
PARENTS HANDBOOK

2014-2015



**SAN ISIDRO CATHOLIC CHURCH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
2310 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD.
POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA 33069
(954) 971-8780 Ext. 204**

From the Pastor



Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you and your child to the San Isidro Catholic Church Religious Education Program. It is a privilege to have this opportunity to assist you in teaching your child more about what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church. We especially believe that it is very important to help your child develop a personal relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As a parent you are the primary religious faith educator for your son/daughter. The environment and practices you keep at home have a powerful influence on the faith development of your child. We invite you to attend Mass here on a weekly basis. It is important for the children to join with the community in the loving worship of our Lord. Your participation will show your child that you regard these practices as important and worthwhile.

The objective of this handbook is to garner your support and involvement to help us reach our faith education goals. Please feel free to consult with Mayra if you have any questions or concerns.

We believe that if we, as adults, show our commitment to Jesus and His Way, our children will follow our example. May we all work together to bring a living Jesus into each other's lives.

Please pray for the success of our efforts.

Rev. Miguel Gomez
Pastor

LETTER FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Parents:

Thank you for joining us for the 2014-2015 Religious Education year. I am pleased to have each of you as members of our catechetical program. Our mission as a church is to build a foundation of faith from which all children and their families, will grow in their knowledge of God and the Roman Catholic Church.

It is very important to take the time to read this handbook with your child carefully. It contains all the information about the program, the requirements and much more.

Please feel free to talk to me about any concerns or problems you might have. I am here to support you in any way I can.

God bless you !

In Christ,

Mayra Rivera
Coordinator of Religious Education



SAN ISIDRO CATHOLIC CHURCH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Miguel Gómez
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Julio Rivero
Rev. Robert Ayala
Coordinator of Religious Education: Mayra Rivera
RCIA Coordinators: Misael Girón

Children's Liturgy of the Word coordinators: Janet Bury

OFFICE HOURS:

General Office Hours:
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Phone Number: 954-971-8780 Ext. 204
E-mail: mayrarivera@sanisidro.org

CLASS SCHEDULE

1st - 3 rd grades/catechumen	Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
4 th – 6 th grades	Mondays 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
7 th grade – High School	Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our program at San Isidro welcomes children from first grade through High School. Children gather weekly to foster a living faith in the Lord through study and application of God's word to their lives.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Children of the appropriate age undergo preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. The reception of a sacrament for the first time is an important step in the process of Christian initiation begun at Baptism. For this reason, careful study and preparation are of primary importance.

Here at San Isidro, two years of continuous Religious Education as well as weekly attendance to Sunday liturgy are required.



CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Requirements for First Communion and Reconciliation:

- Original Baptism Certificate
- Child must maintain a satisfactory attendance record for classes
- Parental involvement with child's religious education and participation at scheduled meetings
- Must attend Mass on Saturday evenings or Sundays
- Has an appropriate knowledge of the prayers, sacraments, commandments, etc.
- It is important that the child comes to know and accept in faith that Jesus is really present in the Holy Host. He/she must be aware of the difference of unconsecrated and consecrated bread
- A great desire to want to receive Jesus present in the consecrated Host
- Attendance at the scheduled celebrations and activities

Requirements for Confirmation

- Has an appropriate understanding of the prayers, sacraments, commandments, etc.
- Understands what it means to live a Christian life and wants to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Complete service projects to the community
- Parents participation at scheduled meetings
- Maintain a satisfactory attendance for classes
- Must attend Mass on Saturday evenings or Sundays
- Check calendar for special celebrations
- Attendance at the scheduled activities and confirmation retreat

***PARENTS HAVE TO AGREE TO FOLLOW THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION ATTIRE , PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO.*

POLICIES

Bring Children Closer To Jesus Through Day-To-Day Prayer

The Catholic Church has a beautiful and rich tradition of prayers that have come down to each generation over the centuries. These forms of prayer are valuable for several reasons:

- They permit us to pray when perhaps our spirits are such that we cannot seem to master speaking to God spontaneously.
- They unite all of us together as individuals, permitting us to pray the same prayer as a group.

Prayer is an ongoing experience; it begins when the very young child experiences a relationship with God through his parents. Where can a child better learn a spirit of prayer than from the teaching and example of his/her own parents? With this in mind, please pray the following prayers with your child (see attached prayers):The Sign of the Cross, Glory Be, Our Father, Act of Contrition, Hail Mary, Apostles Creed.

Going to Mass

Going to Mass is a gift for all Catholics. It is our badge of identity with the Church. For many, it is the most frequent way of staying in touch with God through Scripture and the Eucharist. We ask that you make every effort to come to Mass as a family. Whether using a missalette or a Bible in Church, review all the prayers, responses and readings with your child. Explain as much as you can about the Mass. Take the opportunity to share the Bread and Wine and the union of Christ with your children on a regular basis.

Attendance

We ask that students attend class on a regular basis. Any student absence requires a note to the catechist or call to the office. *If a student has three (3) or more absences in a school year, the parent will be required to meet with the Coordinator. At this review, the student will either be suspended or re-admitted to the program. Your child may be required to repeat a year if they do not meet our attendance standards.*

Tardiness

Class begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays. When a student is late it disrupts the class. *As such students who are late three (3) times in a school year will have one (1) absence added to their attendance record. Please remember that 3 or more absences can result in suspension from the program.*

Dress Code

Children must dress appropriately when coming to class. No mini-skirts, No tank tops, No shirts exposing the belly, No pants below the waist, No shorts, No sleepers and nothing with obscene signs. *If children do not comply with the dress code they will be sent home. No exceptions.*

Discipline

Students are expected to behave in a respectful and appropriate manner. Respect

for classmates, catechists, staff and church property are a priority. Students using obscene language, physical violence, disrespect to classmates, teachers or staff, or vandalism will be sent to see the Coordinator. Parents will be called immediately. This incident will also be considered as an absence because the child did not complete the class for that day.

No items such as food, gum, laser pens, toys, cell phones, electronic devices or other items considered by the teacher to be inappropriate may be brought to class. These items will be taken from the student and may be returned after class.

Students can't bring friends or visitors, who are not registered in our program.

Class Requirements

Each student will be issued a workbook and a Bible. These books should be treated with respect and be brought to class each week. *Students who lose their books will be required to pay for a replacement.*

Dismissals

We require children to complete the full session of each class. If you need to pick up your child early, you must obtain approval from the Coordinator. We ask that parents do not enter the classroom until the class has ended. All children in grades 1st through 6 must be picked up in their classrooms. Children in 7th grade and up (Confirmation classes only) will walk outside of the parish offices with one of their teachers. PLEASE BE PROMPT IN PICKING UP YOUR CHILD. If your child is not outside, you have to park the car and walk to pick her/ him up or keep driving forward so you don't block the parked cars and the church entrance.

Late pick up Policy

After a reasonable amount of time (approximately 10 minutes) where a volunteer catechist remains with a student who has not been picked up at the dismissal time, the student will be brought to the Religious Education Office. At that point, parents are called, or some other relative is called and asked to pick up the student. If it happens to the same student very often it will be a late charge of \$5.00 for every 15 minutes late.

Expectations

A. Parents:

1. Ensure that their children attend classes regularly and on time.
2. Communicate any special needs or circumstances that may affect their child within the classroom.
3. Be an active part of their children's learning and be involved in the classroom at the catechist's request.
4. Attend the parents meetings that are scheduled for the school year.

B. Students:

1. Behave in a Christian manner at all times showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students.
2. Actively participate in classroom activities and discussions.
3. Attend class regularly and complete any assignments or homework.
4. Respect the code of conduct:
 - Respect for others and for others' property
 - No abuse of Tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs
 - No weapons on premises
 - Rules and consequences to be posted in the room
5. Dress appropriately when coming to church

C. Catechists

1. Provide a loving Christian atmosphere within the learning environment so that children will be able to grow in their faith.
2. Prepare and teach designated curriculum.
3. Be a Christian role model.
4. Communicate regularly with parents and involve them in the faith development of their children.

Communication

We are here to serve the religious education needs of our children, youth and adults. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to share them with your child's catechist or call the religious education office.

**San Isidro Catholic Church
Religious Education Program**

Parent and Student Commitment Agreement

We (parents and children) have read the Religious Education Handbook of San Isidro Catholic Church and we understand and agree to cooperate with the parish policies set forth in the handbook.

- Requirements for: Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Requirements for: Confirmation
- Bring Children Closer To Jesus
through Day-To-Day Prayer
- Going to Mass
- Attendance
- Tardiness
- Dress Code
- Discipline
- Class Requirements
- Dismissals
- Late Pick up Policy
- Parent and student expectations
- Communication
- Right to Amend
- We also agree to follow the decisions that the Office of Religious Education decides for the reception of the Sacraments (clothes, dates, photography and video)

Signed (parent/guardian, if married, both parents should sign)

Date

Signed (Student)

Grade

Important: Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher. This will also be used as an attendance to know who came to the meeting.