

**St. Pius X Parish**  
"Restore all things in Christ"  
**Religious Education K-5th Grade Program Guidelines**

**Purpose:** The Purpose of the Religious Education Program is to assist parents and guardians in teaching children our Catholic Faith and prepare the children for the Sacraments.

Our aim is to help children and families...

- **LIVE THE FAITH** Cultivate a personal encounter with Jesus in order to joyfully share the Gospel as a knowledgeable and responsible disciple.
- **BUILD COMMUNITY** Embrace immigrant Catholics and encourage their development as leaders in the Church and inspire young adults to participate as lay leaders in the mission of the Catholic leaders in the Catholic Church.
- **EMBRACE AND SHARE THE WORD** Seek, invite and welcome Catholics who have drifted away from the Church by sharing our faith with others.
- **CELEBRATE OUR UNITY THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS** Emphasize and outwardly proclaim the importance of the sacraments and all vocations.
- **SERVE OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN NEED** Go outside our church doors to care for people in need. Give a voice to the voiceless. Advocate for and with people in need, as the Gospel instructs us to do.

**First Holy Communion:** Preparation for the First Holy Communion sacrament requires two years of attendance. Children preparing for a sacrament must present a copy of the Baptismal Certificate by the end of October.

**Admission Policies:** First Holy Communion preparation begins in the first grade and culminates in the second grade with the reception of the sacrament. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade RE strengthen the child's relationship to the trinity, knowledge of bible stories, and the ability to put faith into practice.

**Policy for Arrival and Pick-up:** Parents/guardians must bring their child to the classroom and stay until their Catechist/Aide arrives. It is not safe to drop your child off in the parking lot. For drop offs and pick ups, a "parent substitute" can be designated in writing on the Registration Form.

- Drop off by 6:25 on Mondays and 4:25 on Wednesdays.
- Pick up by 7:55 on Mondays and 5:55 on Wednesdays.

**Custodial Rights of Parents/Guardians:** The parish must be informed in writing of every "legal" custodial parent or guardian for each child.

**Attendance:** Attendance at every class is important for the understanding of the lessons and the development of faith of the children. To notify us of an absence, please phone Mrs. Laura Mora at the Religious Education Office, at 630-627-1551, or write an email to [faithformation@stpiouslombard.org](mailto:faithformation@stpiouslombard.org) stating the reason for the absence. Also, please contact the Catechist to find out how to make up the missed lesson at home.

**Medical Condition:** The Catechist must be informed about any child who has a special medical condition which could flare up or could affect the classroom environment. This information is confidential. Medication is not permitted to be administered to, or taken by, a child during the class time. If an emergency, the parent must provide a written directive.

**Visitors:** No unauthorized persons are allowed in the school during religious education. Parents/guardians are welcome to visit their child's classroom, please inform the catechist beforehand.

**Textbooks:** We will use Our Sunday Visitor's *Alive in Christ*, a premier Catholic Education curriculum that engages today's children. *Alive in Christ* is intentional in its age-appropriate focus on the life, mission and saving work of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. This lays the foundation for building a lifelong relationship with Jesus and His Church, who "...alone can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity"(CCC 426)