

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 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. Rocco 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

First Communion

Requirements

It is important to note that parents 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 First Communion 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.

Dates/Deadlines	First Communion Requirements
	Complete Year 1 of the Faith & Life Course (My Catholic Faith Delivered).
June 4, 2025	Registration begins on June 4th. See https://www.glencovecatholic.org/religious-education
September 14, 2025	Registration closes.
October 1, 2025	Course: Faith and Life (My Catholic Faith Delivered) logins are sent and students may begin the course.
October – April Sunday, October 19, 2025 Sunday, October 26, 2025 Sunday, November 9, 2025 Sunday, December 14, 2025 Sunday, January 11, 2026 Sunday, January 25, 2026 Sunday, February 8, 2026 Sunday, February 22, 2026 Sunday, March 8, 2026 Sunday, March 22, 2026 Sunday, April 19, 2026 Sunday, April 26, 2026	Sessions: Attend the schedule sessions with the priest before Sunday Mass. Attendance will be taken at these sessions. While all sessions are important, we understand that conflicts occur. Your children must attend at least 8 of 12 sessions . At least one parent <u>must</u> personally attend these sessions and Mass with their child. At no point will the church take responsibility for your child during these sessions. These sessions will take place at Rocco's Church at 9:40am , before the 10:15am Mass.
April 18, 2026	Complete Year 2 Faith & Life Course (My Catholic Faith Delivered). 50% Mass attendance: Children must attend at least 50% of Masses [16 Masses] at one of the three parishes starting September 6, 2025. Envelopes will be at St Patrick, St Rocco and St Hyacinth. Children 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 child also promises to personally deposit the envelope in the basket [Children must be present for the Mass].
Saturday April 25, 2026 10:00am at St Rocco's Church	Receive First Confession. This will consist of a short talk to prepare your child for confession followed by the children the Sacrament of First Penance (Confession). Parents are required to be physically present the entire time. For children who miss this, parents must arrange to bring their child to Confession at a normally scheduled time and inform the Religious Education office via email at gc.religious.ed@gmail.com
May 2026 (Date TBD)	Rehearsal
May 2026 Saturday May 9, 2026 (Time TBD)	First Communion