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**Basilica Parish of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary**

**Religious Education Policies and Procedures**

**2023-2024**

**Overview of Religious Education Program:**

1. Scheduled classes are held in-person in the school building.
2. Faith in Action activities are done at home with family members.

Parents will be notified of any program change via text.

**1. Scheduled classes are held in-person, in the school building**

***Policies to Maintain Good Order During In-Person Classes***

The director of religious education, hall monitors, catechists, and the religious education office will give further directions for maintaining a safe environment as needed and all healthy and safety protocols will be observed when classes are held.

**Attendance:** There are 13 in person classes. As such, ***no more than 3 unexcused absences are permitted***. Regular and prompt attendance at *each* *in person* scheduled session is required for students to advance to the next grade. If for any reason a child is unable to attend a class, please contact the child’s catechist and the religious ed office in advance.

**Arrivals:** It is important that students be on time for class. No one is allowed into the building until the door opens 10 minutes before class begins. This allows catechists time to set up and allows our staff time to secure the building for your child’s safety. Students in grades 1, 2, and 3 should be brought to their classroom by their parents and never simply dropped off.

**Departures:** At the end of class, parents of grade 1, 2, and 3 students must come to their child’s classroom for dismissal. Other students will be brought to the building entrance by their catechists. No parent will be allowed to go to a classroom prior to the end of class. Parents are not permitted in the building during class time, except for special programs.

**Class Etiquette:**

Students are expected to be respectful and attentive at all times. **Remember that catechists are**

**volunteers and we will not expect them to deal with any student whose behavior is**

**disruptive.** Cell phones and all other devices are to be *silenced and stowed away* during class

time. Students are requested to use the restroom at home before they come to class.

Any form of vandalism is not tolerated; restitution is made. *Possession or use of an illegal drug,*

*alcohol, or tobacco, or seriously disruptive behavior, will result in immediate suspension.*

**Cancellation of Classes:** If the Southampton public school district cancels classes or after-school activities because of weather or other concerns, then in-person religious education classes are cancelled that day. Classes by Zoom may be held in place of those classes. If classes are cancelled because of an emergency at Sacred Hearts, parents will be contacted by text, using the cell phone number given on the registration form.

**2. Faith in Action activities, done at home with family members**

Faith in Action activities are intrinsic to the religious education program. They provide an opportunity for students to interact with parents and other adults and do activities that cannot be done in a classroom. Please assist younger students with these activities and give encouragement and direction, as needed, to all students.

Hard copies of these activities will be given to students in advance, when possible. The activities are also posted on the religious education page of parish website. Students return completed activities to their catechist at the next in-person class or email them to their catechist in advance, as directed. In addition to regular class attendance, Faith in Action activities are required and must be completed in order to advance to the next grade. To further grow in faith, these activities may include Mass attendance.

**General Information**

**Communication:** Reminders will be sent to parents regularly via texts to the cell phone number given on the registration form.

**Mass Attendance:** Of everything we do here at Sacred Hearts to foster your child’s religious education, none of it will matter if we do not practice our faith by going to Mass on Sundays. The 9:30 Children’s Mass is especially designed with families in mind. The choir and lectors are all young people and the homily is always an accessible interpretation of God’s Word. Please plan to take part in our celebration of Mass each week and come together to get to know your community and church family.

***All are welcome here. Regardless of your age, orientation, or race. Whether you worship regularly or only when you can. Whether you embrace the life of faith or struggle to find God in the midst of it all. Jesus comes to all of us. Saints and sinners alike. It is the mission of our parish to open wide the doors to all who come here to pray.***

**Parent meetings:**  As parent meetings are scheduled, parents will be informed by email and text well in advance and also posted on the parish website [**www.shjmbasilica.org**](http://www.shjmbasilica.org)**.** Your attendance at parent meetings is required and is an important component of your child’s religious education.

**Child Lures Prevention:** Links will be sent via email for the completion of the diocesan requirement *Child Lures Prevention: Think First & Stay Safe.* All families will be asked to watch the *Thoughtful and Safe Life Lessons* videos with their children and submit a confirmation of completion form.

**Contact Information:** To contact our Religious Education office:

•Email: ***reled@shjmbasilica.org***

•Phone:631-283-0508 (Office is open only on Wednesdays during the school year.)

***Thank you for all you do to promote and support the religious education of your child.***

*Revised June 2023*