

# St. Peter Catholic Church Religious Education Handbook

## Religious Education: Adults and Children

St. Peter Parish offers a religious education program for students in Kindergarten thru Confirmation. Students may be enrolled in the program as early as four years old in cases where parents feel the students are ready and in prior coordination with the director of religious education (DRE).

The parish offers religious education for adults through Adult Faith Formation programs, which are primarily coordinated by Norma Thompson and Laurita Miller. Additional religious education on religion and faith formation is available online through the Archdiocese of Miami [Office of Catechesis](#). Interested Individuals can obtain their catechist certification through the Archdiocesan [Catechist Certification Process](#).

## Religious Education Class Sessions

Classes for students from K-Confirmation are held on Sundays from 9:30-10:45 a.m. The religious education school year begins in late September and ends in mid May. There are several CCD holidays during the year and they will be noted on the Religious Education school year calendar. Classes are held in the parish Ministry Center.

Special Youth Masses are scheduled throughout the year. Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and May Crowning mass are just a few of the Youth's Masses you can look forward to each year. Our youth's participation and their attendance at these masses are very important.

## Religious Education Tuition Fees

In order to cover the expenses of textbooks and other materials for the year, our parish has established the following Religious Education Tuition Fee Policy. Tuition may be slightly higher for students enrolled in First Communion and Confirmation. We accept payment in the form of cash or check. **Grades K-Confirmation: One child - \$25.00 or Family - \$35.00**

We provide students with a light snack to enjoy in class on Sunday morning. To defray the expense of providing snacks for all students each week during CCD, please consider making a donation in addition to the tuition fee. The suggested donation is \$15 per child for the entire school year.

Need-based religious education tuition scholarships are available. Please contact the DRE.

## Attendance

Attendance matters. The more often students are in class on time the more a student can learn. We thank you very much in advance for your efforts to bring students to class ready to learn.

## St. Peter Catholic Church Religious Education Handbook

Students preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion must provide a copy of their baptismal certificate. They must demonstrate that they have completed the first grade satisfactorily and have consistently attended second grade classes before they are eligible to receive these sacraments. Older students and students who need extra instruction will be required to attend a Saturday class in preparation to receive these sacraments in the spring with the rest of the class.

Confirmation preparation involves a two-year commitment to the class. Students enrolled in the Confirmation Class must provide a copy of sacrament certificates for their baptism and First Communion. It is also important for the student to have consistently attended Religious Education classes in the first through seventh grades and/or to demonstrate an age appropriate proficiency in their understanding of the Catholic faith. Special arrangements can be made for those students who need extra instruction in order to reach the same level as the rest of the class. Complete requirements for Confirmation are provided for parents in the Confirmation Class Handbook.

Students and parents of students preparing to receive a sacrament should plan to attend and participate in activities outside the classroom. These activities include but are not limited to sacrament specific retreats, sacrament mass practices, and parish service projects such as the annual Pumpkin Patch and Youth Yard Sale.

### Absentee Policy

We are excited about our religious education program and value the opportunity to share the faith with our youth. Teachers and peers alike miss the students when they are absent. We want to make every effort on our part to fulfill our commitment to faith formation.

Naturally, there are times when it is necessary to be absent from class. Consistent or excessive absences however disrupt students' faith formation, both individually and as a group, and teacher lesson plans for the week. Please contact your child or children's teacher(s) to inform them of absences. Your child or children's teacher(s) or the DRE will contact you in the event of a few consecutive absences or excessive absences. Students in sacramental preparation programs who miss three classes must make an appointment with the Pastor in order to continue with their sacramental preparation.

Parents and students will be notified of attendance incentive programs at the beginning of the year.

# St. Peter Catholic Church Religious Education Handbook

## High School Youth Group

The St. Peter High School Youth Group (H.S.Y.G.) is an active group of students in grades 9-12. The H.S.Y.G. meets in the Ministry Center, meeting dates and times, announced at the beginning of the year. Life Teen is the teaching program of choice for this group. H.S.Y.G. activities include attending youth conferences, coordinating youth masses, and fundraising, to mention a few.

## Email

The DRE and teachers use email because it is a convenient form of communication. Please expect to receive numerous emails over the course of the year. The messages are intended to keep parents and students informed of class schedules, special events and other religious education program related information. Please do not hesitate to contact the DRE or your child or children's teacher by email also.

## Photos and Videos

We take pictures and/or videos during the school year and at religious education program activities. Pictures or videos of the children may be used for the sake of sharing memories. They may be used on the parish website, in parish photo albums, or shared with members of the parish via digital media. As a parent you may grant or you may not grant permission for St. Peter Catholic Church to use aforementioned pictures or video of your child or children, taken by designated church photographers or other individuals present at parish activities. Please ensure you communicate your wishes regarding this matter to the DRE.

## Text Communications

Text messages may be used by teachers in the high school youth ministry to communicate with the High School Youth Group members. Text message communications are limited to the high school youth ministry. As a parent you may grant or you may not grant permission for St. Peter Church religious education teachers to text you or your child. Please ensure you communicate your wishes regarding this matter to the DRE.

**God Bless You,**

**Nancy**

Nancy McCrosson, Director of Religious Education  
Saint Peter Catholic Church  
31300 Overseas Hwy.  
Big Pine Key, FL 33043  
{Parish Office} 305-872-2537 & {Cell} 305-434-2122  
[Nancy@stpeterbpk.org](mailto:Nancy@stpeterbpk.org)