

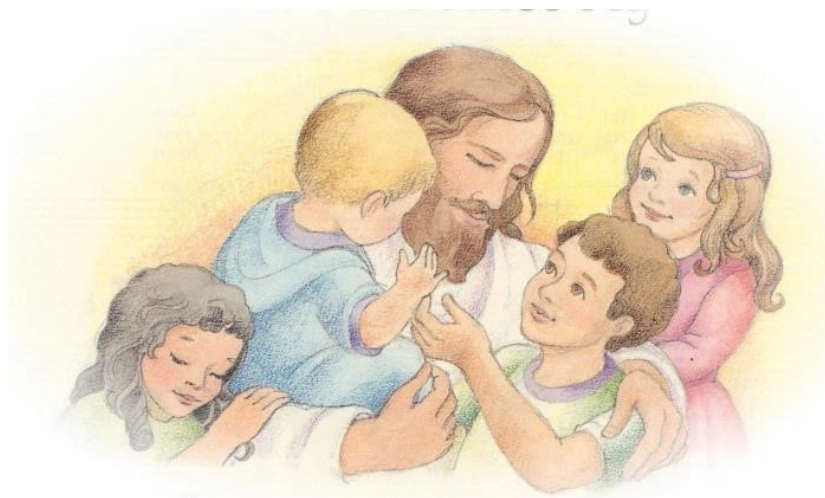
# Holy Cross Catholic Church



## Religious Education for Children

### 2020-2021 Handbook and Calendar

available on the web site [www.holycrossverobeach.org](http://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. (2020.2021 TBS)

## **Offertory Family** to be an Offertory Family please contact the parish Office 772-231-0671.

Due to Covid-19 and the Bishop's Directives, we are currently have suspended Offertory Presentation. To resume at a later date.



**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:

**Due to Covid-19 these liturgies will be scheduled and communicated at a later date.**

**Christmas Eve Gospel**

**TBS**

**Epiphany Sunday**

**Magi Presentation**

**TBS**

**Lent Penitential Procession**

**TBS**

**Procession of Palms**

**TBS**



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.**



## 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

## 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 \$100.00 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 28 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](http://www.webelieve.com), or [www.pflaum.com](http://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.

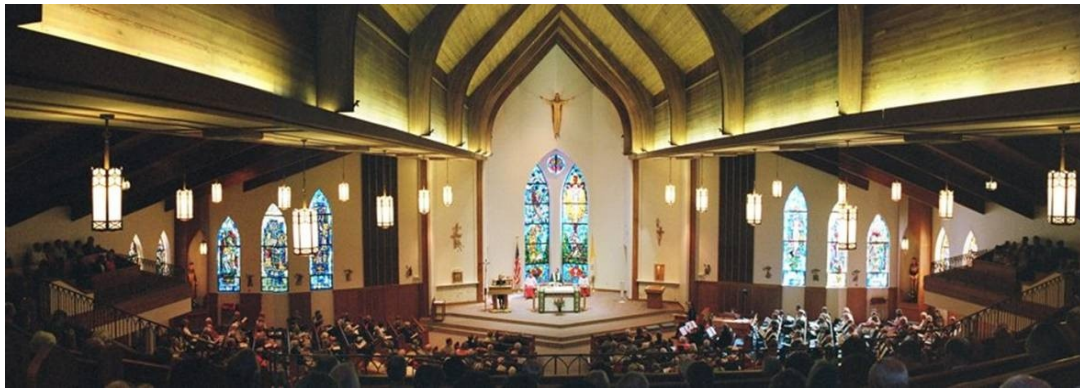
## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY**



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.





## Celebrations and 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**, *date TBS at a later date Due to covid-19*
- ✚ 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.**

✚ **First Eucharist Family Blessing and Parent Meeting will be celebrated at the 9 AM Mass.** *Due to Covid-19 date TBS*

✚ **Tuesday, prior to First Eucharist Celebration a required Rehearsal and Meeting at 4:30 PM, in the church**

*The children and at least one parent required to attend.*

✚ **Celebration of First Eucharist Sunday, April 25, 2021 at the 9 AM Mass.**



## First Penance

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**Parents are an essential role in the preparation for the Sacrament of Penance. To better understand this preparation a Parent Meeting to inform the families of the preparation and how Holy Cross will support you in this role will be scheduled.**



## Confirmation

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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 religious formation in grades 1-8.

Enrollment and preparation requirements are;

- ✚ The Baptized Candidate must be actively enrolled and completed a Faith Formation curriculum in Grades First through Eighth grades.
- ✚ Celebrated the following Sacraments; Baptism, First Eucharist and First Penance

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

✚ Celebration of Confirmation November 2021  
✚ 1st Year for current candidates in 8th and 9th  
✚ Information Meeting TBS





## 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, calendar in the bulletin,
- ✉ My Parish App
- ✉ Holy Cross Facebook Page
- ✉ Mass announcements, and the
- ✉ web site; [www.holycrossverobeach.org](http://www.holycrossverobeach.org) (click on Ministries and Religious Education for Children)

## 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](http://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](http://www.holycrossverobeach.org)

### **Pastor**

Rev. Thomas Barrett

### **Pastoral and Religious Education Office Hours**

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

### **Director of Religious Education for the Children**

Mrs. Lori Humenik

772-231-0671 Parish Office

772-234-6410 Parish Hall only available when the children are on property

[lhumenik@holycrossverobeach.org](mailto:lhumenik@holycrossverobeach.org)

### **Director of Liturgy and Music**

Dr. Daniel Kroger

[dkroger@holycrossverobeach.org](mailto: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 6**

### Sessions for K-5

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, and 27

### First Session for 6-8

**Wednesday, October 7**

### Sessions for 6-8

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, and 28



### Sessions for K-5

**Tuesdays, November 10 & 17**

### Sessions for 6-8

**Wednesdays, November 4, & 18**

**No Session for K-5 on Tuesday November 3  
due to Holy Cross is a voting precinct.**



**No Session for 6-8 on November 11  
Veterans Day**



Tues., November, 24, **NO Sessions for K-5**  
Wed., November 25, **NO Sessions for 6-8 & HS**



**1st Sunday of Advent  
November 29, 2020**



### Sessions for K-5

**Tuesday, December 1, 8, & 15**

### Sessions for 6-8

**Wednesday, December 2, 9 & 16**



Rehearsals TBS

**Gospel of Christmas  
6:00 PM Vigil Mass**



### *Christmas Season*

### **NO Sessions**

**Tuesday, December 22 & 29  
Wednesday, December 23 & 30**

Sessions resume

Tuesday January 5, 2021

Wednesday January 6, 2021

### January 2021

Religious Education Sessions Resume

**Tuesday January 5, 2021**

**Wednesday January 6, 2021**

Sunday, January 3

*Epiphany Sunday*

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



**2021**

**JANUARY**

**Sessions for K-5**

Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19 & 26

**Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth**

Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20 & 27



Sunday, January 3 "Epiphany Sunday"

**Wise Men Gift Presentation at the 9 AM Mass**

**2021**

**February**

**Sessions for K-5**

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23

**Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth**

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24

**Ash Wednesday, February 17**

**2021**

**MARCH**

**Sessions for K-5**

Tuesdays, March 2, 16, & 30

**Sessions for 6-8 & HS School Youth**

Wednesdays, March 3, 17 & 31

**STEDS School Spring Breaks**

Tuesday, March 9, **NO** Sessions for K-5

Wednesday, March 10, **NO** Sessions for 6-8 & HS

**IR Schools Spring Break**

Tuesday, March 23, **NO** Sessions K-5

Wednesday, March 24, **NO** Sessions 6-8 & HS

**Palm Sunday, March 28,**

Tuesday, March 30 "Stations of the Cross"



**2021**  
**April**

**Sessions for K-5**

Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20, & 27

**Sessions for 6-8 & HS Youth**

Wednesdays, April 7, 14, 21, & 28



**Easter Sunday April 5**



Tuesday, April 20, 2021

**First Eucharist Rehearsal for children and parents 4:30 PM**

Sunday, April 25, 2021

**Celebration of First Eucharist**

**9 AM Mass**

**2021**

**May**

Tuesday, May 4

**Last Session for K-5**

**May Crowning and**

**Year End Celebration**

**4:15 PM in the Parish Hall**



Wednesday, May 5

**Last Session for 6-8**

**High School Last Session Off Site**

**Tuesday, May 5 2021-2022  
Registration Forms Due**



*“Education is an act of love; it is like giving life”*  
- Pope Francis

## **Religious Education at Holy Cross Catholic Church Classroom Re-Entry Plan**

*We are looking forward to having our children resume their religious education.*



The pastor along with the support staff will provide the necessary building and classroom modifications needed to ensure the children's safe return to religious education on October 6 and 7th, 2020. This plan may be updated regularly based on the guidance of the Diocese of Palm Beach, local and state officials. Our Pastor, Fr. Tom Barrett will share updated information on the Web-Site, My Parish App, Bulletin, and our Facebook page. This plan, and any other related policies and procedures, may be revised at any time with or without prior notice and the specific provisions may be subject to the discretion of the Pastor and the Director of Religious Education. This plan may differ from other entities within the Diocese of Palm Beach due to varying local laws and the unique nature of the services and population that each entity serves.

As always the health and safety of our children will be our first priority.

### **FOR OUR CHILDREN RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM WE ARE PREPARING THE FACILITY WITH THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS:**

- ✞ **Temperature taking before entering the building.**
- ✞ **Strategic social distancing.**
- ✞ **Enhanced disinfecting protocols including frequent disinfecting of high touch surfaces.**
- ✞ **Masks will be required for students, staff and catechists.**

### **FOR OUR AT-HOME LEARNERS:**



- ✞ **a curriculum will be provided for each child, curated and monitored by the Catechists and the Director of Religious Education, Lori Humenik.**
- ✞ **This curriculum will follow the in class learner lessons.**
- ✞ **This gives the at home learner an opportunity to return to the classroom with parental and the director of religious education consent.**



# 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 is 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 O 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 Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on 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 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,  
Is 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