

**2010 - 2011
Religious Education Program**



Family Guide

**Saint Louis Catholic Church
7270 SW 120th Street
Pinecrest, FL 33156
305- 238-7562, ext. 300
www.stlouismiami.org**

**Pastor
Very Rev. James F. Fetscher, V.F.**

**Parochial Vicars
Rev. Michael A. Kish
Rev. David A. Zirilli**

**Religious Education Staff
Maria Teresa Lopez, Director
mtlopez@stlcatholic.org
Susan Dunning, Administrative Assistant
ccd@stlcatholic.org**

September 2010

Dear Parents:

I don't know how long I have been writing this letter to introduce the Parent's Handbook. It's been a while. Some of you are receiving this book for the first time. Some of you have been around for a while with successive children going through our religious education program. You old-timers know this works because you do your part. You new kids, listen up!

You are part of a tradition of religious education that makes me smile. I smile because I never worry about what is happening in Religious Education, only smile. The staff makes me smile and the teachers and assistants make me smile, and if smile mean anything then I have the best crew of religious educations in the Archdiocese because I have the most smiles.

Seriously folks, you should get down on your knees and thank the Lord for the bunch of people he raised up from among us to be the people who are smiling about having the privilege and ministry of helping you shape your children into smiling believers.

As the Religious Education staff works to supplement the faith you are sharing with your children, please pray for them. They also need your support in each of the various programs your children enjoy. They in turn will not only gather your children together but also pray for you.

This is all about Jesus. May He reign in our hearts, and in each of your households.

In Jesus,



James F. Fetscher
Pastor

Dear Parents,

We are so pleased to share with you the blessing of leading your child in the journey to a deeper spiritual relationship with our Lord. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the desire for God is written in the human heart. That means that we are born with a hunger in our hearts to know and to love God.

Our goal this year is to help your child experience the welcoming love of Jesus by providing an environment that is conducive to prayer and reflection. You fulfill your role as your child's first catechist when you pray as a family and provide an example of service to others.

Our program places special emphasis on the Liturgy because the Mass is the most important source of God's graces. We hope that you will join us and that your faith will be nourished as well.

Maria-Teresa Lopez
Director of Religious Education

CCD Important Dates



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Tuesday 09/07/10	General Orientation Parent Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, 09/15/10	Classes Begin
Thursday, 10/21/10	First Mandatory Meeting for 1 st Communion Parents 7:30 PM
Thursday, 01/27/11	Second Mandatory Meeting for 1 st Communion Parents 7:30 PM
Thursday, 02/03/11	First Reconciliation 7:00 PM
Saturday, 02/05/11	First Reconciliation 10:00 AM
Saturday, 02/05/11	Enrollment Ceremony 5:30 PM Mass
Sunday, 02/06/11	Enrollment Ceremony 9:30, 11, 12:30 & 5:30 Masses
Saturday, 03/26/11	First Communion RETREAT 8:30AM – 1:00PM (Parents & Children required to attend)
Saturday, 04/30/11	FIRST COMMUNION 10:00AM & 2:00 PM
Saturday, 05/07/11	FIRST COMMUNION 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM & 5:30PM

Arrival/Chapel Service: With the exception of the first day of class, all students will assemble in the main sanctuary. Please walk your children there and stay with them until the teacher arrives. You are welcome to pray with us and enjoy the delightful children-reenacted Gospel and Saint of the week.

Attendance: Each student is allowed no more than 5 absences for the year in order to be promoted to the next level. Please contact the Religious Education office to arrange for a make up assignment.

Authorization Pick-Up Cards: Parents will be given an orange authorization pick-up card when they drop off their children on the first day of class. This card **MUST** be displayed in order to pick up the student for the remainder of the year. **NO STUDENT CAN BE RELEASED WITHOUT THIS CARD.** Parents without the authorization card must go to the CCD office to show photo ID. Students will not be released to anyone under the age of 18, even if they are holding the authorization card.

Curriculum: The catechetical program that we use is **Finding God**. For the Scope and Sequence of each Grade Level, please check out the website: www.FindingGod.org. Also available on that website are ideas for families, children's activities, a 3-minute retreat and other information.

Dismissal: Students will be dismissed from their classrooms inside the Covenant School and only to an adult holding an authorized pick up card issued by the CCD office. After 10 minutes of dismissal, any remaining students will be brought to the CCD office. For the safety of your child, please park in the parking lot and avoid blocking the exit next to the green field. Please supervise your children as you walk them to your parked car.

First Communion: Parents of students in Level 2 First Communion Class are required to attend two (2) special meetings, the Parent/Student retreat day as well as the reconciliation and enrollment ceremonies. Baptismal certificates for these children must be submitted at the time of registration.

Punctuality: Please arrive on time as class starts promptly at the scheduled time. Late arrivals are disruptive. We also ask that you please pick up your children on time. Our teachers are volunteers, they have jobs and families, and we do not have staff to stay after hours.

Shared Prayer: The Religious Education staff regularly prays for our students, teachers, all those who assist us and their entire families. Should you have a special need or prayer request please submit it to the office and we will gladly include it. You are also welcome to join us in the main sanctuary as we pray with the children before each class begins. Remember the words of Our Lord: "Again, I tell you, if two of you join voices on earth to pray for anything, it shall be granted to you by my Father in Heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst." (Matt 18:19-20)

Student Conduct: All students are expected to show respect to the teacher and other students. Parents will be asked to accompany the child if a student is continually disruptive.

Student Liturgy: On Sundays at the 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM and 7:15 PM Masses, students in grades 1 through 5 will be dismissed for Student Liturgy of the Word. All students are invited to attend. No registration is necessary.

Volunteers: Parents, as well as grandparents, are encouraged to participate. Anyone interested in volunteer activities such as clerical and office help, babysitting for catechist's children, aides, hall monitors, reception helpers, organizers, etc. may contact our office at 305/238-7562 (ext 300) or by email ccd@stlcatholic.org or mtlopez@stlcatholic.org. As mandated by the Archdiocese of Miami all volunteers **MUST** submit to a background check, fingerprinting and attend the Virtus workshop. There is no cost to you to complete these requirements.