



Parish Mission Statement

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Parish in Spring City, PA is a community of believers who are committed to living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We strive to share God's love with others through the offering of our time, talent, and treasure—daily.

We gather as a parish family in a spirit of hospitality, to welcome those who search for a meaningful life experience in Worship, Faith, and Sacrament. Sensitive to the traditions and the challenging needs of our Church today, we journey together with a sense of great hope and confidence in God's promised presence to be with us always.

Religious Education Staff

Director: Mrs. Andrea Jackowski
Assistant: Mrs. Michele Mast

Religious Education Office

Mailing Address: 3640 Schuylkill Road
Spring City, PA 19475
Email Address: stjosephprep@comcast.net
Telephone Number: 610-850-4228 DRE Cell

Policies

Admission

All registered members of Saint Joseph parish may be admitted to the Parish Religious Education Program. Those who are from other parishes are required to receive approval from their home parish to enroll in our

programs. Applicants who have not been baptized at Saint Joseph Parish must provide a Baptismal certificate at the time of registration. For older students, a catechetical record of participation and Reconciliation and Eucharist certificates may also be required.

Registration

In person opportunities for registration will be provided each year starting in April. This year we ask that all families use the Religious Education Registration Form found on the parish website.

<https://www.stjosephspringcity.com/childrens-faith-formation/>

All registrations must be completed by August 22nd to avoid a late fee and reserve a spot in the program. All parish children are welcome to be a part of all our programs.

Class Days and Time

Due to the current COVID pandemic, we will be offering in-person as well as at-home study classes.

Dismissal

Students in the education building are dismissed from the outside porch. Teachers of grades 1– 3 will walk their class onto the porch as a group. Parents are asked to sign out each child. Atrium children will meet parents at the classroom doorway.

Absences

Parents are requested to telephone the Coordinator's cell phone (610-850-4228) when a student will be absent. Mention if they are missing due to a COVID symptom or positive test.

Methodology/Textbooks

The Sunday morning in-person Catechist lead program teams meet every other week and utilize textbook and/or pamphlet-based programs. The weekly at home program will utilize the same. Students are exposed to the fundamentals of our faith every year. Each year's curriculum builds on the previous year so that the learning is cohesive. Lessons include such topics as the Trinity, Mass, Sacraments, Mary, the Bible, the Church, etc. Children learn traditional Catholic prayers and formulas such as the Rosary and the parts of the Mass. All are presented in an age appropriate manner and inspire the children to seek out ways to practice their faith in their daily lives. The at home study will be reinforced with communication with from the grade level catechist.

For information on other St. Joseph Faith Formation options please see the Children's Faith Formation area on the website.

<https://www.stjosephspringcity.com/childrens-faith-formation/>

Attendance

In order to derive the maximum benefit from either in-person or at home activities:

- Students should strive for punctual and consistent attendance.
- The policy from the Archdiocese concerning candidates preparing to receive a sacrament (Penance, Eucharist, or Confirmation) – candidate is to have had two (2) years of immediate preparation.

- It is strongly recommended that students be permitted only two days absence during the school year, especially those preparing for a Sacrament.
- Time is a gift we do not have enough of for our students. Therefore, we are challenged to make the most of the little time we do have together.
- 30 hours of formal religious instruction is very little. So we ask you to help your children arrange their extra-curricular activities around faith time. Since catechists do not have time to repeat lessons for absentees, parents will be required to teach the missed lesson at home.
- Parents of in-class students are to work with students a minimum of 30 minutes a week on assignments from the catechist. These could include but are not limited to internet programs, service projects, liturgical participation, etc.

Grading System

As in all formal educational processes the

- Students will be tested on the material taught and studied
- Students may be given an assignment weekly to prepare and complete for the upcoming class
- Report cards will be issued twice a year
- Grades will be based on their test performance, home assignments, attendance and classroom participation

Discipline

Good conduct is expected from every child who is attending our Religious Education Programs. If a child is disruptive, he or she will be sent to the office to call their parents. Any disruption is unfair to both the catechist and the students who are present.

Early Dismissal

Early dismissal should be considered an unusual occurrence. Students must bring a written note of request to the classroom catechist. Parents are to report to the Religious Education Office to meet their child-not the classroom. Work that is missed because of early dismissal, must be completed and submitted at the next class time.

Emergency Closings

Emergency closings are reported by telephone chain to teachers, From KYW Radio 1060 and Mass announcements

Transfers

When a family is preparing to move from the parish the Religious Education Office should be notified. Students' records of attendance and levels completed will be forwarded to the new Religious Education Program upon the request of the parent.

Prayers and Formulas We Cherish and Commit to Memory

Memory is a God-given gift which children, young people and adults alike, possess. Employing the gift of memory in religious education will benefit the child at his/her particular stage of development.

People need a sense of belonging to a community when they pray together or converse about the faith. There is a disturbing sense of being left out when prayers said in common are unknown, when responses cannot be given when required at Mass or in Sacramental reception.

The religious guidelines of the Archdiocese enumerate the following prayers and other formulas to be committed to memory.

Level 1

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be (Doxology)
- Grace Before Meals
- Grace After Meals

Level 2

- Act of Contrition
- Lord Have Mercy (Mass)
- Simple Morning Offering
- Names of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, & Eucharist

Level 3

- Mass Responses
- Apostles Creed
- Prayer to the Holy Spirit
- The Rosary

Level 4

- Ten Commandments
- Beatitudes

- Names of the Seven Sacraments
- Hail Holy Queen

Level 5

- Morning Prayer
- Precepts of the Church
- Seven Sacraments
- Books of the New Testament
- Parts of the Mass

Level 6

- Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity

Level 7

- Act of Contrition
- Angelus
- Nicene Creed (Mass)
- Theological Virtues
- Cardinal Virtues
- Memorare

Events & Activities

There are many events throughout the year that we hope that all of our parish members will participate in to support our parish initiatives. There are some grade level expectations and sacramental expectations as

laid out below. Exact dates will be published by August each year with the entire Religious Education Calendar.

General (Not required)

September	Catechetical Sunday
October	Blessing of Pets
October/November	Food collection for Thanksgiving
October/November	Safe Touch Classes
December	Cookies with Santa
Palm Sunday	Easter Egg Hunt
First Sunday of May	May Crowning

Required Activities

Levels 1-3

November/December	Christmas Pageant Practices
December	Christmas Pageant

Level 4

November	4 th grade All Saints Presentation
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Levels 5-6

March/April	Living Stations Practice
March/April	Living Stations of the Cross



Parental Participation

“Family catechesis precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis.” JPII, Catechesis Tradendae 68

The Christian home is the First School and the parents are the first to communicate the faith to their children.

Vatican II Apostolate of the Laity, 11

Since example is more powerful than words, parents are urged to:

- Provide in the home an atmosphere of prayer.
- Promote Sunday Mass as a family.
- Encourage frequent reception of Holy Eucharist and Penance.
- Model Catholic ethics and Gospel charity within and outside the family.
- Attend Sacramental Program Meetings.
- Reinforce the catechist's work by:
 - Seeing that your child is **ON TIME** for class.
 - Supervising study and written assignments.
 - Spend at least 30 minutes on at home work per class with your child(ren)
 - Participating in family liturgies and seasonal activities of the program as provided.
 - Providing the catechist with absence notes.
 - Returning signed report cards on time.
- Notifying the program director regarding:
 - Special learning needs of your child.
 - Absences, emergency lateness.
 - Change of address, telephone, e-mail, or other family information.

Sacramental Preparation Programs

"Parents have a right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for the reception of the Sacraments. Catechesis aims to help the parents grow in understanding and appreciation of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation and to participate readily in catechizing their children." (National Catechetical Directory)

First Reconciliation and Eucharist

Children, their parents and families will celebrate the Eucharist by recalling that we have been baptized into God's family. Children will also celebrate their desire to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

If registering a child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, generally grade two, a child of Saint Joseph Parish must have completed at minimum two years of faith formation and have the appropriate catechetical background and understanding of the sacrament.

Reconciliation/Eucharist General Calendar

Exact dates will be published by August each year with the entire Religious Education Calendar.

September	1 st Reconciliation Parent Meeting
January	1 st Reconciliation Retreat (4 hrs)
January	First Reconciliation Practice
January	First Reconciliation
January	Inscription Masses
January	1 st Eucharist Parent Meeting
April	1 st Eucharist Retreat (4 hrs)
April	1 st Eucharist Practice
May	1 st Eucharist

Confirmation

A point in your child's young life when it is time for them to think about their role in our Church. The time when they begin thinking, in a more mature way about how Jesus works in their lives and how they can follow and serve Him.

To be eligible for the Sacrament of Confirmation, children of Saint Joseph parish should be at least in grade seven and have the appropriate catechetical

background and understanding of the sacrament. Children are also required to attend classes every week on Sundays 6:30 – 7:30 PM, Catholic School children are also encouraged to participate in the Sunday evening instruction. Additional forms will be handed out at the first parent meeting and are available on the website.

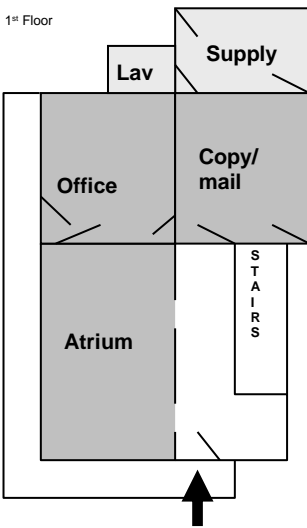
Sacrament Calendar

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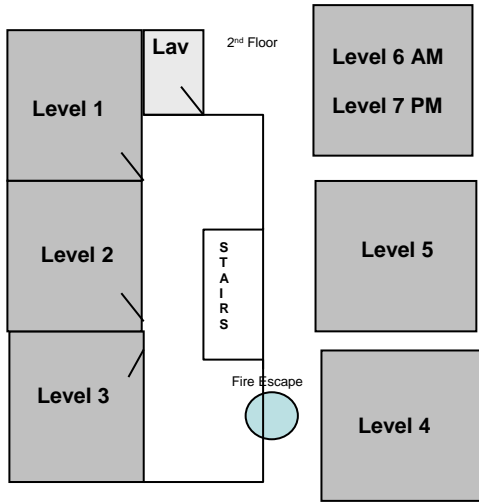
September	1 st Confirmation Child & Parent Meeting
October	Confirmation Retreat
January	Inscription Masses
January	2 nd Confirmation Child & Parent Meeting
February	Confirmation Interviews
April	Confirmand Reconciliation
May	Confirmation Practice
May 11	Confirmation

Education Buildings Floor Plans

not to scale



All students enter and leave through this door.



Religious Education Building

All students in this building are to be signed out!

Not to scale

