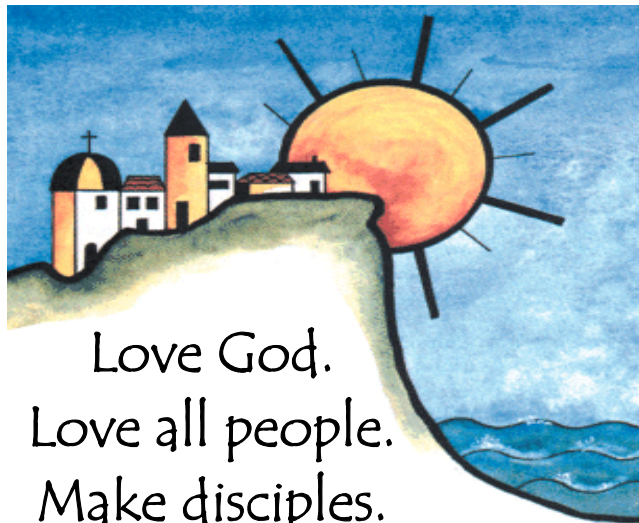


**St. John Fisher Church
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FAMILY BOOKLET**

***This booklet includes:
Program Policies and procedures for
Preschool through Grade 8,
and other important information!***

2023-2024



Love God.
Love all people.
Make disciples.

**Family Friendly
Religious Education Program
“Home is Holy.”**

ST. JOHN FISHER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PHONE: (310) 377-4573

5400 Crest Road Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Parish Staff in the Religious Education Department are here to serve the needs of children and their families.

Coordinator of Religious Education

Justin Fontenot, x136, jfontenot@sjf.org

Mobile phone: 213-948-0750

Faith Formation Assistant

Angelica Palaganas, x131, apalaganas@sjf.org

OFFICE HOURS

*Mondays-Fridays, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Sundays, 8:00 am-12:30 pm
(when classes are in session)*

PASTOR: Monsignor David Sork

310-377-5571 x123 dasork@sjf.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Alejandro Enriquez

310-377-5571 x103 fralenriquez@sjf.org

Religious Education Classes (preschool through Grade 8) begin the week of **September 24** and will end on **April 23**.

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sundays Preschool/ Sundays

Kindergarten only: Grades 1-8:

9-10:15 am

10:45am-12:00 pm

Tuesdays

Grades 1-5:

4:00-5:15 pm

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 year in the Religious Education Program! St. John Fisher's Mission Statement is "Love God. Love all people. Make disciples." I hope you will join with me in living out this mission!



In this booklet you will find all sorts of important information pertaining to your child's religious education, so please keep it in a safe place! I will also be emailing you updates throughout the year on what is happening in the program.

I want to thank all you parents for your support of the Religious Education Program. You are the first teachers for your children, and the examples of how to live faithful lives. Religious Education is not a substitute for praying together as a family, or for attending Sunday Mass. Students in grades 1-8 are expected to join their parents as we come together as a community to celebrate and give thanks to God for all our blessings. Mass times are 5:00 pm (Saturday), 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm (Sunday).

This program cannot survive without volunteers, and so I hope you consider giving a little of your time to help our program. Please be sure to check out our "Service Opportunities for the Whole Family" sheet with QR-code to volunteer. We truly appreciate your help in keeping our program safe and enjoyable for all families.

I'm looking forward to meeting every one of you and sharing the Good News of Christ's love. My door is always open and I am happy to assist your family in anyway I can.

*Sincerely,
Justin A. Fontenot
Coordinator of Religious Education*

PROGRAM POLICIES FOR FAMILIES

with Children enrolled in Religious Education 2023-2024

The safety of your children is always our prime concern. The Archdiocese requires that these directives be followed by staff and volunteer catechists. Our goal is to offer the most effective process of faith sharing in an atmosphere of security.

Covid-19 Guidelines: Face masks are no longer required. All are encouraged to wear face coverings at their discretion. If your child is sick or experiencing Covid symptoms, please keep them home.

Attendance/Absence: Regular attendance is expected. If a child is ill, a parent is asked to call the RE Office at 310-377-4573, or e-mail Justin Fontenot, jfontenot@sjf.org, and Angelica Palaganas, apalaganas@sjf.org, before class time.

Tardiness: If your child is late, he/she must go to the Religious Education Office to pick up a tardy slip.

Early Dismissal: If there is an important reason for a child to leave class early, a parent must send a written note to the Religious Education Office before class begins on the day of request, or come to the office in person to request an early dismissal pass. Children will be given an early dismissal pass to give to the catechist. A parent or designated adult should go to the child's class to pick up the child.

Dismissal Procedure

Sunday 9-10:15 am classes:

(Preschool and Kindergarten) Preschool and Kindergarten children **MUST** be signed in and out by a responsible adult.

Sunday 10:45-12:00 pm classes:

(Grades 1-2) Students should be picked up in their classroom.

(Grades 3-8) At the end of class, children will be dismissed from the classroom and directed to go to the designated safe pickup area. (Basketball court adjacent to the school courtyard.) Children will be supervised as they wait to be picked up. Any child not picked up ten minutes after dismissal will be brought to the R.E.

Office.

Tuesday 4-5:15 pm classes:

At the end of class, children will be dismissed from the classroom

and will wait in the school playground area. Any child not picked up ten minutes after dismissal will be brought to the RE Office.

If you cannot pick your child up: If you are delayed and unable to pick your child up on time, please let us know. We will take care of your child in the RE Office until you arrive or someone else you designate arrives to take them home.

REMIND YOUR CHILDREN not to accept a ride home with anyone, even a friend or neighbor, unless you give permission.

Earthquake/Fire: In the event of an emergency, students will be released from parish grounds only to authorized persons listed on the Disaster Preparedness Form completed at the time of registration. In the unlikely event of an evacuation of the St. John Fisher facility, students will be moved to an evacuation center as directed by emergency personnel. Staff members or volunteer catechists will remain with the students until they have been reunited with their families.

Parental Involvement: Every family is encouraged to participate in enhancing and enriching the Parish Religious Education Program. *Please be sure to read the “Service Opportunities for Family” half sheet with QR code.* Requests for volunteer assistance will also be sent by e-mail on a regular basis. *We truly appreciate your help in keeping our program safe and enjoyable for all families.*

Student Behavior: Full cooperation of all the students during RE classes is expected. Parents will be notified of any persistent discipline problems.

Guests in Class: Guests are always welcome to attend with children, as long as they cooperate with the catechist and with the goals of the program. If a Religious Education student wishes to bring a guest to class, the student’s parent must register the guest in the Office before class begins. Parents/grandparents are welcome to visit during Religious Education class time. Adults **MUST** sign in on the Visitor Log in the classroom.

Parents, you are entrusting your children to us. We take this responsibility very seriously. If any issues or problems arise that you feel need to be addressed by the staff, please do not hesitate to contact Justin Fontenot, 310-377-4573, ext. 136.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

- All Sunday Pre-School/Kindergarten Religious Education Classes begin on **Sunday, September 24**.
- Classes will be held in the Kindergarten classroom.
- Please arrive at 8:50 am to sign your children in.
- Class ends promptly at 10:10 am.



Parent Procedures All children are to be escorted by an adult to their class. Each child must be signed in before the session and signed out by a responsible adult at the end. If an alternate adult will be signing in or signing out your child, please inform Justin Fontenot before class time—in person, or by leaving a message in the RE Office with Angelica, 377-4573 x131. **Note:** pickup from Pre-School RE is promptly at 10:10 am. Even if 9 am Mass is not over, please leave so you can be there at 10:10 to sign your child out.



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL FAMILIES WHOSE CHILDREN WILL BE CELEBRATING FIRST COMMUNION IN MAY 2024

Please watch your e-mail for important information regarding the Sacrament Preparation Program. There will be a required parent meeting on **Friday, September 29 at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium**.

PLEASE NOTE: The First Communion program is a **two year program**. Only students who are in their second year of Religious Education are eligible to receive First Communion in May 2024. Eligibility is based on years of preparation, NOT on grade level or age of students. The first year of preparation may have taken place at St. John Fisher or at another parish. The Sacrament Preparation program consists of attendance at parent classes during the year, and special events for the children. Calendars will be provided at the parent meeting on September 29.

★ ★ ★ Sunday Drop Off:

- Enter at gate at the top of the Crest Road Driveway.
- Drop off children at the School Courtyard (grassy area near school classrooms).
- Exit through gate.

Sunday Pick Up

- Repeat process above, picking children up where you dropped them off.
- **NO PARKING** in the Basketball Court Area at any time! Please do not leave your car to look for your child. If your child is not waiting for you, stay in the car until he or she comes out of class.
- You may park in the upper lot or on the grass by Barrett Hall and walk in to pick up your child if preferred.

Two volunteers are needed each Sunday to help keep the children safe during pick up! Please let us know if you can help!

Tuesday 4-5:15 pm classes:

At the end of class, children will be dismissed from the classroom and will wait in the school playground area. Any child not picked up ten minutes after dismissal will be brought to the RE Office.

These procedures are designed to keep the children safe. Please help us by driving carefully and watching out for children!

Classroom Map and Sunday Drop Off/Pick Up diagram

K
7
6
TK
SCHOOL OFFICE

RE-STROM	8	1	2	3	4	5
----------	---	---	---	---	---	---

★ STUDENT WAITING AREA (SUNDAY) ★

RE-STROM	PARISH OFFICES	Parish Library	109	
----------	----------------	----------------	-----	--

FAC-ULTY ROOM

MUSIC DEPT.
FIRESIDE ROOM

STAIRS

Cityside	BARRETT HALL
Seaside	

GRASSY AREA, OK FOR PARKING

