

# Sacred Heart Parish – Office of Religious Education

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are living in unusual circumstances, and we are blessed to have our faith in God's loving presence to support and guide us. I pray this note finds your family well and taking it one day at a time.

Our religion lessons are scheduled to begin on the weekend of September 13, 2020. I am aware of everyone's concerns for the classes to be provided in a safe manner. **We will begin our year with online weekly lessons.** As we get closer to September, we will provide directions about the format and how to access the lessons at our parish website. Hopefully we will be able to safely return to our classrooms as the year goes along when the pandemic situation improves.

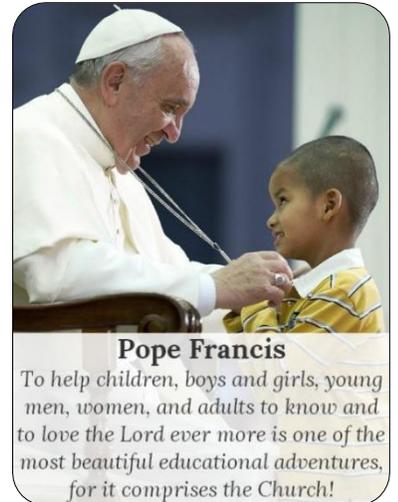
Along with our Pflaum "Gospel Weekly" lessons, we will be using *Catechesis for Family Life*. This program discusses Christian living, chastity, and character formation for making good choices. The topics are presented at appropriate-age levels. This too will be provided in your child's bag of materials for you to preview — along with a consent form. When all materials are ready to be picked up, we will notify you.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have, and please register your children as soon as possible in order to help us plan for the materials, catechists, and lessons. You can fill out the registration form included in this packet or use our online registration for your children at [www.shgparish.org/children](http://www.shgparish.org/children). Due to so many financial hardships at this time, I have lowered and simplified our fee to what I hope will be more manageable for many families. (If not, please register anyway and request a Financial Assistance Form.)

Blessings,

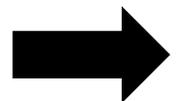


S. Cecilia Cyford, SSJ  
Coordinator of Religious Education



## Religious Education

- \* We have also received resources from The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for both children and adults regarding **Cultural Awareness and Racism**. Various quotes and readings from this material will be incorporated into our lessons.



# 2020–2021 Religious Education Program Descriptions

## *Pre-School (age 3) through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*(This information applies to a time in the future when we can safely return to our classrooms.)*

Traditional Religious Education classes for three-year-olds through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are held from September through the first week of May. These weekly classes are offered on Sunday and Monday (see below), and registration is required. We hope and pray that your children will continue to learn about their Catholic faith during every year of their lives.

Sundays 9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Pre-School (ages 3-4), Kindergarten, Grades 1 - 2</b>
Sundays 12:15 – 1:15 PM	<b>Spanish: Grades K – 6 and RCIC</b>
Mondays 7:00 – 8:15 PM	<b>Grades 3 through 8 and RCIC</b>



### **Sacrament Preparation**

Children usually prepare for, and receive, the sacraments of **Reconciliation** and **Eucharist** for the first time during 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Per Archdiocesan guidelines, all children preparing for Reconciliation and Eucharist (and later, Confirmation) need to have, at a minimum, one full year of study in a Catholic faith formation program (parish or school) **before** the year of sacrament preparation. Each sacrament preparation includes **two** parent and child meetings. The preparation process is a cooperative one involving parents, children, and catechists. First Penance is celebrated during the Advent season, and First Communion is celebrated in April or May.

If your child is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above and has **not** received one or more of the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, or Eucharist, he or she will be placed in the **Children’s Catechumenate (RCIC)** program. These classes are held on Mondays from 7:00 – 8:15 PM, and the sacrament preparation process is the same as described above. An RCIC class in Spanish is available on Sundays.

### **Family-Home Study Program (FHS)**

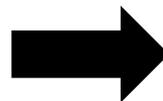
The FHS program is for families who desire to take responsibility for teaching the religion lessons at home during the year. Grade-appropriate lessons are distributed in September. In order to foster a connection between the Religious Education Office and families, children *and* parents are expected to attend special monthly sessions (usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:15 PM). These sessions consist of a group prayer followed by a parent and child presentation and activity together with Sister Cecilia. If you do not feel that you can attend the monthly sessions, it is best to sign up for the regular weekly religion classes.

### **Additional Note**

- As an integral part of our faith formation curriculum, we will be teaching “*Catechesis for Family Life*”. This age-appropriate program about Christian living, chastity, character formation, and safe environment training promotes communication between you and your child. You are encouraged to review the program materials that the teacher/catechist will be using in the classroom. After examining the program, if you have any questions or concerns about your child participating in this program, please contact Sister Cecilia at 410-833-8515.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) and the Sunday morning nursery will also return later in the year when safety conditions permit it.**

# Sacred Heart Religious Education – Student Registration



410-833-8515 • [www.shgparish.org/children](http://www.shgparish.org/children) • [sr.cecilia@shgparish.org](mailto:sr.cecilia@shgparish.org) | [hment@shgparish.org](mailto:hment@shgparish.org)

## Student Information

*(Please print clearly as you complete all sections.)*

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (in September 2020): \_\_\_\_\_

Learning challenge(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Medical condition(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Boy: [ ] or Girl: [ ] Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Sacrament Information

Baptism date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Denomination (if non-Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Baptism church: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please include city and state/country.)*

\* If your child (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) has not received the Sacrament of Baptism, Penance, and/or Eucharist, check here: \_\_\_\_\_

**For the safety of the children and our catechists, religion classes will begin online in 2020-21.**

Hopefully we can return to our classrooms later in the year:

**Pre-K 3 through Grade 2:** Sundays from 9:15 – 10:15 AM

**Grade 3 – 8:** Mondays from 7:00 – 8:15 PM

**Family Home-Study Program:** Monthly gatherings on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

**Clases en español (grados K – 8):** Domingos a las 12:15 – 1:30 PM

## Parent/Guardian Information

Parent/guardian name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important note:** We will use cell phone numbers for “Flocknote” text alerts when we have class cancellations, etc.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Children normally prepare for the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist in the second grade of Religious Education after having a first grade level of faith formation. Children in third grade and above who have not yet received those sacraments will prepare for them in a class called RCIC — the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children.*

Please enclose full payment with your child’s registration. If you need financial assistance, please contact us. Thank you!

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**Family Life and Religious Education Programs**  
**Parental Consent Form**

I select the following choice for my child's participation in the *Family Life Program*. Please complete the following:

- As a parent, **I will** instruct my child at home utilizing the *Benziger Family Life Program*.
- As a parent, **I DO NOT** wish to instruct my child in the *Family Life Program*.

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

## Sacred Heart Religious Education: 2020–2021 Fees

**The fees have been simplified this year:**

- **\$50 fee per child**
- *No charge for the 4<sup>th</sup> or more children*
- **Additional \$25 fee for the sacrament year** (2<sup>nd</sup> grade or RCIC class)

*Thank you for helping to make our religious instruction program possible! The parish subsidizes more than half of the costs for religious education students, and the fee is a way to help the parish meet the expenses for the program. Those expenses include salaries, office equipment, postage, overhead for the classrooms, student supplies (books, publications, etc.), office supplies, dues for catechist training, speaker fees, the Archdiocesan "head tax" per student, priest stipends, and more.*

**No child will be denied a religious education due to financial hardship. If you cannot cover the fee and need assistance, contact the Religious Education Office at 410-833-8515 or [sr.cecilia@shgparish.org](mailto:sr.cecilia@shgparish.org) to discuss a financial aid form. This is especially important for when our Archdiocesan auditors come. Please do not keep your children out of religion classes because of any financial difficulties!**

