

St Rocco 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 in the 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: Confirmation At 7th Grade

We are moving the regular grade of Confirmation to the 7th grade. Please see more details on the Confirmation section. 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

Confirmation

Confirmation is now at 7th Grade

At the beginning of this year, we are moving the regular grade for Confirmation at St Patrick, St Rocco, and St Hyacinth to the 7th grade. There are several reasons for this significant change, but the most pertinent one is that in our modern age, having Confirmation during the 8th grade simply is not ideal. The first reason is that Confirmation should not be associated with graduation from school, which if we are honest, this seems often to be the case. Confirmation is the beginning of something, not an end! Secondly, we firmly believe that teaching boys and girls at a slightly younger age, when they are generally more receptive (the 8th grade is a tumultuous and transitional time of maturation), will better enable us to offer you children a real experience of our Catholic Faith.

Requirements

Confirmation is a chance for your child to take personal responsibility for this step in his/her faith. It is important to note that parents and Confirmandi are responsible for completing the requirements listed below by the corresponding deadlines. Regarding the Mass attendance, you may request your child's total attendance at any time [see the schedule for details]. All requirements and deadlines are final. Your child ***will not be admitted*** to the scheduled Confirmation if he/she has not completed the requirements. If they partially complete the course, what he/she did complete will be applied to the following year when he/she can try again. Confirmandi are also required to have completed the Faith and Life (My Catholic Faith Delivered) courses for all prior years.

A BIG Year

This means that the Confirmation program for 2025-2026 will include ***both*** the 7th and 8th grades. The following year will of course simply be 7th grade. The overall program will be similar to last year with some small but significant modification. The general requirements, timeline, and deadlines are on the next page.

Dates/Deadlines	Confirmation Requirements
June 4, 2025	Registration begins on June 4th. See https://www.glencovecatholic.org/religious-education
September 14 th , 2025	Registration closes.
October 1, 2025	Course: Faith and Life (My Catholic Faith Delivered) logins are sent and Confirmandi may begin the course.
December 2025 Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 10:00am–12:00pm at Saint Rocco's Church Friday, December 12, 2025, from 6:30–8:30pm at Saint Patrick parish	Retreat: Attend one Advent Confession mini-retreat . Two retreats will be offered, one on a Saturday morning and one on a Friday evening. Confirmandi must attend one of the two options given. The retreat will last about two hours, and will include a talk about Confession, followed by Confirmandi receiving the sacrament of Confession. For Confirmandi who miss the retreat, they will be required to hand in a hand-written essay about a given topic and schedule a time to go to Confession.
March 2026 Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 10:00am–12:00pm at Saint Rocco's Church Friday, March 13, 2026, from 6:30–8:30pm at Saint Patrick parish	Retreat: Attend one Lent Confession mini-retreat . Two retreats will be offered, one on a Saturday morning and one on a Friday evening. Confirmandi must attend one of the two options given. The retreat will last about two hours, and will include a talk about Confession, followed by Confirmandi receiving the sacrament of Confession. For Confirmandi who miss the retreat, they will be required to hand in a hand-written essay about a given topic and schedule a time to go to Confession.
August 30, 2026	50% Mass attendance: Confirmandi must attend at least 50% of Masses [26 Masses] at one of the three parishes starting September 6, 2025. Envelopes will be at St Patrick, St Rocco and St Hyacinth. Confirmandi must place their envelopes in the FIRST collection at weekend Masses at St Patrick, St Rocco, and St Hyacinth. Each child must write their name on the envelope. Each Confirmandi also promises to personally deposit their envelope in the basket [Confirmandi must be present for the Mass].
August 31 st , 2026	Complete Faith & Life Course (My Catholic Faith Delivered). A Basic Faith Test will be administered throughout the year at various times and locations, beginning after the new year. Confirmandi may attend any test session but must take the test until they pass it. Once passed, the requirement is complete.
September 2026 Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 10:00am–12:00pm at Saint Rocco's Church Friday, September 25, 2026, from 6:30–8:30pm at Saint Patrick parish	Retreat: Attend one Confirmation Confession mini-retreat . Two retreats will be offered, one on a Saturday morning and one on a Friday evening. Confirmandi must attend one of the two options given. The retreat will last about two hours, and will include a talk about Confession, followed by Confirmandi receiving the sacrament of Confession. For Confirmandi who miss the retreat, they will be required to hand in a hand-written essay about a given topic and schedule a time to go to Confession.
Late September/ Early October 2026 (Date TBD)	Confirmation Rehearsal
Late September/ Early October 2026 (Dates TBD)	Confirmation. Due to the larger number of Confirmadi this last year, there will be several ceremonies at each parish.

Confirmation Test Study Guide

The “Our Father”:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

The “Hail Mary”:

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Catholics believe that God is a Trinity of three persons, all equally God. They are the:

Father
Son
Holy Spirit

The Three Sacraments of Christian Initiation:

Baptism

Communion

Confirmation

The 4 Gospels in the Bible contain the story of Jesus during His time on Earth, they are:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

The Eucharist (or Holy Communion) is not a symbol of bread and wine but really changed by the priest into the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The current Pope, the successor to St Peter, is Pope Leo IV.

The formula for the sacrament of Confirmation is:

***Name*, Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

The Catholic Church teaches that attending Mass every weekend is a serious obligation and that missing a Mass without a very serious reason is sinful, requiring one to go to Confession for forgiveness.

Bishop John Barres is the Bishop of Rockville Centre, the diocese in which we live.