

St Patrick Church

Glen Cove Catholic Religious Education 2025-2026

St Patrick – St Rocco – St Hyacinth

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Dear Parents,

Before I talk about the program for the upcoming year, it must always be said that the primary responsibility to raise children in the Faith rests firmly upon the shoulders of parents. This cannot be outsourced, and the Church can only provide support to parents in this endeavor. Without the good example of parents and their involvement in the faith lives of their children, found primarily in taking their children to Mass every week, whatever the Church can provide will likely be of little use. That having been said, the St. Patrick Religious Education Program for the 2025-2026 year will be as follows:

Glen Cove Area Vision

It should be noted that this general plan is being adopted by all the parishes in our Glen Cove neighborhood (St Patrick, St Rocco, St Hyacinth). If the time offered at one parish is preferred over the others, please talk to Joanne Fitzgerald, our Director of Religious Education.

Supremacy of Mass Attendance

While there are Mass attendance requirements for the First Communion and Confirmation candidates, it cannot be stressed too much how critical Mass attendance is for every Catholic. Missing Mass without a legitimate reason (illness, work, travel) is a grave sin. The 3rd Commandment has been given to use not because God needs our worship, but because we need to humbly worship God on His terms (not our own). To be blunt, to present your children to receive these sacraments without the corresponding habit of Mass attendance makes a mockery out of and “merit-badges” the sacraments, which are supposed to be moments during which our relationship with God deepens. This relationship cannot be strengthened when one refuses God’s will for us to worship Him weekly in the Mass.

Registration Times and Fees

Religious Education fees, which help pay for the program and help support the Church, will remain the same as last year and are listed below. Online registrations will open in June with links to the registration portal posted at... <https://www.glencovecatholic.org/religious-education>.

One Student:	\$150
Additional Students:	\$25/each
First Communion:	+ \$100
Confirmation:	+ \$100
Catchup Online Courses:	\$25/each course

ATTENTION: Change in Confirmation Age/Grade

Beginning with the 2025-2026 year we are moving the regular grade of Confirmation to the 7th grade. If this pertains to your child, please see more details in the Confirmation packet. Therefore, this year grades 7 and 8 will be enrolled in Confirmation prep and will receive the sacrament in autumn 2026.

Fr Gabriel Rach

Pastor, St Patrick, St Rocco & St Hyacinth Church

Grades 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Requirements & Schedule

1) **Registration:**

- a. Registration information and links can be found here: Registration begins on June 4th. See <https://www.glencovecatholic.org/religious-education>
- b. If your child was registered last year, they will be **automatically re-registered**. You only need to provide the fees to complete registration.
- c. If your child needs to complete prior years, they may complete the online program during the summer and be ready to begin in the Fall.

2) **Course:** The **online course** is the primary way your child will be provided with the “what we believe” portion of the program.

3) **Faith Encounters:** As in past years, to supplement the material learned via the online course, children in these grades will be offered several Faith Encounter experiences at the Church throughout the year. These **30-minute sessions** will typically be led by a priest and will focus on discussions about the Church and life as a Catholic. It is meant to be an interactive way for your children to engage the faith.

The sessions are brief, beginning at 4:30pm, so **parents must attend with their children** to avoid any pickup/drop-off issues. For these sessions to have the effect on your children, they must attend at least two of the four sessions throughout the year in order to “graduate”. Attendance will be taken at the sessions.

4) **Faith Encounter Dates:** Please place these dates on your calendar.

Thursdays in the Church at 4:30pm:

Grade 1	Grades 3 & 4	Grades 5 & 6
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Thursday, October 23, 2025	Thursday, November 6, 2025
Thursday, November 20, 2025	Thursday, December 11, 2025	Thursday, December 18, 2025
Thursday, January 8, 2026	Thursday, January 22, 2026	Thursday, February 5, 2026
Thursday, February 12, 2026	Thursday, March 12, 2026	Thursday, March 26, 2026