

Saint Rose of Lima Parish

Religious Education Program 2019-2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You have chosen to register your children in St. Rose of Lima Religious Education Program. While our catechists provide the formal preparation in the faith, it is the family and the parish community that provide the context, the environment, by which we are called to practice our faith.

A Catholic parish is a community of believers, who are called by baptism to a life with God, through his Son, Jesus Christ, united and animated by the Holy Spirit. Our lives are indeed a gift from God. Our freedom from sin and death, won for us by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, give us the capacity to respond to the invitation Christ makes to his followers, to witness the Kingdom of God, to dare to put God first, loving God and our neighbor, as he has loved us.

Participation in the life of the parish community is an essential element of our formation as disciples.

Above all, the participation in the Sunday Mass is of utmost importance, to gather as God's family, to hear his Word and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, is the food we need that the life of God received in Baptism, may reach full maturity, producing much fruit.

Participation in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation is year round. It is not an option for a practicing Catholic and so, it is NOT an option for our religious education program.

You, as parents, have an enormous responsibility that you pledged to God to fulfill on the baptism of your child. It takes a community of disciples to raise a disciple. **To this end, family Sunday Mass attendance will be monitored through the family/household Sunday offertory envelope system (not the children's' envelope).** Parents/guardians will place their offertory envelope in the basket. Your family's participation at the Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is an important part of your child's faith formation.

Absence of the family (parents and children) from Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation will require me to ask you as to the readiness of your child to receive the Sacraments.

Participation in the life of the Catholic community at St. Rose of Lima means that we are grateful to God and seek ways to express our thanks, including the practice of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, in our family and community, by our prayers and support.

The children in the religious education program will receive a box of **offertory envelopes to be used by the children at Mass to make an offering to God** (it is suggested an offering of money and/or a charitable work offered in love and for love of Jesus). **These envelopes are for students only.**

Please take the time with your children to discuss the things for which they are grateful and what they have done during the week that they can make their "offering" with the bread and wine that will become for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Fr. James Manship

Practicing our Catholic Faith in the Family, Parish, and Community. Living our faith.

How did I show Jesus' love for me in the way I treated others?
What work did I do, out of concern for my neighbor and my love of Jesus?

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Spiritual: acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotion and spiritual needs- instruct, console, forgive, advise, comfort, bear wrongs patiently

- To instruct the ignorant. (*This work of mercy means all of us are called to share and teach the faith passed on to us.*)
- To counsel the doubtful. ...
- To admonish the sinner. ...
- To bear wrongs patiently. ...
- To forgive offenses willingly. ...
- To comfort the afflicted. ...
- To pray for the living and the dead.



Corporal Works of Mercy

Corporal: kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs- feed the hungry, clothe the naked, bury the dead, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, give alms to the poor.

- To feed the hungry.
- To give water to the thirsty.
- To clothe the naked.
- To shelter the homeless.
- To visit the sick.
- To visit the imprisoned or ransom the captive.
- To bury the dead. (*You may want to substitute "mourn" or "remember" the dead for "bury" the dead.*)

With God's loving glance, between parents and children:



Before or after, your prayer time with your children, you may ask yourselves and your children, "for what am I grateful today (please be concrete, specific)?" You might ask your child or yourself about the feelings associated with remembering.

What did I do out of love for Jesus and for my neighbor this past day?

A daily habit of a review of the day can help us practice of Faith more deeply, living the cardinal virtues of **prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance** (see CCC # 1805)

The Theological Virtues that direct us to God: **faith, hope, and charity** (CCC #1812).

Attentive to the movements of our hearts, we can know we are close to God when we feel the fruits of the Holy Spirit: **charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.** (CCC #1832)