

St. Peter Church

Religious Education Program

About Our Program

Religious Education classes are offered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30–7:30 pm for grades 1st through High School running from September – May. Classes are taught in English by volunteers, both parents of children in our program and other adults and older teens. Our teachers are given ongoing support and materials that are needed in order to be successful in passing on the Faith.

Students in all classes will also have the opportunity to attend other activities at the parish such as Adoration, participate in the Sacraments, learn stories from the Bible, Stations of the Cross, service projects and weekly visits to the classrooms by our priests for question and answer sessions and more. Additionally, weekly classes will help your child learn about the Faith with other children of the parish.

Parental involvement is a MUST! We are partners in the religious education of your children, with key support and involvement beginning at home. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to attend a class, and there will be various activities throughout the year where we count on parent support and attendance to help engage their students in the Faith.

Sacramental Classes: Per the Archdiocesan requirements, each student must complete two (2) years of formation and preparation to be considered a candidate for the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion and Confirmation. All students must attend class at the parish. Students who were homeschooled in the first-year prep program in the 2017/2018 school year will be grandfathered into the 2nd year prep program this year only but must attend class at the parish.

St. Peter recognizes and respects the primary role of the parents in the education of their own children. The means used for this education fall within the prerogative of the parents. However, the administration of the sacraments is the responsibility of the pastor. The Archdiocesan policy states: *“The pastor or his designate shall determine the readiness of children in light of their disposition and preparation prior to the first reception of the sacraments.”* (canons 777 & 914). Therefore, it is not permissible to present your child for any of these sacraments unless and until the child has been determined ready by the pastor.

Contact Information:

Pastor – Rev. Anthony J. Rice, S.J.C.
815-385-5496 / email: stpetervolo@att.net

Coordinator Religious Education – Connie Ballantine
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Registration – Begins July 14, 2018

1. Registration for registered parishioners will begin after all Masses on July 14/15, August 4/5 and August 18/19 in the school. Registration forms will be available at time of registration. Registration forms are also available on our website at www.stpetervolo.org under the Parish Life, Catechism folder. Registered families may print the forms, fill them out ahead of time and bring them to any of the registration dates. Please register early as it is important to determine the number of Catechists, classroom setup, supplies, and class assignments needed to run a successful program.
2. SACRAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS: You must be a registered and active member of the parish for 6 months to be able to register your child into one of our Sacramental programs. For those families who are new to the area and have been with us less than 6 months, you will need to provide a letter from your previous parish stating you were an active member and that your son/daughter was previously enrolled in the parish CCD program.

Tuition Fees

1st & 2nd child = \$100 per child

3rd & 4th child = \$75 per child

Additional children = \$15 book fee per child

Sacramental materials for 1st Communion & Reconciliation - \$25.00 per student

Sacramental materials for Confirmation - \$50.00 per student (includes mandatory retreat)

Fees must be paid at the time of registration. Monthly or quarterly payment plans are available. Please inquire at registration.

For financial assistance please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education during office hours. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Last day to register is Sunday, August 19, 2018. Registration will then close for the year.

Full payment for CCD classes must be received by August 31, 2018.

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Policy and Procedures

Arrival & Departure:

1. **Arrival is 6:20 p.m.:** Please do not drop off your students as it will be dark during class hours. Parents or designated guardians must bring their child into the school. NOTE: students need to arrive 10 minutes early so class may begin on-time.
2. **Departure is 7:30 p.m.:** Parents or designated guardians must come into the school to pick up their students. Students will not otherwise be released.

The church will remain open for parents and guardians who wish to stay during class.

Attendance:

1. Students must attend all classes.
2. **ABSENCE:** An email notification to the class instructor or Religious Education Coordinator is necessary for an absence to be considered excused. (NOTE: sporting activities or events, recitals and vacations are not acceptable reasons for absence and are considered unexcused unless prior approval has been given by the pastor).
3. Parents will be notified if a student does not show up for class without prior notice.
4. Students who miss class will be expected to make up the materials covered in class.
5. Two **unexcused** absences will cause your child to be dismissed from the program.

Classroom Rules:

1. Commit to the study of religion and arrive on-time.
2. Demonstrate courteous behavior to the teacher and classmates.
3. The use of cellphones or any other electronic devices is prohibited during class time and will be collected in a basket at the beginning of class.
4. Focus and attention on the teacher and group discussions during class.
5. Limit social conversation during class as not to distract from the teacher or fellow classmates.
6. No food and/or beverages are allowed in the classroom.
7. Each student will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct on classroom rules on the first day of class.

Appropriate Behavior:

1. Attending religious education class is a privilege and opportunity for faith development and students are expected to choose respectful and responsible behavior.
If behavior problems occur:
 - 1st time – student will be corrected
 - 2nd time – parents will be notified
 - 3rd time – parents will be notified and the child will be dismissed from CCD classes until the following year.
2. We ask that parents take the time to explain appropriate behavior in the classroom as well as in the church setting.

Dress Code:

1. Dress in a respectful and modest way (NO short skirts, shorts, broken or frayed pants, graphics on shirts or over revealing tops).

Weather Cancellation:

1. If the weather results in having to cancel class, parents will be notified by email early in the day.

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Programs Offered

1. Grades 1 through 6 - Faith & Life Series
2. Confirmation Prep Class (1st year) – Faith & Life Series, Bible
3. Confirmation Prep Class (2nd year) – Bible, Compendium, Catechism of the Catholic Church
4. High School – ‘Through Christ Our Lord’ Book 2 Series of Our Quest for Happiness

Sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion Program

Parents must provide a photocopy of the child’s baptismal certificate at time of registration (unless baptized at St. Peter).

First Communion – 1st Year Prep Program

1. Students must be a minimum of 6 years old to enter into the program.

First Communion – 2nd Year Prep Program

1. Students must be a minimum of 7 years old to enter into the program.
2. Students will be interviewed by the pastor and as part of the interview they will need to know and recite the following prayers: (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be). Date of interview TBD.
3. Students who were homeschooled in the 1st year prep program in 2017/2018 will be grandfathered into the 2nd year prep program but must attend class at the parish and be interviewed by the pastor to determine their readiness. (see number 2 above).
4. Students must have the ability to memorize, read, write and comprehend for weekly take home assignments and testing purposes. Final testing at the end of the school year will be both oral and written forms. Parents will be notified if their student struggles in this area of concern.

Sacrament of Confirmation Program

Parents must provide a photocopy of the child’s baptismal certificate at time of registration (unless baptized at St. Peter).

Sacrament of Confirmation – 1st Year Prep Program

1. Students must be at least 12 years of age by December 31, 2018 to enter into the program.
2. Students will be interviewed by the pastor and will need to know and recite the following prayers: (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition & Apostles Creed). Date of interview TBD
3. Not all students excel in reading, writing, spelling and comprehension but these are essential in this program as written homework assignments will be given throughout the school year and testing will take place each quarter. Parents will be notified if their student struggles in this area of concern.

Sacrament of Confirmation – 2nd Year Prep Program

1. Students must be at least 13 years of age by December 31, 2018 to enter into the program.
2. Students who were homeschooled in the 2017/2018 1st year prep program will be grandfathered into the 2018/2019 2nd year program this year only. These students will be interviewed by the pastor to determine if they are ready to enter into the 2nd year program. As part of the interview, the following prayers are to be recited orally: (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Apostles Creed and Act of Contrition) Date of interview TBD.
3. Not all students excel in reading, writing, spelling and comprehension but these are essential in this program as written homework assignments will be given throughout the school year and testing will take place each quarter. Parents will be notified if their student struggles in this area of concern.