



St. Stephen Catholic Church

Religious Education Office for Children, Youth & Adults

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Welcome! Our parish Religious Education, Adult and Youth Ministry programs offer many opportunities for you and your family to continue your faith formation. Registration forms are available in the RE Office, located in the school building off Boyette Road, or download these forms from our web site. Once registered in our program, your child will be scheduled for the class time that you requested on your form. We will only contact you only if there is a problem.

NO reminders are mailed to your home, so please note starting dates below.

RETURNING STUDENTS: Please fill out the **(YELLOW)** Family Form – instructions are given. In order to receive your choice of class day and time, you must register early! Class size is limited. Students are assigned day and time on a first come, first serve basis.

SIBLINGS: (brothers and sisters of returning students registering for the first time) Please fill out a **WHITE STUDENT FORM**. You may pick one up at the RE Office or download the form from our web site. Return the (white) Student Form along with the (yellow) Family Form for proper registration.

NEW STUDENTS: Please fill out the **(PINK)** Family Form – instructions are given. We also need a **WHITE STUDENT FORM** for each child you are registering in one of our classes. We will also need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. If you are not a registered parishioner of St. Stephen we welcome your registration. Parish registration takes place every Sunday morning in Room 2 at the church at 10:45 a.m. or call the parish office (813) 689-4900. You will receive a Parish ID number.

REGISTRATION FEES: \$ 65.00 one child
90.00 two children
100.00 three or more

RETREAT FEES: \$40.00 1st Reconciliation & First Eucharist
80.00 Confirmation

Catechists: Please call our office regarding a discount.

Financial Assistance: Please complete the Financial Aid Assistance Form.

CLASS TIMES: Please call the RE Office for information regarding homestudy, OCIA, and other adult programs.

*Preschool – Sundays at the **church** building, 9:30-10:30 a.m.*

*Kindergarten through Grade 5 – At the **school** building on Sundays, either 10:00-11:15 or 12:00 -1:15
or Wednesdays, either 4:15-5:30 or 6:00-7:15 p.m.*

*Middle School – At the **church** building on Monday nights, 7:00-8:30 pm*

*High School – At the **ROC Center** Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 and Sundays after the 5:30 Mass; and other events*

*First Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation – register for a Sunday or Wednesday class; additional retreats required
Confirmation Preparation - Grade 8: register for a Monday class; additional requirements*

- High School: Life Nights & 6-week class at the ROC Center on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

*- Adults: a 6-week class begins in January on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. at the **church***

Special Need Sacrament Preparation –Based on individual needs – we can only offer this class if we have a volunteer.

CLASS STARTING DATES for 2011 - 2012

Preschool – **Sunday, September 18, 2011** at 9:30 at the church building

Kindergarten to Grade 5 – **Sunday, Sep 11** at 10:00 or 12:00 / **Wednesday, Sep 21** at 4:15 or 6:00 at the school

Middle School – **Monday, September 12** at 7:00 p.m. at the church building

High School Confirmation – **Wednesday, September 28, 2011** at 6:00 p.m. at the ROC Center

Adult Confirmation class starting date to be announced. Classes will be at the church.

The gift of faith, which begins at Baptism, must be nourished throughout the entire life of each Catholic. Parents have the primary responsibility for training their children in the practices of our faith. Our parish Religious Education programs assist parents in their sacred duty, and provide opportunities for families to develop their prayer lives and their formal understanding of our faith so each individual can come to his/her potential as members of the People of God.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

(The RE Office has copies of the complete Program Handbook for anyone interested)

Families must be registered members of St. Stephen Parish. Please be sure to write your Parish ID or Envelope Number on the front side of the Registration Form. No registrations will be processed without this number. Thank you for your cooperation. Parish registration is available every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. in room 2 at the Church. If you do not know your number, call Bernadette at the Church Office 689-4900.

Preschool children must be four years old by September 1st of the year in which the student is enrolling. Children beginning Kindergarten must be 5 by September 1. Children are placed in the same grade they attend in school although special considerations are made for sacrament preparation when necessary.

Parents must sign the photo/video release on the registration form as well as the Harassment & Safe Environment Policy acknowledgement on the back. It is essential that you provide us with accurate emergency contact information and update as needed.

The family has an essential role in preparation for and celebration of a sacrament. According to diocesan guidelines, parents as well as children and youth are required to attend preparatory sessions, meet all requirements, pray daily, and attend Mass weekly as a family. Reminder notices are sent home regarding meetings, retreats, Rites, and rehearsals. Home Study and Catholic School guidelines are available in the RE Office. Classes are also offered for older children, youth and adults who want to prepare for sacraments. Please call the RE Office to inform us of your needs.

Sacrament classes are only offered for children and youth with special needs when we have a catechist to teach this class. Please call the RE Office for details.

We're very fortunate to have a large number of catechists sharing their time, love, and faith with our children and youth. Teaching requires hours of planning, studying, and implementing. They have entered into a partnership with you to help continue your child's faith formation. Please give them your support and prayers. Remember, we can only reinforce what is being taught at home.

Contact the RE Office if you are interested in becoming a catechist or volunteering as one of our support staff for our many programs.

Volunteer catechists are expected to handle routine classroom discipline and will not be asked to deal with situations beyond their control. Every effort will be made to instill the love of God and neighbor in your child during class. If a child is having an "off day," he/she will be sent to the RE Office for quiet reflection time. Should unruly behavior continue, parents will have to accompany their child to class or instruct their child at home. (Please inquire about our Home Study policy.)

Please note the dates given on the calendar that comes home the first day of class, especially dates when class will not be held. In the event of a hurricane, class will be cancelled.

The safety of our children and youth is of utmost importance and a top priority. Please use caution when dropping off or picking up your child. Parents must escort children to and from the preschool class rooms. Parents of children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will need to walk in to pick up their child(ren). For Middle School, either walk or drive up in the car line to the pick up area. Children will not be allowed to go directly to your parked car unaccompanied. Please note **dismissal** times and try to be on time.

Please check the weekly church bulletin, or visit our web site, for **Youth Group** and **Adult** events.