

Holy Cross Catholic Church

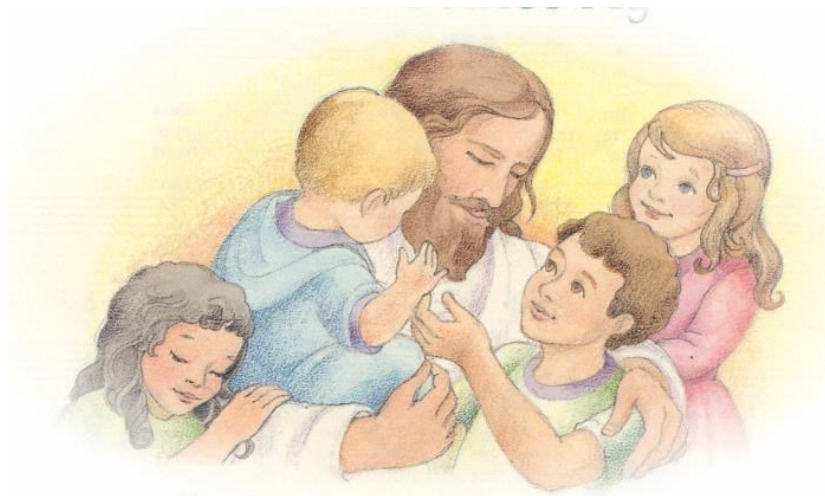


Religious Education for Children

2019-2020

Handbook and Calendar

available on the web site www.holycrossverobeach.org



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Parents Role

*“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another grow in Faith by witness of a Christian Life in keeping with the Gospel. **Family catechesis** precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction*

*in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the **Eucharistic** community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.”*

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2226)

“Parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. They catechize informally, but powerfully by example and instruction. When children are baptized, the church community promises to help parents foster their faith. It keeps this promise, first of all, by its own witness as a worshipping, believing, serving community; and also by providing formal catechesis.”

(Sharing the Light of Faith, Para 212)

What is Catechesis?

The word catechesis comes from the Greek meaning "to echo the teaching" meaning that catechesis or the teaching of the faith is an interactive process in which the Word of God re-sounds between and among the proclaimed, the one receiving the message, and the Holy Spirit! Catechesis is a life-long process of initial conversion, formation, education, and on-going conversion. Through word, worship, service and community, it seeks to lead all God's people to an ever deepening relationship with God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Catechesis takes many forms and includes the initiation of adults, youth and children as well as the intentional and systematic effort to enable all to grow in faith and discipleship.

What is a Catechist?

A catechist is a person of faith who is called by the parish community to hand on the tradition and teachings of the Catholic Church to others. This call demands that the catechist understand church doctrine and demonstrate appropriate professional teaching skills. More than that, a catechist realizes God’s voice in this call to serve, and recognizes the need for continuing personal growth and faith formation.

We entrust a catechist, commissioned and supported by the pastor and parish, with the important role of formally presenting the story of Faith to our children in a way that enables them to see and experience faith as a "living reality."



Why do we not call it CCD anymore?

“Religious Formation for Children” an educational ministry for our children of Holy Cross Catholic Church; it formally instructs the teachings of the Catholic Church and supports the parents in their Baptismal commitment, promised at the time of their child's Baptism.

“Many people recall the term C.C.D. which stood for the "Confraternity of Christian Doctrine" which served parishes in their efforts to provide religious education to children who attended public schools. Today, we have retrieved the notion of catechesis to capture the broader mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to adults, youth and children in order to put people in communion with Jesus Christ”.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church #426)

History The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was an association established in 1562 in Rome for the purpose of providing religious education. In its more modern usage, C.C.D. the religious teaching program of the Catholic Church. These classes are taught to school age children to learn the basic doctrines of their faith.

Mass Attendance and Celebrating the Eucharist

Sunday indeed is the Lord's Day. The Celebration of the Eucharist is our greatest way of building our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Participation in the Religious Education Formation presupposes that the family attends Mass and fully participates in prayer and song.

Children's Liturgy of the Word



At the 9:00 AM Mass on Sundays, during the Liturgy of the Word, for our children(PreK-3rd), we dismiss them along with their adult catechists to take part in the Sunday Scripture at their level. Terminology at their level helps them to understand and appreciate the gospel message of Jesus Christ. In the past we have noted that the children who attend Mass and participate in the Liturgy of the Word for Children have a more complete understanding of their Catholic education and are more prepared for their celebration of the Sacraments. *(2019.2020 schedule on page 13)*

Offertory Family to be an Offertory Family please contact Pat Kroger at the parish Office 772-231-0671.



Altar Serving Open to those in grade 4 and above. Server training for Grades 4/5 take place on Tuesdays during Catholic Education Sessions; grades 6 & up by special arrangement. We schedule servers 1 or 2x's monthly, on a rotation of Mass times. When training has been completed, servers are commissioned at a Sunday Mass and we schedule them to be with an experienced server until they are comfortable in their role at the altar.

Holy Cross Presenters

The children will have opportunities to participate in the following special liturgies:

Christmas Eve Gospel

<i>Preparation & Rehearsals</i>	<i>December 10 & 17</i>	<i>5 PM (Tuesdays)</i>
	<i>December 24</i>	<i>10 AM (dress rehearsal)</i>
Presentation	December 24	6 PM Mass

Lent Penitential Procession

<i>Preparation & Rehearsal</i>	<i>February 25 , 2020</i>	<i>5 PM (Tuesday)</i>
Presentation	March 1, 2020	9AM Mass (Sunday)

Procession of Palms

<i>Preparation & Rehearsal</i>	<i>March 31, 2020</i>	<i>5 PM (Tuesday)</i>
Presentation	April 5, 2020	9 AM Mass (Sunday)

Preparation and rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays, immediately following Religious Education Sessions. (except dress rehearsal for Christmas on Christmas Eve morning.) The children **must attend rehearsals in order to participate. We encourage ALL children to participate and become more involved in our Celebrations of the Mass and these special Liturgies in our Parish.**

*2019-2020 High School teens
preparing for Confirmation
Pictured when they were in 1st Gr.*



Religious Education Schedules

Tuesday Sessions for children in grades K-5

3:30 PM Arrival & Snack , 4:00 PM Prayer Service, 4:15 PM Classroom Session, 5:15 PM Dismissal

Wednesday Sessions for children in grades 6-8

7:00 PM Opening Evening Prayer, 7:15 PM Classroom Session, 8:15 PM Dismissal

High School Youth Group

7:15 PM Arrival, 8:30 PM Dismissal

Registration

Registration for Religious Education is required for all families new and existing. A copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate must be on file and accompany the registration. Students entering our program from another parish can have records forwarded to the Parish Office to the attention of the Director of Religious Education.

A fee of \$75.00 per family, is due at time of registration. This fee supplements a small portion of the costs to the parish in providing the following for our Religious Education Program: children's textbooks, art supplies, snacks, and catechesis resources.

Session Attendance

Active and participation enrollment requires 70% attendance for children in grades 1- 8.

It is expected that learners in grades first through eighth will attend the 27 scheduled class sessions. It is hoped that your child will attend all sessions as each has been specifically planned with a theme and activities, enriched with the traditions and teachings of the Catholic church, important to your child's faith formation and sacramental preparation. Since we do understand that occasions arise which might conflict with our program, your child may miss up to 7 sessions, but will be asked to do make-up work. If more than 7 absences occur makeup work must be completed at home. A meeting with the Director is scheduled upon completion of the make-up lessons. At this meeting the work is reviewed to insure the following **1.** that the child is prepared to advance to the next grade level, **2.** that the child may be allowed back into the class to complete the sessions. If you know in advance or an unanticipated absence occurs, kindly inform the Director of Religious Education office or your child's catechist.

Early Dismissals

It is discouraged to have your child released early, it is disruptive to the class. If a child needs to be released earlier than 5:15 PM arrangements must be made with the Director of the Children's Education in advance. No one is permitted into the classroom without prior permission, to insure the safety of our children.

Curriculum

The textbooks the catechists will use for instruction are the **"We Believe"** series, grades K-5 and **"Pflaum Gospel Weeklies"** grades 6-8. These resources have the children **Gather** in prayer and scripture, **Believe** through comprehending the truths of our Catholic faith and **Respond** to these beliefs. A website can be accessed by going to www.webelieve.com, or www.pflaum.com click on the various links and visit the many student and family resources.



Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum  FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM



Snacks and Health

We provide snacks as a part of the Religious Education Program. *If there are special dietary needs and allergies, place them in writing for your child's file and please contact the Director of Religious Education. WE encourage parents to share as much as possible regarding their child's mental and physical health. This allows us to be cognitive and supportive in educating your child.

Safety Procedures



We want your child's time with us to be a safe and an enjoyable one. We need to enlist your cooperation in regard to the following:

*If your child will be a walker or biker, please contact the Director of Religious Education.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES, MOBILE PHONES, SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER SKATES, BALLS AND OTHER PLAY ITEMS we do not allow in any Religious Education Sessions, Holy Cross Parish will provide these for supervised outdoor time. *These items may create a serious risk to the children's safety.*

Discipline and Conduct

If we deem a child's behavior inappropriate and disruptive to the class and program, the following steps will be taken;



1. Catechist will contact the parents and at that time the catechist and parents will work together to assist the child in correcting their behavior.
2. Pastor (*if needed*), Director of Religious Education, catechist and parents will meet to review a decision and formulate a plan that will best suit the needs for **all** the children in the classroom.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

The opportunity for this age group is to discuss areas of importance to them and seek a deeper understanding of their role as Disciples of Christ. They meet in an informal setting, on Wednesday evenings 7:15-8:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Our youth will have guest speakers on various topics, and we encourage them to be involved through church sponsored community service projects.

We schedule fundraising activities to support these service projects, and all high school activities. In order for the parish to subsidize these projects/Missions, and any High School activity the teen must participate in the fundraisers and service projects for the parish.



Sacrament Preparation

First Eucharist



The parish policy states that a child who has completed two years of Religious Education for grades 1 & 2, with a 70% attendance, is eligible as long as their parents agree that the child is now ready to undertake the preparation for the reception of the Eucharist.

The parents are the essential role in the process of readiness for the Eucharist.

Readiness requirements are as follows:

- ✚ Child is in the second grade or older and must be actively enrolled in Religious Education.
Active enrollment requires 70% attendance for two years
- ✚ Participation in the **First Eucharist Family Blessing Mass**, *see date below*
- ✚ Completion of the participation in the at-home parent/child catechesis,
- ✚ Children's attendance and participation in the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays at the 9 AM Mass.
- ✚ Present the Offertory Gifts at a weekend Mass prior to First Eucharist

The First Eucharist Family Blessing is a required segment of the preparation process. Child and parents must be present at this Mass and Meeting in order for their child to proceed as a candidate for First Eucharist.

✚ **Sunday, October 6, 2019 at the 9 AM Mass the First Eucharist Family Blessing will be celebrated. Parent Meeting to follow the Mass**

✚ **Tuesday, April 28, 2020 a Required Rehearsal and Meeting at 4:30 PM.**
The children and at least one parent required to attend.

✚ **Sunday, May 3, 2020 Celebration of First Eucharist at the 9 AM Mass.**



First Penance

Catholic Church policy states a child should receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to the Sacrament of Eucharist. At Holy Cross Parish, however, we stress that the child concentrate on preparing for the reception of the Eucharist prior to receiving the Sacrament of Penance. This practice supports the child and parent in properly preparing for First Eucharist and then First Penance. If a parent wishes for their child to receive Penance prior to Eucharist we will support you in that process.

Parents are an essential role in the preparation for the Sacrament of Penance. To better understand this preparation we have scheduled a Parent Meeting for

✚ **Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 4:30 PM in the Parish Hall.**

✚ **A required Rehearsal meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 4:30 PM**

✚ **We will celebrate First Penance in a Penitential Rite for Children on
Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 10 AM**



Confirmation

The Diocesan and parish policy states that a young person age 14 or older may enroll as a candidate in the preparation for Confirmation. Here at Holy Cross the Celebration of Confirmation takes place every two years, therefore it is a two year preparation including their formal formation in grades 1-8.

Enrollment and preparation requirements are;

✚ The candidate completes **the seventh and eighth grade curriculum**

✚ The candidate must be actively enrolled in the Religious Education Formation for Children. Active and participation enrollment requires 70% attendance in grades 1-8.

A Parent / Candidate Meeting is a required segment of the preparation process.

✚ **Celebration of Confirmation Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 11 AM**



Communications

In order to keep our **families informed**, and to **notify families** in case of emergencies, parents need to contact the Parish Office (772-231-0671) in the event of a change of address, telephone numbers and medical emergency information.

Please keep up to date on various parish activities using these vehicles of communication;

- ✚ emails,
- ✚ weekly bulletin,
- ✚ “What’s Happening” calendar in the bulletin,
- ✚ Mass announcements, and the
- ✚ web site; www.holycrossverobeach.org

Office of Safe Environments

Diocese of Palm Beach



In 2002 the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was implemented by the USCCB (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*).

The charter requires all Dioceses “to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people.” Article 12

Education and Training of children, youth and parents is held in each parish and school annually.

The Diocese of Palm Beach requires all adults (catechists, volunteers, employees and clergy/ministers) whose duties include supervision of children, young people and vulnerable adults to have a background screening and attend a workshop on Protecting God’s Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The children in grades Kindergarten through High School will also be required to participate in an education program NCMEC’s *KidSmartz* and *NetSmartz*, and the Sadlier, Inc, “We Believe” curriculum. These textbooks teach Catholic principles and morals to equip children to live out their faith in the world. NCMEC’s *KidSmartz* and *NetSmartz*, two educational programs that teach kids real world safety and internet safety, respectively.

For more information on keeping our children safe please visit the Diocesan Web Site, Office of Safe Environments at www.diocesepb.org.





HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Telephone: 772-231-0671

Fax: 772-234-5653

Mailing Address

500 Iris Lane

Vero Beach, FL 32963

Web Site: www.holycrossverobeach.org

Pastor

Rev. Richard Murphy

Pastoral and Religious Education Office Hours

Monday 1:00-4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

☀ **Summer Office hours Monday 1:00 – 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

Director of Religious Education for the Children

Mrs. Lori Humenik

772-231-0671

lhumenik@holycrossverobeach.org

Director of Liturgy and Music

Dr. Daniel Kroger

dkroger@holycrossverobeach.org

Leader in Prayer for the Children

Tuesday Religious Education Prayer Service

Deacon Richard Blake

High School Youth Group

Mrs. Diane Jellie

Lead Catechist for the High School Team



First Sessions for K-5

Tuesday, October 1

Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

First Session for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesday, October 2

Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

*Sunday, October 6

First Eucharist Family Blessing 9 AM Mass

Parent Meeting to follow

Liturgy Of the Word for Children Resumes



Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, November 5, 12 & 19

Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesdays, November 6, 13, & 20



Tues., November, 26, **NO Sessions for K-5**

Wed., November 27, **NO Sessions for 6-8 & HS**



**Advent begins on Sunday,
December 1, 2019**



Sessions for K-5

Tuesday, December 3, 10, & 17

Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesday, December 4, & 11



Tuesdays, December 10 & 17

HC Presenters Preparation for Gospel of Christmas at 5 PM

Tuesday, December 24

HC Presenters Preparation for Gospel of Christmas 10 AM

Gospel of Christmas

6:00 PM Vigil Mass



Christmas Holiday

NO Sessions

Tuesday, December 24 & 31

Wednesday, December 25 & January 1

Sessions resume

Tuesday January 7 2020

Wednesday January 8, 2020

Sunday, December 22 & 29

NO Liturgy Of the Word for Children

January 2020

Religious Education Sessions Resume

Tuesday January 7, 2020

Wednesday January 8, 2020

Sunday, January 5

Epiphany Sunday

**Wise Men Presenting Gifts
at the 9 am Mass**





Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28

Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesday, January 8, 15, 22 & 29



Sunday, January 5 "Epiphany Sunday"

Wise Men Gift Presentation at the 9 AM Mass

Tuesday, January 14

First Penance Parent Meeting at 4:30 PM in the Parish Hall

Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29

Tuesday, March 31

HC Presenters Rehearsal for Procession of Palms at 5 PM

Sunday, April 5 **Palm Sunday**

Procession of Palms at 9 AM Mass



HOLY WEEK

Tuesday, April 7 Stations of the Cross in Church



Easter Sunday April 12

Sunday, April 19

Parish Picnic

Sunday April 26

Last Liturgy Of the Word for Children's resume in the fall of 2020

Tuesday, April 28

First Eucharist Rehearsal for children and parents 4:30 PM



Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25

Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth

Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26

Tuesday, February 24

HC Presenters Rehearsal for Lenten Procession at 5 PM

Sunday, March 1 **1st Sunday of Lent**

Lenten Procession at 9 AM Mass

Tuesday, February 25

First Penance Rehearsal 4:15 PM Daily Chapel

Ash Wednesday, February 26



Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, March 3, 17, & 31

Sessions for 6-8 & HS School Youth

Wednesdays, March 4, & 18

STEDS School Spring Breaks

Tuesday, March 10, **NO Sessions for K-5**

Wednesday, March 11, **NO Sessions for 6-8 & HS**

IR Schools Spring Break

Tuesday, March 24, **NO Sessions K-5**

Wednesday, March 25, **NO Sessions 6-8 & HS**

Tuesday, March 3

†First Penance Parent Meeting 4:15 Daily Chapel

Saturday, March 7

†Celebration of First Penance 10 AM



Sunday, May 3

Celebration of First Eucharist

9 AM Mass

Tuesday, May 5

Last Session for K-5

**May Crowning and
Year End Celebration**

4:15 PM in the Parish Hall



Wednesday, May 6

Last Session for 6-8

High School Last Session Off Site

**Tuesday, May 5 2020-2021
Registration Forms Due**

Liturgy of the Word for Children 2019-2020 Schedule

Sundays at the 9:00 AM Mass



During the Liturgy of the Word, for our children(PreK-3rd), we dismiss them along with their adult catechists to take part in the Sunday Scripture at their level. Terminology at their level helps them to understand and appreciate the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. In the past we have noted that the children who attend Mass and participate in the Liturgy of the Word for Children have a more complete understanding of their Religious Education and are more prepared for their celebration of the Sacraments. This program is a requirement for children preparing to Celebrate Sacraments; First Eucharist and First Penance

SEE schedule below

2019

10-06-2019 Ordinary Time

First Eucharist Blessing

10-13-2019 Ordinary Time

10-20-2019 Ordinary Time

10-27-2019 Ordinary Time

11-03-2019 Ordinary Time

11-10-2019 Ordinary Time

11-17-2019 Ordinary Time

11-24-2019 Ordinary Time

12-01-2019 Advent

12-08-2019 Advent

12-15-2019 Advent

NO Session

12-22-2019 Advent

Christmas Eve and Christmas Break

2020

1-05-2020 **Epiphany of the Lord**

Three Wise Men Gift Presentation

1-12-2020 Ordinary Time

1-19-2020 Ordinary Time

1-26-2020 Ordinary Time

2-02-2020 Ordinary Time

2-09-2020 Ordinary Time

2-16-2020 Ordinary Time

2-23-2020 Ordinary Time

3-01-2020 Lent

**Holy Cross Children Presenters
Lenten Procession**

3-08-2020 Lent

3-15-2020 Lent

3-22-2020 Lent

3-29-2020 Lent

4-05-2020 **Palm Sunday**

**Holy Cross Children Presenters
Procession of Palms**

*Christ
is
Risen!*

4-12-2020 **NO Session**

Easter Sunday

4-19-2020 Easter Season

Last Session

4-26-2020 Easter Season
will resume in the Fall of 2020

*Sunday May 3, 2020
Celebration of First Eucharist*

Our Prayers

✠ 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.



Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord be with you!
Blessed are you among women,
And Blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Grace before Meals

Bless us oh Lord, and these your gifts
which we are about to receive
from your bounty.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen



The Apostle's 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 Pilot,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into Hell;
on the third he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
God the Father almighty;
from there he will 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

Glory be to the Father

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



Prayer of Sorrow



Father, I am sorry for all my sins;
For what I have done
And for what I have failed to do.
I will sincerely try to do better.
Help me to walk by your light. Amen