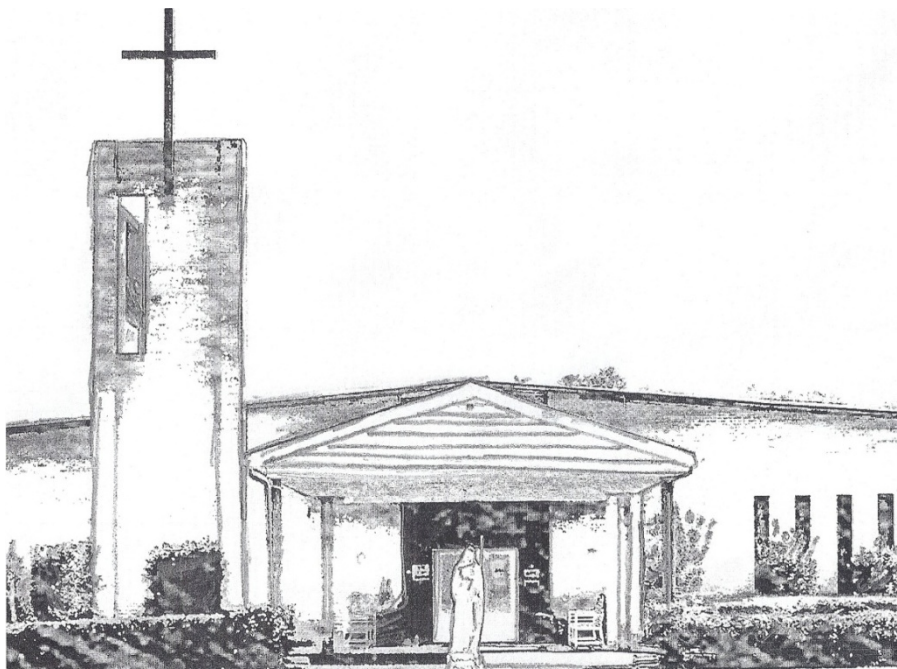


**Parish
Catechetical Handbook
for
Families**



Saint John the Baptist Parish, Grand Bay
12450 Hwy 188
Grand Bay, Alabama 36541
(251)865-6902
stjohngrandbay@gmail.com

Parish Website

Stjohngrandbay.org

Dear Family,

Welcome to our parish catechetical program. The purpose of our program is to follow Christ's call "to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world and to hand his message on to successive generations by professing, living and celebrating the faith..." (*National Directory for Catechesis* #15)

The parents are the primary educators and evangelizers of their children. Our pastor along with those working in catechetical ministry seeks to assist parents in their God-given duty to raise their children to a full life in Jesus Christ. This handbook has been designed to provide general information, dates, and requirements for participation in the parish program.

In the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Bishops remind us that it is in the parish that the faithful are "energized to carry out Christ's mission." It is here that the "spiritual, moral and material support for the regular and continuing catechetical development of the parishioners" is provided. (*NDC*, #60)

The parish reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parents will be notified, in writing, if changes are made to any procedure or information contained in this handbook. We hope this serves to enhance communication, and provide a clear presentation of expectations and responsibilities of students and their families. In the long run, we hope it makes family life easier!

We thank you for letting us assist you in this most sacred of duties and for entrusting us with your most precious of assets. We look forward to working together with you this year. It is in working together that we are the Body and Christ and carry out His mission.

May the Lord bless our efforts,

Pastor

Parish Catechetical Leader

Mission Statement

The mission of the catechetical program of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Parish of Grand Bay, Alabama, is to help all participants and their families develop a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ and to live out their Catholic faith in ways that draw others to Christ and the Church. We seek to carry out this mission through catechesis, spiritual growth and service.

Objectives for Parish Catechetical Program

- ❖ To present a comprehensive and systematic formation in the faith, that integrates knowledge of the faith with living the faith
- ❖ To center on initiation into the life of the Triune God
- ❖ To be appropriate to the age level, maturity, circumstances, language and ethnic background of each participant
- ❖ To involve all members of the parish community, particularly the parents
- ❖ To focus on the symbols, rituals, and prayers of the Church
- ❖ To enable the believers to live out their faith in their everyday life

from the *National Directory for Catechesis (NDC, 2005)*

The parish catechetical program admits students of any sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students in this catechetical program. Where possible, our parish program strives to make accommodation for children and youth with disabilities. Please contact Father Sherwin Monteron (251)865-6902 for consultation about particular situations.

Catechetical Personnel

Pastor

Father Sherwin Monteron
(251)865-6902
(334)560-4192 (cell)
sherwinmonteron@yahoo.com

Deacon

Rev. Billy Graham
(251)865-6902
(251)605-5972 (cell)
et1graham@gmail.com

Parish Catechetical Leader (Pre-K-8th grade)

Tiffany Teofilo
(251)583-8381 (Cell)
TiffTeo@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Leader

Isabella Kotval
(225)572-0559(cell)
Isabella.r.kotval@email.shc.edu

Special Catechetical Programs

Liturgy of the Word for Children (LWC)

Liturgy of the Word for Children celebrates the Word of God during the 10am liturgy. Children in three-year old Kindergarten through first grade are invited to join adult leaders in hearing the Word of God proclaimed in child-appropriate language.

A profession of faith and intercessory prayers conclude the program and the children return to their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist in the church. For more information, contact: Tiffany Teofilo (251)583-8381

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

We offer VBS in Summer Months. More info to come.

Volunteers

Every parent has gifts to offer the parish catechetical program. Please speak with your child's catechist or the PCL to discuss ways in which you can become involved.

Sacramental Preparation Guidelines

Baptism

Pre-baptism classes are offered. These class/classes are designed to assist parents with nurturing their faith as they welcome a new member into their family. To schedule your participation, please call (251)865-6902.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

Children in second grade who have been properly catechized are eligible to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The remote preparation for the sacraments takes place in the parish catechetical program, the Catholic School, or home settings. Special (immediate) preparation classes are held in the fall for Reconciliation, and the spring for Eucharist. There are sessions for both parents and children.





Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the 11th and 12th combined. The teen must be enrolled in a Catholic high school or the parish catechetical program. Confirmation formation is a two year process and is separate from and in addition to Adolescent Catechesis. These classes begin in the child's 9th and 10th grade year.tif

Parish Catechetical Policies

Attendance Policy

Students and parents should make every effort to attend the catechetical sessions and/or parent meetings offered at the parish. Parents are expected to have their children to the catechetical session on time, and to pick them up promptly.

Arrival and Dismissal (Should you choose in classroom learning)

8:45-9:45 am

New COVID-19 Health Precautions (Mandated by Archdiocese of Mobile)

Children should be dropped off with a mask on at the door of the Education Bldg. each day of CRE. **Masks will be worn at all times in the building by children and catechists.** When your child enters the building their temperature will be checked upon entry. No child with a temp at 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to enter the building. **No Child** shall be dismissed from the building until a parent or authorized guardian picks them up at the door of the Education Building.

Remote Learning (Should you choose for your child or children be part of our Religious Education Program and want them to remotely participate in CRE classes.)

Remote "Live-Virtual" classes will be accessible by email invitation to your provided email every Sunday that CRE is in session. You will be given books in advance to use at home to follow along with the teacher and classmates in the classroom. Teachers will start virtual class between 8:55-9:00am every class period. Teachers will be using Google Meet or Google Hang out with a Saint Johns email address to host classes. This will enhance learning and allow for children to interact and see their classmates regardless if they are in classroom or if they are at home. There will be computers and large TV screens in each classroom to allow for interaction. We hope this will allow for more participation for years to come.

Communication

Since the catechist has the most direct contact with your child, parents should discuss any classroom problems with the catechist first. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, parents should speak with the PCL. If still unresolved, the problem may be brought to the pastor.

Comments, suggestions and ideas are always welcome. Please share them with the PCL by email TiffTeo@gmail.com or in a written form.

Emergency Class Cancellation

If local schools are closed due to an emergency situation, catechetical classes will generally be cancelled. If you have any questions about cancellation, please check the parish website or call your parish or PCL. An IRIS alert will also be issued.

Health Concerns

Health information is collected on the Catechetical Registration Form. Catechists and other personnel are not allowed to dispense or administer medication to students.

If your child is on medications, please follow their doctor's orders in administering their medication.

Student Behavior and Expectations

- Students will be expected to show respect to their teachers and classmates. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Classroom rules are posted in each classroom. At the first disruption, the child will be referred to classroom rules. After the second incident, the child will be sent to talk with the PCL. If inappropriate behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be contacted.
- All students are expected to share in the faith learning experience of the parish program. They are also expected to complete assignments and participate in group projects.
- The Archdiocese of Mobile has a detailed **Field Trip Policy**. This policy, its regulations, and permission forms will be used for all field trips, service projects, retreats, etc.
- Students attending parish catechetical sessions are expected to regularly attend the Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days, and celebrate sacraments. Parents or guardians are also encouraged to do so. We strive to help our students recognize this parish as their "family of faith". In order to help them recognize their faith family, it is important that they celebrate Mass here as often as possible.

Dangerous behavior

Harassment, racial slurs, fighting, smoking, drugs, or other inappropriate (or gang -related) conduct among students will not be tolerated. Violations of this

rule will warrant immediate notification of parents/guardians of the child involved, and may warrant suspension or even dismissal of the involved from the program. The proper civil authorities may also be notified.

Weapons

In the unlikely event a student is suspected of possessing a weapon or drugs while on parish premises or as a participant in catechetical program or a youth ministry event, the Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL) or Youth Ministry Leader (YML) will immediately notify the parents of the child. The proper civil authorities may also be notified.

General Expectations

It is expected that each family become actively involved in the parish and in the catechetical program so that by their participation they model a living, conscious and active Christian faith, and reinforce the values and attitudes for living that faith. The family and their children are expected to embrace and live these values and attitudes.

Before a student will be permitted to participate in the catechetical program their parent or guardian must sign the Parent Consent Form at the end of this handbook stating that they have read these rules and policies, and that they agree to be governed by them. These forms are due no later than two weeks after a child begins attending class.

Child & Adolescent Protection Policy

“All children have the right to be safe and protected from harm in any and all environments – home, school, religious institutions, neighborhoods and communities. The Archdiocese of Mobile embraces this right to safety and is dedicated to promoting and ensuring the protection of children” (Archbishop Lipscomb, 2003). With these words, Archbishop issued a policy that Archbishop Rodi continues today.

The policy requires, in part, that all children and youth in grades Pre-K – 12 be catechized on the principles listed in the Archdiocesan Child and Adolescents Protection Program. This catechesis takes place during *Respect Life* month which is in October. A letter will be sent to each family, notifying parents of the dates of these CAPP classes for the children and youth.

In addition, the policy requires that all priests, deacons, school administrators, teachers, youth ministers, parish catechists, support personnel, coaches, and other volunteers having “substantial contact” with children attend training in the prevention and recognition of all forms of abuse against children. This program is provided by the Archdiocese. All persons who work with children in the Archdiocese of Mobile will be required to have background checks as part of the CAPP training.

Pursuant to state law, we are required to report suspected child abuse, and we will also follow all Archdiocesan policies on such matters. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Archdiocesan Office of Child Protection.

Phone: (251) 434-1559

Email: childprotection@mobilearchdiocese.org

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

If the Parish Catechetical Program plans an off-site activity or program, you will be required to complete a parental/guardian release form according to the *Archdiocesan Field Trip Policy*.

Acceptance of Responsibilities

I have read this handbook and understand the policies concerning the parish catechetical program for Pre-school – High School. I agree to abide by these policies, and make sure my child understands her/his responsibilities.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

For the Student:

I understand that I am taking classes to further my growth in the Catholic faith. I will do my best in class and participate fully.

Student's signature

Date

This page is to be completed, signed and returned to
The Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL) before the beginning of the parish
catechetical program. It must be received no later than two weeks after a
child begins attending class.