



Religious Education K3-12th Handbook

Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

Church Information:

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
2233 Waldron Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Phone: (361) 937 - 3864

Website: www.stpaultheapostlecc.com

Priest and Deacon:

Rev. Tomasz Kozub, Pastor
Deacon Gary Robinson

Religious Education Office - Phone (361) 937 - 5875

Kayla Davila, Director - E-mail: dre@stpaultheapostlecc.com
Jessica Lobato, Youth Minister - E-mail: teen@stpaultheapostlecc.com

Mission Statement

We strive to present the doctrine of the Catholic faith in its fullness and entirety as both knowledge to be learned and as life to be lived, with the ultimate objective being to develop individuals dedicated to knowing, loving, and serving God always.

Curriculums

Our programs for K-12th follow the guidelines and policies set by the Diocese of Corpus Christi for the Catechesis of Children and Adolescents.

Curriculums chosen:

Grades K3-6th - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

7th and 8th grade - YouBible

Confirmation Preparation - YouCat

Communications

Please ensure that all phone numbers and emergency contacts are current. A responsible adult must be able to be reached during class time in the event of an emergency.

Communications to parents from religious education and our catechists serve to strengthen our joint efforts to provide the best religious education for your child. Our primary means of communication will be through email. Information is regularly posted in our weekly parish bulletin, the parish website, mass screen announcements, the religious education board in the back of the church, and the board in the religious education building. Handouts will also be sent out throughout the year. A call or text may also be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to call our religious education office with any questions or concerns they may have throughout the year.

Youth Ministry may communicate using digital and social media platforms such as GroupMe, text message, parish bulletin, parish website, mass screen announcements, Facebook, Instagram, and phone calls. Parent consent form for direct communication with minors is required to be completed for our 7th-12th students.

Admission Policy

All students entering the program for the first time must bring a copy of the Baptismal Certificate with notations. Failure to submit these documents will result in postponement of the student's reception of the sacraments. If the student is registering for the OCI - C/ OCI - T a birth certificate is required. Registration is available online at www.stpaultheapostlecc.com under religious education or a

physical copy of the registration form can be obtained from the religious education office.

Catechists

Catechists and Aides volunteer their time, talent, and resources to provide a loving Christian atmosphere with the atriums and classrooms so that children will be able to learn and recognize they are children of God. All catechists and their assistants have completed the Creating and Maintaining Safe Environment (CMSE) program as required by the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer and always welcome to visit our atriums/ classrooms.

Arrival/ Departure

Students must be escorted to and from the atriums/ classrooms by an adult. Students will **not** be released to their minor siblings. All adults responsible for picking up your child must be listed on your registration form as an authorized person for pickup.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Communion: These sacraments are celebrated after two consecutive years of religious education. **Baptismal certificates are required.** Failure to complete these requirements may result in postponement in your child receiving the sacraments. Failure to complete these requirements may result in postponement in your child receiving the sacraments.

First Year

- Attend class regularly. Students are allowed to miss 3 classes. After 3 absences a meeting will be called between the parent and DRE.
- They must participate in Sunday mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- They must know the following prayers without reading them: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Sign of the cross, and Act of Contrition. Regular assessments will be sent home until successful completion.
- Parents are required to attend parent meetings.

Second Year

- Attend class regularly. Students are allowed to miss 3 classes. After 3 absences a meeting will be called between the parent and DRE.
- They must participate in Sunday mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- They must know the following prayers without reading them: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Sign of the cross, and Act of Contrition. Regular assessments will be sent home until successful completion.

- Meditation attendance is required. The meditations are designed to help our students understand the true gift of reconciliation and God's love. There are five meditations spread throughout the year.
- A First Communion test will assess your child's readiness to receive the sacraments towards the end of the year.
- A First Communion retreat is mandatory.
- Parents are required to attend parent meetings.

Confirmation: Confirmation preparation can begin as early as 9th grade but not limited to it. Confirmation preparation is a 2 year program with additional requirements each year. **A baptismal certificate with notations must be submitted to religious education.** Confirmation mass is scheduled by the Bishop's office and are assigned to the parish. We have no control over the date or time of Confirmation. Parents will be informed of the date once it is received. Failure to complete these requirements may result in postponement in your child receiving the sacraments.

First Year

- 20 church hours are required. These are service hours performed for the betterment of the parish. It may include altar serving, lectoring, cleaning church grounds or service through any ministry.
- Students must participate in 2 of the 3 service projects. Service projects may be but not limited to volunteering at Timon's Ministries, Christmas Caroling to the Homebound, beautifying the parish grounds, Mother Teresa Shelter, or other services decided upon by the pastor.
- Students are allowed to miss 3 classes. After 3 missed classes a meeting will be called between the parent and youth minister.
- Regular Sunday mass and Holy Days of Obligation attendance is required.
- Each student is required to attend a yearly retreat decided by the youth minister, DRE, and pastor.
- Parents are required to attend parent meetings.

Second Year

- 20 church hours are required. These are service hours performed for the betterment of the parish. It may include altar serving, lectoring, cleaning church grounds or service through any ministry.
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- Regular Sunday mass and Holy Days of Obligation attendance is required.

- Each student will be required to attend a confirmation retreat.
- A sponsor is required for Confirmation. The sponsor form must be completed and submitted to religious education by December.
- Each candidate must pick a saint who they aspire to and present a report.
- A test is given towards the end of the year to assess your child's readiness.
- Each candidate will participate in a formal interview with Father Tomasz or the DRE. The interview is used to determine the readiness and to determine the candidate's desire to receive the sacrament.
- Parents are required to attend parent meetings.

OCIA - C/ OCIA - T: This is a 2 year program for those who are entering the Catholic faith and were not baptized before the age of 7 or baptized in another denomination. A **birth certificate** is required at registration. Upon completing the 2 consecutive years and the requirements the student will receive baptism, reconciliation, and communion, and confirmation. Failure to complete these requirements may result in postponement in your child receiving the sacraments.

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Confirmation Sponsor

An adult sponsor is required for each confirmation candidate. The confirmation sponsor is to guide the candidate to act as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfill the duties of the sacrament. It is preferable for the godparent from baptism to serve as the sponsor. To be a sponsor:

- Must be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- If married, the marriage must be in accordance with the laws of the Catholic Church. If single the person cannot be cohabitating.
- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Cannot be the father or mother of the candidate.
- Must have the intention of fulfilling the role as sponsor.

Rules/ Expectations for Religious Education K3 - 12th

All students are expected to:

- behave appropriately and respectfully.
- use kind words.
- arrive on time for classes.
- have nothing dangerous or illegal.
- participate in class.
- have no cell phone or electronics devices in class.
- dress modestly and appropriate. All undergarments must be covered.

Unacceptable Behavior

Any behavior listed are **not** allowed and may require discipline:

- disrespectful behavior towards the Catechist, Aides, other students, or volunteers.
- no profanity, abusive, or vulgar language.
- inappropriate behavior that makes other uncomfortable.
- leaving class without permission.
- using a cell phone during class without permission.

- possession of drugs or alcohol.
- recording or photographing a catechist or student without permission.
- bring weapons on parish property.
- vandalism.
- bullying, cyber - bullying, intimidation, or harassment of other children

Cell Phones and Electronics

The use of cell phones and other electronic devices by the child are not allowed during religious education classes. Cell phones brought into the classroom will be collected and put in our cell phone locker. If a child needs to call their parent they may go to the Religious Education office to make the call.

Bullying and Cyber-bullying

Bullying includes but is not limited to threatening physical harm, verbal abuse, intimidation, cyberbullying. A safe and welcoming environment is necessary for children to learn and achieve Christian value. Harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyber-bullying - using technology to bully -and other violent behaviors will not be tolerated in religious education. Any child who engages in this behavior will be asked to leave the religious education environment if considered best in the interest of the religious education environment.

Vandalism

Touching or removing someone else's property will be considered vandalism. Willfully damaging or destroying property will not be tolerated. This includes parish property and the personal property of someone. The parent of the child who committed the vandalism will be required to pay for the damages. Accidental damage should be immediately reported to the DRE.

Discipline

If a discipline issue does occur. The Catechist may speak with the child privately and encourage appropriate behavior. However, if the issue continues our Catechists are not expected to spend class as a disciplinarian. The Catechist may speak with the parents about the disruptive behavior. If the child continues to be disruptive they may go to the DRE and ask for further assistance with the situation. Further action will be taken by the DRE or youth minister to resolve the situation. If the child's behavior is seriously inhibiting the learning, safety, or well being of others in the group they may be removed as a disciplinary measure for serious and persistent disruptive behavior.

Persistence in any unacceptable behavior can result in the removal of the child from religious education depending on the recommendation of the DRE or youth minister

and the decision of the pastor.