Parents will receive a phone call from the Director to have a meeting.

SAFETY:

Certain precautions are made to assure the safety and protection of the children enrolled in the program:

1. Parents must drop off and pick up their children at the front door, not in their cars.
2. All doors to the school remain locked throughout the day.
3. We will not permit the entrance to anyone, unless they identify themselves.
4. The police will be called for any suspicious actions.
5. Caution your children to not accept gifts, food or rides from strangers.
6. Alert us of any suspicious behavior around the school premises.
7. Learning is not possible when children do not respect each other, so please teach your child how to respect others.
8. Our parish reserves the right to maintain good order in classrooms, including the right to expel a student from the program when it is necessary. This decision is left to the Program Director and/or the pastor.
9. No child should be alone without adult supervision.
10. We will communicate with parents if your child is not present.
11. If you leave by another door than the entry, please be sure that this is securely closed.
12. For security of our children in the Program, we will not allow gang clothing, colors, or any gang member in the building

GRAFFITI AND THEFT:

The Office for Religious Education at St. Rita believes that all participants should grow with a deep sense of respect and admiration to the Catholic Church, to God's people and all creation. We believe that our program must be free of any organization, gang, or group that promotes violence as meaning for change.

Any participant defacing, destroying, writing or painting on any of the school properties will be expelled from the program. **Parents are responsible for the costs of replacement, repair, cleanup, maintenance work caused by such vandalism act.** We will notify the police if necessary.

Under any circumstance, your child is not allowed to commit any kind of theft from the school or classmates, otherwise, your child will be expelled from the program.

REMOVAL FROM THE PROGRAM:

We are proud of our Religious Education Program and our ministry of sharing the Christian faith. We believe in the importance of a safe non-violent space for faith formation, respect, and caring love among participants and catechists. Please, talk with your children about the importance of mutual respect and our Catholic foundation:

- ❖ Removal from the program means that your child will not be able to continue to participate in the program.
- ❖ Parents will be able to register their child again only by previous dialogue with the Director.
- ❖ If your child has been removed from our program and you want to transfer him/her to another program, documents will be given only when tuition is paid in full. In addition to this, the document will explain why your child was removed from our program.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

The Religious Education Program at Saint Rita of Cascia is part of the Archdiocese of Chicago and applies the archdiocesan policies as stated by the Archdiocesan Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry.

Our Program is a bilingual Catholic program. As Catholics, we believe that all human beings are sons and daughters of one God. We admit students of any race, color, sex, nationality, and/or ethnic origin. We do not discriminate on basis of sex, race, color, religion, or nationality.

EMERGENCY AND INJURES:

- Our office is equipped with a basic medical kit.
- In case of an emergency, we will contact 911 and the parents of the student.
- No staff member or volunteer is allowed to administer medication to children.
- If any emergency would happen during the catechesis hours, all students will stay in school until the problem is under control or until parents come to pick up their children.
- We kindly ask that, in the moment of registration, you explain in detail if your child suffers of any illness or any learning disability that we should be aware of.

SACRAMENTS:

St. Rita of Cascia parish emphasizes that our catechesis is not simply Sacramental Preparation. What we do is Religious Education, it means that we give a systematic catechesis. All participants are in their respective school grades and through the religious education, children will receive the sacraments. In addition to this, parents must be involved in their children's education and if we want to succeed in our program, we have to follow certain rules:

- ✓ Confirmation candidates and First Communion candidates must attend a spiritual retreat. The retreat is mandatory. If your child does not attend the retreat, he/she will be asked to attend one more year to receive his/her sacrament.
- ✓ Parents whose children will receive any sacrament the present year, must attend a spiritual retreat too. We will inform you about it in the calendar. The retreat is mandatory.
- ✓ **Two months prior to receiving Confirmation or First Communion, parents must pay a sacramental fee. For Confirmation it is \$80.00 and for First Communion it is \$55.00. The sacramental fee covers expenses, such as, retreat house, school materials for the retreat (Confirmation and First Communion), lunch for the retreat, Confirmation gown, decorations, music, etc.**
- ✓ All children, without exception, must attend at least two years of Religious Education to receive First Communion or Confirmation.
- ✓ **If your son/daughter is attending sixth grade, or upper grade, and he/she has not received yet his/her First Communion, your child has to complete TWO YEARS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO RECEIVE FIRST COMMUNION and, if he/she continues the Religious Education for one more year, then he/she may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (in the third year of catechesis).**

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) for Children

The Religious Education Program of St. Rita of Cascia has the catechetical process RCIA for children in school year. This catechesis is the preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation –Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation-. This catechetical process is for children –seven years-old or older-who have not participated in any religious instruction nor have been baptized yet. These young people must enter into RCIA –Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults adapted for children- process to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation at Easter Vigil Mass so they could be in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Our Religious Education requires that the student must complete two continuous years to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Also, our program requires that your child has to attend one additional year in the regular classes of catechesis (Saturdays).

Quinceañeras:

If a parent is registering his/her daughter in the religious education program with the intention of her celebrating her quinceañera, she must be at least in her second year of catechesis towards Confirmation before the family is allowed to schedule the quinceañera Mass date.

CEREMONIAL DRESS POLICY:

First Communion

1. First Communion girls will wear a white dress. The dress must have sleeves. We will not accept hoops on the dress or gloves.
2. Boys can wear their suits in the color white and blue. The shirt will be white and pants blue.
3. No jeans or gym shoes are accepted.
4. Religious items like candle, rosary, and Bible are not necessary and children cannot hold onto them during Mass.

Confirmation:

- Confirmation candidates may wear any color, but jeans and gym shoes will not be accepted. It is also not accepted that girls wear short dresses or mini skirt. Nothing strapless or spaghetti straps. If a girl has a sleeveless dress or blouse she must wear a sweater over it. No plunging necklines. No cleavage!
- All Confirmation candidates will wear the confirmation gown at Confirmation day. The Confirmation gown will be given by the office paid for with the sacramental fee.

SPONSORS

- ❖ Sponsors must have the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and a sponsor has to be an example of faith to the candidate. For Confirmation, it is recommended to be the baptismal godparent. Parents cannot be sponsors of their own children.
- ❖ Sponsors must be 16 years old or older.
- ❖ Sponsors must attend a sponsor's retreat in our parish, otherwise, they must show a proof of attendance if it was taken in another parish.
- ❖ Sponsors can be single; if married, they must have received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Sponsors cannot be living in a free union with anyone.
- ❖ A Sponsor is mandatory for Confirmation but is optional for First Communion.
- ❖ **Sponsor should be practicing Catholics and able to receive Communion on the day of the Sacrament.**

Important Notice:

144. It is not mandatory to have sponsor (godparent) for First Communion. If you want to keep the tradition of having sponsor, we suggest to parents, and other relatives, the sponsor would be the one from Baptism or Confirmation*.

145. Sponsors must take into account their catechetical preparation to support, accompany, and motivate their godchildren to participate with them in the reception of the Eucharist*.

* These two numbers are accurate translations from the *Directorio Pastoral para los Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana (Pastoral Directory on the Sacraments of Christian Initiation)*, on the First Communion, Archdiocese of Mexico.

WHY BE A CATECHIST?

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Mathew 28:19-20

What is a Catechist?

- a) A catechist is not only a teacher. He/she is also a friend but the catechist is focused to teach and share the doctrine of the Catholic Church
- b) A catechist is not a religious therapist but the catechist is concerned about the student's education.
- c) Being a catechist is an important ministry in the Catholic Church.

Responsibilities and Blessings of a catechist:

- a) It is imperative that the catechist be present in all classes and meetings.
- b) Arrive at least 30 minutes early to pray together and talk as a team.
- c) If a catechist is unable to attend class, she/he must inform the office in advance.
- d) The catechist must escort the students from the Gym to their classrooms.
- e) The catechist must prepare her/his class in advance.

Methodology and class preparation:

- a) A good catechist prepares her/his class in advance taking into account his/ her time, topic, age and needs of children.
- b) A good catechist takes time to reflect in how to help children's spiritual life.
- c) A good catechist always carries a record attendance of classes and attendance at Mass.
- d) A good catechist keeps updated the Report Card of each student.
- e) A good catechist attends workshops, retreats, and asks how to improve her/his skill as a catechist. He/she always takes into account the reality of children.

Ongoing Formation and Spiritual formation:

- a) The office of Religious Education has to support the Archdiocesan Certification process for each catechist.
- b) The catechist has deep personal faith in Jesus Christ, so to live as a Child of God. In sum, he/she must be a person of prayer.
- c) The catechist has to be an example of faith to the children and his/her community.

ST. RITA OF CASCIA PARISH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Parents/Children Policy Handbook

This is to acknowledge that I have received and read the St. Rita of Cascia Religious Education Parent's handbook. I understand and agree to cooperate with the policies set forth in the handbook. My signature will be kept on file for the duration of my child's enrollment or until an updated handbook is published.

..... Parent's name Parent's signature Date
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Child's name Grade

St. Rita of Cascia Religious Education reserves the right to make any change to our policies written in this handbook or changing any date made in our annual calendar when the situation demands. Any changes we make, we will notify you immediately.

*This Parent Handbook is reviewed annually and adjusted according to the needs of the St. Rita of Cascia Religious Education Program. May God Bless You All!
Juan Carlos Roca, Director of Religious Education. (This manual was revised on May 24, 2017).*

Religious Education Program: Summary of the Curriculum

First Grade

Students will learn that God's love for us comes through creation. Students will learn that God loves us and He wants us to love him. Students will be introduced to the mystery of the Holy Trinity where they will learn that Jesus is the Son of God and Jesus died for us because He loves us.

Second Grade

Students will learn how Jesus became man and came to earth to save us from sin and eternal death. Students will be introduced to the Liturgy celebrated in the Mass, and the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Third Grade

The students will learn that God sent his only Son to teach us to love one another. This value is learned within the Church, which is the family of God. Students learn that within the Church Jesus calls us to be his disciples and this discipleship calls us to spread the kingdom of God in the world. In addition, students will be introduced in the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Fourth Grade

Students will learn that Jesus is the way of life to follow. Jesus is the way, truth and life. In addition, students will learn the meaning of the Ten Commandments and how these commandments are the rule of life to love God, ourselves, and others. God called us to holiness through these commandments that God gave us.

Fifth Grade

Students will learn how Jesus shares his life with us in the Church and how the Church makes clear this testimony of Jesus through the sacraments. In addition, students will learn that the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation complete our Christian Initiation. Students will also be introduced to the sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders.

Sixth Grade

Students will learn the origin of humanity written in the bible. Basically, students will learn how God was present in the history of humankind and how He promises, through prophets, that He would send his only Son to save us from sin. Students will learn that Jesus is the expected Messiah and, according to the Scriptures, in Him everything is fulfilled.

Seventh Grade, and upper grades

Students will participate enthusiastically in the activities of the parish. It focuses more on a program based on cooperation-participation. Students will be motivated to create small groups where the student takes into account everyone in the group. Everybody listens to each other's ideas, opinions and respecting each other. The topics of study will focus on what it means to be Catholic, morality, Jesus and the New Testament, Sacraments and the challenge of interpersonal relationships.