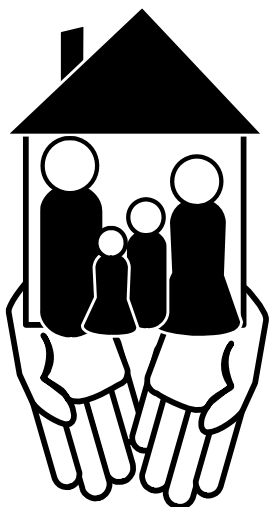


*Heavenly Creator of the Universe,
we thank You for the children
that You have entrusted to us.
We want to cooperate with You fully in
helping them
grow into free and responsible persons
and mature in the faith received at Baptism.*

*Grant us the grace to be able to guide them
in the practice of virtue and
the way of your commandments—
by the good example of our lives,
and by the loving observance of your law
and that of your Church.*

*Most of all, however, guide them with your Spirit
so that they may grow in faith
and walk as your children--
children of grace, joy, justice, and peace.
Amen.*



**We Are
IN HIS HANDS**

RE policies handbook-rev3.2010.doc

Religious Education Handbook

**Good Shepherd Parish
Tallahassee, Florida**



“Let the children come to me...”

Bette Scaringe
**Director of Religious Education
893-1837 (Church)**

scaringeb@gs.ptdiocese.org

**Parish website: goodshepherdparish.org
(RE calendars & forms are on our parish website)**

Good Shepherd Religious Education Philosophy

...Under the impulse of the Spirit, the Church from its very beginning has been a community. Since the faith community as a whole has the responsibility for catechesis of its members, it is essential that catechetical programs include opportunities in which to experience community.

The primary purpose of catechesis is to foster a living, conscious, and active faith through the light of instruction. Therefore, catechesis is a life-long process.

Catechesis should promote a genuine participation in the liturgy of the Church, not merely by explaining the meaning of ceremonies, but also by forming minds and hearts for prayer, for thanksgiving, for repentance, for a community spirit, and for understanding correctly the teachings of the Catholic faith.

Parents are recognized as the first and foremost catechists of their children. Catechetical programs are intended to support parents in nurturing their children's faith by the witness of a worshipping, believing, serving community; by helping parents in their catechetical role; and by familiarizing parents with the stages in children's growth and the relevance these stages have for catechesis. At the same time, parents should have a direct role in the planning, implementation, and support of catechetical programs.

The intrinsic value and uniqueness of every person are to be recognized and respected in catechetical programs. The Good Shepherd Religious Education Team strives to foster an atmosphere of respect, service, and love, and to ensure that justice, mercy, and peace are an integral part of the program.

The Good Shepherd Religious Education Team is committed to proclaim the Good News. It is through the Catholic faith that the message is proclaimed, community is fostered, service is offered, and worship is celebrated.

Adopted: 1990



Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns with confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

Evening students must be picked up at the FRONT Drive Circle of the Parish Center or may be picked up in the lobby. Students should be instructed to go to the pick-up area immediately after class and to follow the instructions of the safety monitor until s/he is picked up. Please reinforce that your child is not to go out into the parking lot. The front drive circle is not to be used for parking. If your child is not ready to be picked up and there are people behind you, please either drive around again or park in a regular parking spot.

Other: Students are to use the stairs and NOT the elevator. (Exemptions made on an individual basis.)

Parents: Parents are expected to reinforce classroom lessons and teachings and to discuss their faith on a regular basis with their child. Memorization of prayers and other information is the responsibility of the parents.

Parents should inform catechists/DRE of any special needs or issues affecting the student's participation. We want to know what we can do to make this a great experience for your child.

Parents are expected to attend sacrament preparation and other meetings for parents.

Parents are expected to speak with their child's catechist(s) periodically to see how everything is going and to help out with their child's program as needed.

Parents are to notify the RE Office of any change of address, phone number, or e-mail.

Parents are encouraged to come to the Director of Religious Education with any concerns, problems, ideas, or suggestions pertaining to the program or their child's faith formation.

We want to hear from you!

RE Programs. RE = Religious Education

Preschool-Kindergarten

3- and 4-year old programs offered in addition to kindergarten
Sept. 1 is the age determination date
Students must be toilet trained

Sacrament Classes & Grades 1-8 Religious Education classes

Sacraments

Baptismal Certificate A copy of the baptismal certificate is required for Grades 1, 2, RCIA for Children, & Confirmation classes (*even for those baptized at Good Shepherd Parish*).

Parent Meetings and participation are a required part of all sacrament preparation.

Baptism classes

for infants: Contact the Parish Office (893-1837).
for school-age children: Contact the RE Office.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Grade 2: Students are prepared for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion in Grade 2. Completion of a Grade one RE class is a **prerequisite** for entrance into Grade 2 RE classes

RCIA for Children/Youth includes a year of inquiry (classes at the student's grade level) and a year of preparation for celebration of the sacraments.

Confirmation Preparation for **Confirmation** ordinarily begins in the second half of Grade 8; Confirmation is celebrated in Grade 9 or above. Completion of two years of middle school RE or Catholic School is required prior to Confirmation preparation.

Home Programs

Grade levels are available for children unable to attend RE classes. **Note:** Sacrament programs are always done within community.

Growing in Love, a parent/child 7-discussion program for grades K-8 to complement RE classes, designed to discuss values, marriage, sexuality within the home. Based on grade level.

GENERAL POLICIES & INFORMATION

We are privileged to have the opportunity to share the faith formation of your child/children with you. We pray for the grace we need to guide these children and youth to mature in the faith received at Baptism.

- Registration:** All students must be registered in the Parish and in the RE program. RE Registration begins in mid-May for the following school year.
- Fees:** While there are fees for RE classes; the fees may be split or waived. Important: No child will be denied participation because of money issues.
- Classes:** RE classes are team taught and are, ideally, closed at 15 students (12 for Grades 7-8).
- Catechists:** Catechists work in teams of two and have completed the Diocesan catechist requirements (fingerprinting and abuse and safe environment training). Catechists also receive catechetical training and support. Please see Bette Scaringe, DRE, if you might be interested in becoming a catechist, substitute, or aide.
- Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance is a factor in considering readiness for sacramental programs and celebrations. Parents should know the contact information for their child's catechists and contact them for make-up work for any missed classes.
- Mass:** Regular Mass attendance is crucial to faith formation and is expected of all our students and their families.
- Students:** Students are expected to be on time for class and to come prepared and ready to learn. Students should bring their book(s) and other work to each class.

Students are not to bring toys, games, or other items that might cause distraction. Cell phones must be turned off and kept out of sight.

Food is not allowed in the Parish Center Building; students are not allowed food/drink in class.

Students should dress appropriately for classes—for example no inappropriate tee shirts, overly short shorts/skirts, bare midriffs, hats off in class, and no gum. PLEASE: no cleats, skate shoes, flip flops, or platform footwear.

Students are expected to go to the restroom or get their drinks of water **PRIOR** to class.

Behavior: Our guidelines are **RESPECT**.
Respect yourself and Respect your classmates
Respect your catechists and class visitors
Respect your books & materials
Respect others' property and Church property
(Note: *For the benefit of all students, a student will not be allowed to disrupt the class.*)

Safety: Our students' safety is a priority; therefore, we have safety monitors and guidelines.

Arrival: If students are being dropped off, utilize the front drive circle; do not drop the students off at the back of the building. **Preschool through Grade 2 students must be walked into their classroom.** If the catechist is not present, please do not leave your child unattended, remain with him/her until the catechist arrives. For children in older grades, parents are to ensure that students go directly to their class.

Dismissal: **Preschool through Grade 2 students must be picked up by a parent in their classroom.** If someone other than a parent is picking the student up, a signed permission note from a parent stating the child's name, the name of the adult (only those over 18 can pick up a child) and the pertinent date(s) is required.