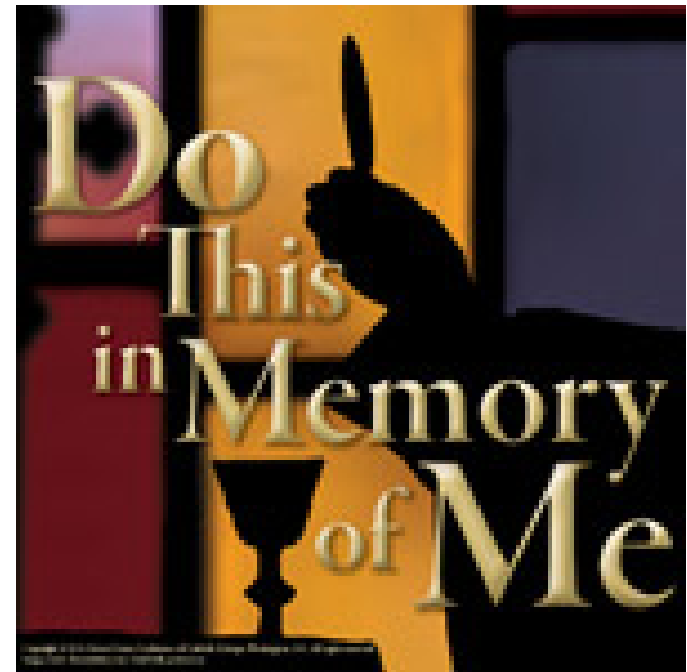


*Religious Education
Handbook for Families
St. Jude The Apostle Parish*

*Office of Religious Education
St. Jude The Apostle Church
152 Tulip Drive
Lewes, DE 19958
302-644-7413
Fax—302-644-7415*

*Mrs. Pam Becker
Director of Religious Education
pbecker1@verizon.net*

*Ms. Lynn Marie
Religious Education Secretary
lynn.marie1@verizon.net*



*“Do This In Memory of Me.”
2011-2012*

Dear Faithful of St. Jude,

We welcome our youth and parents as they begin their journey in this new year of Religious Education. Please let the items in this booklet serve as a resource for your ongoing journey of faith. May this year assist you in following Jesus, help you to become closer to Him, and welcome Him into your lives as your friend.

"Do This in Memory of Me" is the theme of Catechetical Sunday, September 18, 2011 and our Religious Education efforts this year. Adoration of our Eucharistic Lord is also the focus of our parish as we work toward perpetual adoration this year.

If parents today teach their children the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, they will learn to believe in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son of God.

In the song "I am the Bread of Life," the lyrics drew from the Gospel of John: whoever comes to me will not hunger again; no one can come to me unless the Father draws them near Him. Jesus took bread and wine and consecrated them as a memorial of His great love for us. When you bring your children to Mass, you help them discover a sense of being God's family. When you bring them to Religious Education classes, that sense is reinforced. Children will be using the Gospel Weeklies in their classes to break open the stories of Jesus they heard at Mass, and bringing them home to be shared with the family.

A PRAYER FOR FAMILY COMMITMENT

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the Sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us — spouses, parents, and children — share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Copyright © 2011, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. Image credit: Dreamstime.com. To order publication no. 7-180, visit usccebpublishing.org or call 800-235-8722.

STUDENT ATTIRE/DEMEANOR

Occasionally, classes may go into the church or Parish Life Center for prayer and information. Accordingly, student attire should be neat and appropriate. A general rule could be that what is not acceptable in "day school" is not appropriate for Religious Education classes. Baseball caps, Heelys shoes, skate shoes, soccer shoes/baseball shoes with cleats may not be worn in the Religious Education Center or the Parish Life Center.

Notes

May God guide us as we come together, in Mass, in Religious Education classes, and in the home to know more deeply the love of Jesus for us. May God bless you and help our youth to grow closer to Him!

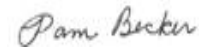
Sincerely in Christ,



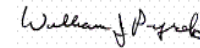
Deacon Kenny J. Hall



Deacon Robert J. Sprouse



Pamela M. Becker
Director of
Religious Education



Deacon William J. Pyrek



Deacon Donald E. Lydick



Rev. William T. Small
Retired Priest



Rev. Mark J. Connelly
Associate Pastor



Rev. James D. Hreha
Pastor



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR 2011-2012
Sunday Morning 11:15-12:30 p.m. K – 8th GRADE
Sunday Evening 5:30-6:45 p.m. 1st -10 GRADE

1st Semester	2nd Semester
September 11* Opening Day	January 1 No Class
September 18 Parish Picnic 12:00 No evening classes	January 8
September 25	January 15* Family Activity
October 2* CHAOS Diocesan Youth Event **	January 22
October 9	January 29
October 16	February 5* No Evening Classes
October 23	February 12^
October 30*	February 19 No Class
November 6	February 26
November 13	March 4*
November 20	March 11^
November 27 No Class	March 18 Youth Reconciliation 2:00 p.m.
December 4	March 25
December 11 Youth Reconciliation 2:00 p.m.	April 1
December 18*	April 8 Easter — No Class
December 25 Christmas No Class	April 15 No Class
	April 22
	April 29
	May 6* Closing Activity 11:15 a.m. For both sessions

*Prayer Service

^ Evening Prayer Service

** Mandatory Event for Grades 6-8 (takes the place of class)

SAFETY

In order to ensure the safety of our younger children, teachers will bring all K-6th grade students to the gathering space for dismissal. Teachers will wait with the children until parents arrive. Older siblings may accompany younger ones out of the building. **At no time should a vehicle block the designated Fire Lane in front of the Religious Education Center.** You are asked not to drop off or pick up a student in the fire lane.

STEWARDSHIP

Children learn by following the example of their parents. Catholic parents demonstrate to their children that being Catholic means giving of their time, talent and treasure. This is called "stewardship", a way of life that comes from seeing everything as a gift from God. Motivated by faith and a deep sense of gratitude, a Catholic Christian is called to a greater sharing of his/her time, talent and treasure with the Church and other worthy causes.

Parents can do this in the Religious Education program by participating in activities that support the work of the teachers and the success of the overall program. A list of ways to be involved as well as suggestions for teaching your children about stewardship will be distributed at the parent orientation. It is an expectation of our program that one or both parents give of their time and talent in some way.

In addition, children will learn stewardship in the classrooms by making cards for the Homebound of the Parish, helping the Saint Vincent De Paul Society with Thanksgiving baskets, and filling Rice Bowls during Lent. Junior and senior high students will have active roles in the Family Mass. Additional service activities are offered throughout the year with the Youth Group.

Confirmation students will be expected to demonstrate readiness for the Sacrament by sharing their time and talent with the parish throughout their preparation process and how they expect to continue doing so in the future.

First Holy Eucharist

“The Eucharist is the Center and heart of Christian life for both the universal and local Church and for each Christian. All that belongs to Christian Life leads to the Eucharistic celebration or flow from it” (National Directory for Catechesis 124).

In preparation for a child’s First Eucharist, children usually between 7 and 9 years of age should be attending Mass with their families on a weekly basis. Two years attendance in Religious Education, prior to reception of the sacrament, is required. The children of Second Grade and above who have been invited and have made their First Reconciliation are then able to prepare for First Eucharist.

- First Eucharist Enrollment Mass will take place on Sunday, February 5, 2011 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.
- First Eucharist Retreat will follow immediately after the Enrollment Mass. The purpose of this retreat is to assist parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion.
- First Communion Breakfast will be Sunday, April 22. All of the First Communicants and their families will attend the 10:00 a.m. Mass followed by breakfast and activities in the Parish Life Center.

“Ideally, First Eucharist is celebrated with the parish community at the Sunday Liturgies. This emphasizes the sacrament as one’s initiation into full participation with the worshipping community” (Diocesan policy # 7).

Thus, First Eucharist Celebration will take place during the weekend Masses in the Easter Season, from Saturday, May 12 through Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012. Parents will select the specific Mass for their child’s First Eucharist.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST PREPARATION CALENDAR 2011-2012

1st Semester

September 11* Opening Day

September 18

September 25

October 2*

October 9

October 16 First Reconciliation Enrollment Mass

10:00 a.m.

October 22 Retreat 9:00-12:00 p.m.

October 23

October 30*

November 6

November 13

November 20

November 27 No Class

December 3 First Reconciliation

10:00 a.m.

December 4

December 11

December 18*

December 25 Christmas
No Class

2nd Semester

January 1 No Class

January 8

January 15*

January 22

January 29

February 5* First Communion Enrollment Mass & Retreat 10:00 a.m.

February 12^

February 19

February 26

March 4*

March 11^

March 18 Youth Reconciliation
2:00 p.m.

March 25

April 1

April 8 Easter — No Class

April 15 No Class

April 22 First Communion Breakfast

10:00-12:30 p.m.

April 29

May 6*

Dates in Bold are mandatory.



**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CALENDAR
9TH AND 10TH GRADES
2011-2012**

Sunday classes 5:30-6:45 unless otherwise noted

1st Semester

August 23 Confirmation Orientation
7:00 p.m. (9th Grade)

September 11* Opening Session

September 18
September 25

October 2*

October 9

October 16

October 23 Baltimore Trip
(9th & 10th)

October 30*

November 6 Enrollment Mass

10:00 a.m. &
Candidate & Sponsor
Evening of Reflection
(9th Grade)

November 13

November 20

November 27 No Class

December 4

December 11 Youth Reconciliation
2:00 p.m.

December 18*

December 25 Christmas
No Class

2nd Semester

January 1 No Class

January 8

January 15*

January 22

January 29

February 4 Service Project
12:00-5:30 p.m.
(9th & 10th)

February 12^

February 19

February 26

March 4*

March 11^ Stations of the Cross
(9th & 10th)

March 18 Youth Reconciliation
2:00 p.m.

March 25

April 1

April 8 Easter — No Class

April 15 No Class

April 22

April 27 Confirmation Practice
7:00 p.m. (10th Grade)

April 29 Confirmation
10:00 a.m. (9th & 10th)

Before receiving First Eucharist, the child should be familiar with the Revised Rite of Reconciliation and be at ease with the reception of the Sacrament . *" Primarily, the parents do immediate catechesis of children. Parishes provide a comprehensive formation for parents who, in turn, prepare their children by instruction and example. Catechists support parents as the primary Educators"* (National Directory for Catechesis 126-127).

The participation and attendance of the student and at least one parent is required in order that students successfully complete their Sacramental Preparation. Any absence will delay or postpone the reception of the Sacraments. Therefore, they **must attend** the following:

- First Reconciliation Enrollment Mass, Sunday, October 16, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Parents and children will be blessed and affirmed at the Mass, during which they will receive their preparation book.
- A First Reconciliation Retreat for parents and children will be held Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- First Reconciliation will be celebrated at St. Jude The Apostle Church, Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Because Sacraments are the primary way we are joined to the community, the Pastor, one of the Deacons, and the DRE will meet individually with parents to discuss their practice of the faith and involvement in the community. Parents must attend a 20-minute meeting in the parish office. The dates for these meetings will be: October 26 and 27, and November 10, 16, and 17.



Dates in Bold are mandatory.

Ninth grade students are invited to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. This invitation is extended to students who have demonstrated regular and cumulative attendance in Religious Education classes prior to the 9th grade. A mandatory parent and candidate meeting to explain the two-year Confirmation process is held in August prior to the start of the Confirmation program. Textbooks used during the two-year process are *The Catholic Youth Bible* (St. Mary's Press) and *Theology of the Body for Teens* (Ascension Press).

Tenth grade students complete their second year of sacramental preparation by consistently participating in Religious Education classes. Candidates will then be invited to meet individually for a 15-minute session in the parish office with the Pastor, one of the Deacons, and the DRE. At that time, the candidates will be asked to demonstrate their readiness to receive the Sacrament. The dates for these interviews will be announced.

- The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated during Mass on **April 29, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.**
- A mandatory Confirmation practice with the sponsors will be held on **Friday, April 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Church.

First Reconciliation

The children of Second Grade and above are invited and encouraged to prepare for First Reconciliation. *"Children are to be prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation once they have reached the use of reason"* (Canon 989).

Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to precede First Eucharist and must be kept distinct by a clear and unhurried preparation. This is to be done so that the specific identity of each sacrament is apparent.

This handbook is intended to serve as a guideline for the policies and procedures as outlined by the Diocese of Wilmington and the specific directives for the Religious Education programs of St. Jude The Apostle Parish.

OVERVIEW

The Religious Education Programs are open to all children of registered parishioners in Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

On Sundays there are two sessions: Kindergarten through 8th grade will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and grades 1 through 10 will meet from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. All classes are held in St. Jude's Religious Education Center. Sessions will meet from the second Sunday in September through the first Sunday in May.

ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION

The Religious Education programs of St. Jude The Apostle Parish are fully accredited by the Diocese of Wilmington. Catechists, who are volunteers, are required to comply with all provisions of *For The Sake of God's Children*, and attend classes, workshops and other educational programs to become certified by the diocese.

ARRIVAL TIMES

Students are expected to be on time for classes. If students are late, they will need a late pass from the office to be admitted to class.

Tardiness will be recorded on progress reports.

ATTENDANCE

Because Religious Education through the years is cumulative and lays the foundation for a lifetime of faith formation, regular attendance is critical for successful Christian Formation. This policy has been established to help clarify the expectations of parents and students in their participation and commitment to Religious Education at St. Jude The Apostle Church.

On-time, consistent attendance in Religious Education classes is expected. Lapses in attendance cause a disruption in your child's understanding and participation, especially during years of Sacramental Preparation.

Attendance records are part of the child's permanent Diocesan record. Diocesan policy 5112.1 states: "Any child or youth should participate in at least thirty (30) hours of formal religious education each year."

An average attendance of 75% or greater is required.

When your child is absent, an absence note, phone call, or e-mail is requested. If we don't hear from you, we will follow up with an e-mail, and if necessary a phone call. If there is a pattern of three or more absences and class work not made up, a parent conference will be requested. The student is to work with the teacher to make up missed assignments in a timely manner.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

St. Jude The Apostle Parish is committed to providing religious formation to all children of our parish. If you have a child with special needs, please contact the Religious Education Office at 644-7413 so that we can explore your child's needs more completely.



Preparation sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of July, September, January, March, and May and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in November at 7:00-8:30 p.m. Please call the parish office, 644-7300, for information and registration.

Confirmation

The content of our Confirmation catechesis is based on the four pillars of "Catechism of the Catholic Church" : the Creed, the Sacraments, Christian Morality, and Prayer/Liturgy. This catechesis, along with the study of Sacred Scripture and Tradition, conveys to the candidates these truths of our Catholic faith and challenges them to apply them to their daily lives.

In addition to the Confirmation catechesis, our program seeks to enrich the candidates' journey to Confirmation through liturgies and other activities, including:

- The Enrollment Mass for all candidates
- Monthly prayer services
- An Evening of Reflection for 9th grade candidates and sponsors
- Youth Reconciliation Services
- Trips to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC and the Baltimore Basilica
- A Confirmation service project

All students are expected to complete their two-year sacramental preparation for Confirmation by participating in the various liturgies and activities outlined above.



PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents will be notified of their child's progress twice a year: A mid-year report of their religious education efforts and an attendance report at year end. Catechist comments are intended to keep parents informed of your child's progress and cooperation. Parents should sign and return the report, including some response to the information contained therein.

RECYCLE FOR EDUCATION

We participate in the Staples "Recycle for Education" program. Ink jet and laser jet cartridges can be dropped off in the depository box in the Religious Education Center. Staples will pay \$2.00 in credit for every cartridge we return to them.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism

"You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so, you are accepting responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?" (Rite of Baptism for Children 39)

There is a two-session preparation for the parents and expectant parents who are bringing their children for the Sacrament of Baptism. These sessions will help parents understand what they are undertaking and also give them the opportunity to reflect on their faith, which they wish to share with their children. The presentations include an explanation of Catholic Baptism, its history, its rich symbols and how it is celebrated today in our faith community. Both parents and godparents of the child are encouraged to attend these sessions as they prepare to accept this responsibility.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

Decisions on class cancellation due to bad weather or emergency conditions are made as early as possible and will be announced on radio station WGMD/92.7 FM and local television stations. Cancellation information will also be posted on the parish website www.stjudeslewesde.org.

CLASSROOM RECYCLING

A decorated cardboard box is provided in each classroom for the recycling of paper, cans, plastic, and glass.

COMMUNICATIONS

To keep parents informed, the Religious Education Office uses email, the parish website, and regular mail. Parents receive weekly email highlights, "Take Time on Tuesday." It is essential that the Religious Education Office have your current email address. Should you not receive your weekly email, please let the Religious Education Office know so our records can be updated.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To protect the privacy of our teachers and families, e-mails are sent without revealing personal addresses.

CURRICULUM

Becoming Disciples, an outcome-based curriculum for elementary and middle school catechesis in the Diocese of Wilmington, is used in the Religious Education programs at St. Jude's.

The curriculum can be found at <http://www.cdow.org/catecheticalwknd.html> and a copy is on file in the Religious Education Office.

DISCIPLINE

Every person is worthy of being treated with care and the respect fitting one made in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, classroom behavior needs to be characterized by genuine Christian care, mutual respect, and honesty. Students will be held accountable for their behavior and a high standard of conduct is expected. Lack of self-discipline during class will be addressed promptly. If disruptive behavior continues, students may be sent to the office, parents informed of the behavior and/or a conference requested with the parents.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

A full catechetical program for children 4 and 5 years old is held on Tuesday mornings during the catechetical year from September to May. The sessions are from 9:00-10:30 a.m. The goal of this "Catechesis through Celebration" is to foster a personal knowledge and friendship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd and to prepare the children for a fuller participation in the liturgy of the worshipping community.

Little Disciples is a presentation of the Liturgy of the Word for children 3-6 years old during the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. The program includes songs and crafts related to the gospel of the day told in story form. No registration is required.

Little Disciples Summer Enrichment is a workshop for children 3-6 years old, using a hands-on approach to the Word of God and the seasons of the Church year. The children gather for one week during the summer for 2-hour sessions, Monday through Friday.

recordings may never be accessed, turned on or operated in restrooms, dressing rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. To protect the safety and well-being of students, staff and other community members' personal property and to avoid disruptions to the learning environment; group leaders, teachers, or school personnel reserve the right to confiscate or collect any PTD. The content of any PTD device may be reviewed by a designated chaperone or official as part of any investigation of policy violation or other suspected inappropriate, immoral and/or illegal use. If an illegal act is discovered, local law enforcement officials will be contacted. The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington and its parishes and organizations are not responsible for any harm, to PTD's, including but not limited to the loss, theft, damage, or destruction of PTDs or any contents therein."

PRAYER

To reinforce the practice of prayer in the home, every class will begin and end with prayer. Monthly prayer services are held in the gathering space or in the church. Parents and friends are invited to join us for prayer. Each student in K-8th Grades will receive a booklet with prayers that are required for their age level. Parents are asked to help their child memorize these prayers. Catechists will check each child's progress throughout the year.



PARISH WEBSITE

A Religious Education link is posted on the parish website, www.stjudeslewesde.org. The school calendar, Registration Form and Annual Consent and Release form are posted on this link. Other forms will be posted as the need arises.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

Teaching of the faith — catechesis — takes place primarily in the home. The Religious Education program supports parents in their role as the primary educators of their children in the faith. Catechists and the Pastoral staff build on the foundation of faith that you live in the home.

Here are some practices that Catholic parents do:

- Go to Mass weekly with their children
- Pray with their children and teach them to pray
- Provide a home that is visually a Catholic home
- Participate in parish life and show the children that service is central to the Catholic way of life.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY DEVICES (PTD)

Diocesan policy states:

“All extraneous personally owned technology devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, Blackberries, pagers, beepers, gaming devices, headsets, and other communication devices are for use only during an actual lock-down or emergency. Other devices, including, but not limited to, tablet PCs, mobile presenters, wireless tablets, digital audio and video recorders, Palms, Sidekicks, iPods, Kindles, iPads, MP3 players, texting calculators, camera video phones, digital cameras or laptops are to be used only when permission has been granted by an institutional or organizational employee with the authority to grant such permission. Devices capable of capturing, transmitting, or storing images or

EARLY DISMISSAL

No child will be dismissed from class early without a written request from the parent/guardian and the approval of the administrator in charge. The building principal or hall monitor will escort the parent to the classroom to pick up their child.

EMERGENCIES: Medical & Evacuation

Medical

In the event that a child is unable to continue to participate in classroom activities, the catechist/aide/hall monitor should bring the child to the DRE'S office so that the parent may be called. The building principal will call home to apprise the parent of the problem. If there is no answer, the principal will call the contact person listed on the emergency form. If neither of the above parties is available and time is of the essence, the building principal will call an ambulance to transport the child to a local medical facility. We will continue to call contact persons until someone is reached.

Fire/Evacuation

In the event of an actual fire or other emergency, directions for evacuation of the building are posted in each classroom. **The driveways in front of the Religious Education Center must be kept clear so that emergency equipment have access in the event of an emergency.** An evacuation drill will be conducted so that all students are familiar with this procedure.



FAMILY MASS

Family Masses are celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on the third Sunday of every month from September to May, except for Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. As part of their formation in stewardship to share their time and talents, students in the 7th through 10th grades will be required to participate in one of these Family Masses. They will share their time and talent by bringing up the offertory gifts or serving as a liturgical minister, altar server, lector, usher, cantor, and/or as a musician in the Family Liturgy Band. Parents will sign up their children for one of the Masses at the parent orientation in September. For further information, call Yvonne Bailey at 945-9459 or email: ybailey0420@gmail.com.

FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

For the Sake of God's Children is the comprehensive plan for the protection of children developed by the Diocese of Wilmington. This plan was established in response to the Charter adopted by the Bishops of the United States in June 2002.

All diocesan and parish personnel who have regular and recurring contact with youth are required to have a criminal background check as a condition for employment. Volunteers who interact on a regular or ongoing basis with children or youth are required to have a criminal background check prior to being eligible for service. Two adults are to be present at all times in the classrooms. A video overview of *For the Sake of God's Children* can be viewed on the diocesan website at <http://www.cdown.org/FSGC/index.html>.



KEEPING OUR PROMISES

One of the requirements of the charter is to have in place a curriculum for children, young people and parents which prepares them to create and maintain a safe environment. Sexual abuse awareness is provided every year at every grade level. It is the intent of the curriculum guide to provide age-appropriate information on an annual basis to be certain that our teaching is consistent and sequential. Contents of the curriculum can be viewed on the diocesan website at <http://www.cdown.org/FSGC/KeepingPromisesComplete.pdf>

A video, "Abused Kids: See It! Stop It!" is available in the Religious Education office for viewing by catechists and parents.

MATERIALS/TEXTBOOKS

The textbooks and materials that we use are approved by the Diocese and are in conformity with *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

This year we are using a new program *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* in all of the classes except 2nd grade. The *Gospel Weeklies* is lectionary-based catechesis. This means that what the children are learning in class is based on the words of Jesus Christ found in the Gospels that are heard weekly at Sunday Mass. In addition to the *Gospel Weeklies*, students receive a handbook, or catechism, of the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith. The handbook will be kept in the classroom until the end of the year, when it will be sent home.

Parents are encouraged to read with the student. If it is part of the teacher's routine, please make sure your child brings their books/folders to class weekly. The cost of your child's materials is included in your registration fee.

If your child loses a book, you will be charged for a replacement.