

**St. Patrick**  
**Religious Education Office**  
**Guidelines**  
**for**  
**Parents**

**St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
Religious Education Office  
**9151 Elys Ford Road**  
**Fredericksburg, VA. 22407**  
Office: 540-785-7857; Fax. 540-785-5758

Dear Parent/Guardian/Grandparent,

I welcome you to the St. Patrick Religious Education program for the 2017-2018 Religious Education School Year. I know how busy everyone can be with their families and work; but, I know God will reward your generosity manifold with abundant graces for participating in the religious education of your children. As one gift from God being the primary educators, I know you will grow in your faith and its understanding. It is through your generous spirit and desire to share our Catholic faith with your children that enables our families to grow toward Christ.

These guidelines are provided with the intent of making your child's religious experience as fulfilling as possible and easy for you. These guidelines covers some of the most commonly asked questions as well as Religious Education policy here at St. Patrick. Please take a few minutes and read the booklet carefully. If you have any questions about this information, please feel comfortable in giving me or my office a call at 785-7857.

Please know that my door is always open to each parent, should you have any questions or concerns. The Religious Education staff stands ready to assist you in any way possible to help bring Christ to each family.

I do ask that you to keep the Religious Education Program in your prayers. We need all the spiritual guidance especially from the Blessed Mother and Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to help us throughout the upcoming school year.

Thank you for supporting the St. Patrick religious education program. May God bless you - abundantly with His love and grace!

Sincerely, through Mary to Christ,

Philip Camill  
Director, Religious Education

## PARENT GUIDELINES

This document is provided for the guidance and instruction of parents/guardians of the children in the St. Patrick Religious Education Program. It is divided into two sections: Class Room/Student, and Religious Education Office/Policy. Within each section, topics are organized alphabetically.

### Class room/Student

#### **Adoration**

During the school year we will take the children to the church to participate in adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ as He is truly present in the Eucharist and exposed in a monstrance. Confession will be available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade children at this time. **Parents and family are encouraged to participate in adoration and confession with their children.** Check with the current Parent Religious Education schedule for dates and times.

#### **Adult Classes**

During the time when students are in their classes, we will be providing at the same time classes for adults. The adults do not have to have children in religious education to participate. We encourage you to invite your friends to attend. If you have any questions, please see the director.

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is taken every class period and recorded in the religious education office computer. Children are expected to be in class on time.

Parents of children who are frequently absent and/or tardy (3 or more times), will be contacted by the catechist, especially those students preparing for a sacrament.

#### **Attendance Policy (Sacramental Preparation Classes)**

Attendance is mandatory for all children especially in the sacramental preparation classes. This includes grades 1 and 2 grade for First Holy Communion; and, 6, 7, and 8 grade classes for Confirmation. Students preparing for a sacrament who miss 3 or more classes, will not be recommended to the pastor for the respective sacrament. (An excused absence is when parent has contacted Religious Education office by phone and identified that their child will be absent.)

#### **Books**

In St. Patrick's religious education program, we use the Faith and Life series of texts by Ignatius Press. We believe this series provides the best material for instruction for our children. Plus the art contained in the text book is good classic Catholic art.

Each student (grades 1 through 8) will receive a textbook and an activity book (grades 1 through 8) on the first day of class. The **student text book belongs to the religious education program** and must be returned to our office at the end of the year. The activity book is used by the student to do their respective lessons whether in class or at home. If they are lost, books may be repurchased from the religious education office.

#### **Classroom Use**

Religious Education classes are held in the St. Patrick School. Catechists are asked to ensure the classrooms are left as they were found. All materials found in the classrooms are off-limits to religious education students and teachers. Under no circumstances are the students to remove anything from the desks. Since the Religious Education classes shares the classrooms with St. Patrick School and other parish organizations, the catechists are asked to check carefully their rooms before leaving to make sure all is in good order and clean.

## Confession

Periodically, throughout the school year, the Religious Education Office will schedule the Sacrament of Confession for the 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 8<sup>th</sup> grades during Eucharist Adoration. The Religious Education Office will provide age appropriate guides to the children's confession. **Parents and family are encouraged to participate in going to confession during these times.**

## Curriculum

Catechists are here to present the fullness of the teaching of the Catholic Church according to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. If you have any questions, please bring them up to the Director.

## Discipline Plan

Order must be maintained in the classrooms throughout the class period. A class discipline plan should be presented on the first day of class and followed throughout the year by the Catechist and agreed upon by the students. These procedures represent the means of maintaining a safe and beneficial learning environment for the students in the St. Patrick Religious Education program. An example of the rules are:

### Rules

1. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
2. Speak respectfully to everyone.
3. Raise your hand to talk.
4. Follow directions the first time. **(Some children need help on this.)**
5. Gentlemen may not wear hats/baseball caps in the School/Church.
6. No chewing gum in the School/Church
7. No mp3 players, cell phones or other electronic devices – if a child needs to use the phone, they may come to the Religious Education Office.
8. When a priest or adult walks into the classroom, the children are taught to stand up - out of respect.

### Consequences

- 1<sup>st</sup> Warning - is an oral one and is recorded by the catechist, parents will not be informed until the 2<sup>nd</sup> warning;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Warning - Note or phone call to the parents from catechist may go home to be signed and Must be returned before student can attend class;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Warning - Child is dismissed from class and may return only after a conference is conducted with the parent, teacher and Director of Religious Education.

## Dismissal, Class

The following directions for dismissal are very important for the safety of everyone in the program. Students will be dismissed at the end of the class period, not before. Notice the following specific instructions:

### Grades 1 - 4

Students from grades 1 through 4 that are located in the main school building will be released from their class rooms when their parents, sibling, or other identifiable adult picks them up. **Students to be picked up in the classroom may not leave until the parent** picks them up. Children should not be left unattended in the classroom. Should parents let their children carpool with other parents, please let the catechist be aware of your arrangement.

### Grades 5 - 8

Students from grades 5 through 8 will be dismissed from their trailer class rooms. Children will not be left unattended in the classroom.

## Field Trips



(grade 1) Faithful Attendance (no more than 3 absences) **AND** four out of five of the prayers memorized and all the sacramental actions.

**Bronze** (grades 2-8) Either: Perfect Attendance, **OR** 90% or better average on midterm and final.

(grade 1) Either: Perfect Attendance, **OR** four out of five of the prayers memorized and all the sacramental actions.

**\*Perfect Attendance** is no absences which includes limited excused absences.

### **Prayer Memorization**

An important requirement of St. Patrick's Religious Education Program is the memorization of prayers/doctrine appropriate for grade levels. Children (with the help of their parents) are responsible for the prayers appropriate for their grade level. All students are tested and graded on the memorization of these prayers and doctrine. For a list of the age-appropriate prayer requirements, please see Appendix A. Appendix B contains all the prayers fully spelled out. The prayers are also in the back of the textbook.

### **Quizzes and Tests**

Periodic quizzes or tests (mid-term and finals) are an important part of determining student's preparedness for class and their comprehension of the material covered each week. Written quizzes or tests may be given each week on the material covered the week before. This may be part of the basis for grading each student.

### **Syllabus**

The class syllabus is an ordered description of the main religious material that is present in the student textbook for each chapter, as noted by the number in the syllabus. If the parent wishes a copy, they may request a syllabus from the Religious Education Office.

### **Religious Education Office/Policy**

#### **Inclement Weather (Snow Days) or Cancellations**

St. Patrick's Religious Education office follows the Spotsylvania Public Schools INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: IF PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISMISS EARLY BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, WE WILL NOT HAVE CLASS. IF SPOTSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, WE WILL NOT HAVE CLASS. ON OTHER QUESTIONABLE WEATHER DAYS, PLEASE CHECK WITH [WWW.FREDERICKBURG.COM](http://WWW.FREDERICKBURG.COM) FOR CLOSING.

**Whenever classes are cancelled, teacher does not have to make up the missed lesson. Parents are asked to cover all missed work at home.**

### **Office Hours**

The Religious Education Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM. The office telephone number is **540-785-7857**. The phone is equipped with an automatic answering device to take calls at any time. The office fax is **540-785-5758**.

## **Appendix A: Prayer Guide by Class Level**

## ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRAYER GUIDE

An important requirement of St. Patrick's Religious Education Program is that students memorize prayers (\*)/doctrine appropriate for each grade level. Children assisted by their parents are responsible for the prayers appropriate for their grade level and above. All students are tested and graded on the memorization of prayers and doctrine. The best way to help your child memorize a prayer is to recite the prayer together each and every day.

### FIRST GRADE

Sign of the Cross  
Our Father  
Hail Mary  
Guardian Angel Prayer  
Glory Be to the Father, etc.

### SECOND GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
Act of Contrition  
A Morning Offering  
Names the Sacraments  
The Ten Commandments  
\*\*Prayers of the Mass

### THIRD GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
The Rosary  
Stations of the Cross

### FOURTH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
Mysteries of the Rosary  
Apostles Creed  
Hail, Holy Queen  
Works of Mercy  
Memorare

### FIFTH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
Grace Before/ After Meals  
Act of Faith  
Act of Hope  
Act of Love  
Angelus  
Prayer to St. Michael

### SIXTH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
Beatitudes

### SEVENTH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
Seven Capital Sins  
Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
Five Precepts of the Church  
\*\*Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### EIGHTH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE  
The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

**\*Memorization is not required of prayers/doctrine marked with a double asterisk (\*\*). Parents are asked to take their children to Mass every Sunday and to review these items with them.**

**\*\*Optional memorization**

## **Appendix B: List of Prayers and Doctrinal Items**

### **FIRST GRADE:**

#### **The Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **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.

#### **Guardian Angel Prayer**

O Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule, to guide. Amen.

#### **Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **SECOND GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

#### **Act of Contrition**

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

#### **Act of Contrition in the Confessional**

O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance to sin no more and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

#### **Morning Offering**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary I offer thee my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of thy Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.



## **Names of the Sacraments**

Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick

## **The Ten Commandments**

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor you father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

## **THIRD GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

### **The Rosary**

For the third level, be able to go through the mechanics of saying the Rosary and follow these prayers:

Apostles' Creed

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be...

Hail, Holy Queen

In the fourth level and above, the children should be able to recite the whole Rosary with all prayers having been memorized.

### **The Stations of the Cross**

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus carries his Cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time.
4. Jesus meets his mother.
5. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus speaks to the women.
9. Jesus falls a third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes.
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
12. Jesus dies on the Cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb.

## **FOURTH GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

### **Mysteries of the Rosary**

#### **The Joyful Mysteries**

1. The Annunciation.
2. The Visitation.
3. The Nativity.

#### **The Luminous Mysteries**

1. Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
2. Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. The Presentation of Jesus.         | 4. The Transfiguration              |
| 5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple | 5. The Institution of the Eucharist |

**The Sorrowful Mysteries**

1. The Agony in the Garden.
2. The Scourging at the Pillar.
3. The Crowning with Thorns.
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

**The Glorious Mysteries**

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**Hail, Holy Queen**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us. And after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

- V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God;  
 R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Works of Mercy**

The Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. Feeding the hungry;
2. Giving drink to the thirsty;
3. Sheltering the homeless;
4. Clothing the naked;
5. Visiting the sick;
6. Visiting the imprisoned, and
7. Burying the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Admonishing the sinner;
2. Instructing the ignorant;
3. Counseling the doubtful;
4. Comforting the sorrowful;
5. Bearing wrongs patiently;
6. Forgiving all injuries; and
7. Praying for the living and the dead.

**Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother: to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

**FIFTH GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

**Grace Before Meals**

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your bounty, through Christ

our Lord. Amen.

### **Grace After Meals**

We give You thanks for all Your benefits, O Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

#### **Act of Faith**

O my God, I firmly believe that thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy spirit; I believe that thy Divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because thou hast revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

#### **Act of Hope**

O my God, relying on thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

#### **Act of Love**

O my God, I love thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because thou art all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of thee. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

### **The Angelus**

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary....

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done to me according to thy word.

Hail Mary....

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary....

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. Let us pray.

R. Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael**

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## **SIXTH GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

### **The Beatitudes**

The Beatitudes proclaim the blessings and rewards for those following Christ.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the land.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure on heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
9. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.

## **SEVENTH GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

### **Seven Capital Sins**

Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy, and Sloth

### **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

### **Five Precepts of the Church**

What are the five precepts of the Church (CCC 2041-2043)?

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
  - A. Solemnity of Mary, January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - B. Ascension Thursday (forty days after Easter). For the Arlington Diocese this has been moved to Sunday.
  - C. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - D. Solemnity of All Saints, November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - E. Immaculate Conception, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - F. Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during Easter Season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall provide for the needs of Church.

## **EIGHTH GRADE (ALL THE ABOVE PLUS):**

### **The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, Chastity.

### **Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Memorization is not required)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, redeemer of the World,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God,	Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary,	Pray for us.
Holy Mother of God,	Pray for us.
Holy Virgin of virgins,	Pray for us.
Mother of Christ,	Pray for us.
Mother of Divine Grace,	Pray for us.
Mother most pure,	Pray for us.
Mother most chaste,	Pray for us.
Mother inviolate,	Pray for us.
Mother undefiled,	Pray for us.
Mother most amiable,	Pray for us.
Mother most admirable,	Pray for us.
Mother of good counsel,	Pray for us.
Mother of our Creator,	Pray for us.
Mother of our Savior,	Pray for us.
Virgin most prudent,	Pray for us.
Virgin most venerable,	Pray for us.
Virgin most renowned,	Pray for us.
Virgin most powerful,	Pray for us.
Virgin most merciful,	Pray for us.
Virgin most faithful,	Pray for us.
Mirror of justice,	Pray for us.
Seat of Wisdom,	Pray for us.
Cause of our joy,	Pray for us.
Spiritual vessel,	Pray for us.
Vessel of honor,	Pray for us.
Singular Vessel of devotion,	Pray for us.
Mystical rose,	Pray for us.
Tower of David,	Pray for us.
Tower of ivory,	Pray for us.
House of gold,	Pray for us.
Ark of the Covenant,	Pray for us.
Gate of Heaven,	Pray for us.
Morning star,	Pray for us.
Health of the sick,	Pray for us.
Refuge of sinners,	Pray for us.
Comforter of the afflicted,	Pray for us.
Help of Christians,	Pray for us.
Queen of Angels,	Pray for us.
Queen of Patriarchs,	Pray for us.
Queen of Apostles,	Pray for us.
Queen of Martyrs,	Pray for us.
Queen of Confessors,	Pray for us.
Queen of Virgins,	Pray for us.
Queen of all Saints,	Pray for us.
Queen conceived without original sin,	Pray for us.
Queen assumed into Heaven,	Pray for us.
Queen of the most holy Rosary,	Pray for us.
Queen of Peace,	Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord!  
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of  
Christ.