

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



***231 SECOND ST.
CLIFTON, NJ 07011***



2024-2025

FOR CHILDREN

LEVELS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 — EVERY SUNDAY

9:00am to 10:30am

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***MOTHER CABRINI CENTER***

***97 WASHINGTON AVE.***

***CLIFTON, NJ 07011***

***PHONE: 973-340-1300, EXT. 125 OR 126***

## ***INTRODUCTION***

Welcome! Registration in our program confirms your commitment, as a family, to your child's religious education. God gives parents the responsibility of forming their children in faith at Baptism and you have taken an important step in acknowledging that responsibility. Faith formation is a process—one that neither starts nor ends in the classroom, but depends on the strength of your faith and examples at home. As a program, we are privileged to aid this process and our families in any way we can while recognizing parents as the first and most important teachers of their children. Your children can be raised in faith without the classroom experience, but the classroom cannot nurture a faith that does not exist at home. It is, indeed, an awesome responsibility, but God will provide the strength and guidance we need to succeed. Please let us know how we may assist you at any stage of your faith journey as a family.

## ***MISSION***

St. Paul's Religious Education Program is intended to be Christ-centered, first and foremost, helping to bring each child to a better understanding of their relationship with God and His mission for all of us. We encourage each family to foster an understanding and appreciation of the rich Sacramental life of the Church by participating fully in liturgical services. We believe that children learn about God's love through the example of family and by attending Mass regularly to hear the Gospel proclaimed and to receive Jesus into their hearts.

Recognizing the family as the first and most important faith example and teacher of their children, we are committed to providing real and consistent support for all families in the faith formation of their children. The classroom experience is meant to enhance, not replace the practice of our faith; therefore our classrooms will seek to instill an age appropriate understanding of liturgy and traditional prayer experiences.

## ***ADMISSION***

Upon enrollment, a copy of each child's Birth Certificate and current Baptismal Certificate must accompany the registration form. Those transferring from another Religious Education Program must include a letter from that parish indicating the years of previous instruction and Sacraments received. Children who have not received previous instruction will be evaluated by the Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) to determine placement.

### ***Issues of Custody***

Parents must inform the CRE if there are any custodial issues. You need to provide a copy of any pertinent court documents.

## ***REGISTRATION AND PLACEMENT***

Registration and re-registration occurs in late July or August of each year. Forms can be found in the Church Vestibule and obtained from the Parish Office or online. All children are assigned to a class by the CRE. Catechists may not accept a child into class without authorization from the CRE.

If your child has any special needs such as allergies or learning disabilities, please advise the CRE of all necessary information. Regarding medical issues, no medication of any kind may be given to a child by a catechist.

If program modifications are necessary, parents should discuss these with the CRE. Any modification will follow diocesan guidelines.

### ***Home Study***

In special circumstances, such as medical or special education needs, parents may request to teach their own child/children. According to diocesan guidelines, a letter explaining the reasons for the request should accompany the registration form. Parents will attend meetings during the year.

## ***REGISTRATION DONATIONS***

These donations are used for the books, supplies, speakers, and office needs of the program. Special Sacramental donations may be required in Levels 2 and Sacramental classes. Families experiencing financial hardship can contact the CRE concerning necessary modifications.

## ***SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL POLICIES***

**Levels 1 through 5** meet every Sunday from 9:00am to 10:30am at the Mother Cabrini Center (MCC), 97 Washington Avenue, followed by 11:00am Mass in St. Paul R.C. Church. Upon arrival to class, the parent must sign in his/her child/children at the MCC.

**For all Levels:** If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up their child/children, a written authorization must be given to the catechist and the CRE. No student is permitted to leave the building early without a parent. A written note should be given to the catechist and CRE in advance and the parent must sign the student out at the MCC.

## ***ATTENDANCE***

Consistent attendance at class demonstrates to your child the importance of learning about God and developing a Christian way of living. Therefore, all students are expected to attend scheduled classes unless prevented by illness.

A copy of the calendar will be provided at the Parent/Student Orientation Meeting and it is also available at [www.stpaulcnj.org](http://www.stpaulcnj.org).

Please notify the CRE if your child will be absent by way of email to [dre.stpaulchurch@verizon.net](mailto:dre.stpaulchurch@verizon.net). It will be the responsibility of the student and the parent/guardian to make up the work missed. More than three (3) absences during the school year is considered serious. Excessive absences may prevent a student from advancing to the next grade. Please ensure that your child arrives on time.

Every three (3) late arrivals will equal one absence.

Sunday Mass attendance is not only a precept of the Catholic Church, it is also a loving response to Jesus' request at the Last Supper. Attend weekly Mass (Saturday Evening or Sunday) with your child at St. Paul R.C. Church. Students must have Mass Attendance Sheets signed by a teacher, priest or deacon after each Mass.

### ***Cancellation of Classes***

Families will be notified of any cancellation by E-mail and/or phone call and or text.

***Textbooks*** are meant to be resources for our families as well as tools for the classroom. Please encourage your child/children to discuss their classroom experience with you. Use the opportunity as a tool to help shape the faith of your child/children. They will value that which you show them, by your example, has value. All books are expected to be usable throughout the entire year.

***Book replacements*** will be made only after a replacement fee of \$30.00 has been paid.

***Prayer*** is a regular feature within the classroom experience and must be practiced within the family also. Recognizing parents as the primary teachers of their child/children, we feel that the responsibility for prayer memorization lies with the family. All levels will be evaluated yearly for prayer knowledge. Any student who has not mastered their prayers at the end of the year will be placed "conditionally" in the next level until reevaluated in the fall. Your child will be provided with a Study Guide at the beginning of the year.



## ***STUDENT CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY***

As a Catholic community we foster Christian principles of respect and courtesy toward all adults and children. It is expected that all students will obey all program procedures and the rules set forth by their catechist. Parents will be notified of any inappropriate language or behavior. Persistent problems will be addressed at a meeting of parent, child, Deacon or Pastor, and CRE.

For their own safety, students will follow arrival and dismissal procedures.

All students are required to bring their textbook and a pen/pencil to class each week and a notebook. Assignments should be neatly done and handed in on time. If a book is lost, a new one must be purchased.

Due to the alarming number of food allergies, students may not bring food or drink to class. This includes eating candy or chewing gum.

### ***Dress Code***

Appropriate clothing for the season and place of instruction (school or Church building) should be worn. For safety reasons, students should not wear flip-flops or sneakers with wheels in them.

### ***Electronic Devices***

Electronic devices such as tablets should not be brought to class. Cell phones may be brought to class, but must be turned off when class is in session.

### ***Security and Safety***

No unauthorized visitors are allowed in the classroom at any time during class. No unregistered student may attend class.

## ***SACRAMENTS***

### ***First Penance and First Holy Communion***

The Sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion is a two (2) year process for children who **are Baptized** in the Catholic Church and who are in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The first year consists of faith formation and the second year consists of immediate catechetical preparation for the Rite of Reconciliation and First Communion.

Children entering the program for the first time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to attend Sunday classes, as well as a Sacramental Class on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month in the MCC or other designated area from 6:30pm-8:00pm.**

If your child is transferring from another program and has completed at least one (1) year of catechesis, please provide a letter of proof upon registration.

## ***CHILDREN BUILDING COMMUNITY***

2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to volunteer at least **20 hours of service** from September through April while students in first grade will be required to do 15 hours of service. Service opportunities include:

- \* Altar Servers
- \* Lectors at family Mass
- \* Participation in the Nativity Pageant
- \* Participation in the Stations of the Cross
- \* Family Choir
- \* Children's Saint Parade



## ***MISCELLANEOUS***

### ***No Food Policy***

Parents — please do not send your children to class hungry. As previously indicated, students may not bring food or drink to class. This includes eating candy or chewing gum.

### ***Lost and Found***

In order to have misplaced or lost items returned, please label all items that are brought into class including all clothing and especially books. “Lost and found” will be maintained in the Mother Cabrini Center.

### ***Materials to be distributed***

No unauthorized materials may be distributed to students. All disseminated material must be pre-approved by the CRE.

### ***Policy conflict***

Where any program policy and/or procedures may conflict with Diocesan policy and/or procedure, Diocesan policy shall be considered first.

### ***Family Covenant/Commitment***

In order to form a cooperative union, dedicated to the formation of strong religious values, we are requesting that each family in our program enter into a formal Covenant/Commitment acknowledging the important role that we all play in the religious education and formation of our children.

The program acknowledges parents as the primary teachers of their children and agrees to support and nourish the family to the best of our ability. We will function in ways that encourage and respect the right of all students to learn more about their Church, faith and their personal relationship with God.



## ***CATECHISTS***

We are very blessed to have the involvement of so many dedicated parishioners who volunteer to be catechists. Their service to our program is deeply appreciated, and we encourage parents to meet their child's catechist at the start of the school year.

**Catechists:** volunteer teachers and substitute teachers who commit themselves, their time, and energy to prepare and learn what they need to hand on the faith to our young people.

### ***Responsibilities of a Catechist***

- Acquaints herself/himself with the parents of those entrusted to her/him and communicates with them on the conduct and progress of their child.
- Prepares and executes weekly lessons and prayer.
- Maintains a safe environment for all children (Virtus training).
- Attends meetings and strives through personal ready and study to be well-equipped to perform the sacred duty of a catechist.

St. Paul R.C. Church recognizes the important role catechists have in helping parents pass on the Catholic Faith to their children. Catechists need ongoing formation in Theology, Methodology, and Spirituality to deepen their own faith life. That enables them to help children recognize and appreciate the many ways God is and has always been present and active in our world and in our personal lives.



## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **2024-2025**

First Day of Class

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6, 2024, 4pm at church

All Saints Day

Friday, November 1, 2024, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm, and 7pm

All Saints Day Mass (celebrated by lower-level kids)

Sunday, October 27, 2024, Children's Saint Parade 11:00am Mass

All Souls Day

Saturday, November 2, 2024, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm and 6:30pm

Mass of Nations

Sunday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 28, 2024, Mass Service at 9:00 am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9, Service at 8am, 5pm, 7pm

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 16, 7pm at church

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Thursday, December 12. at 5:00am, 7pm (mañanitas at 5am)

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 5:30 pm at church

Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi

Beginning Monday December 16, 2024

Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24, 2024,

Mass Service at 5:30 pm, 7:30pm, 10:30 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25, 2024,

Mass Service at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00am, 1:00 pm

Feast of the Holy Family Masses

Sunday, December 29, 2024

New Year's Eve Party, Parish Hall

(to be determined)

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings

Sunday, January 5, 2025

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **2024-2025**

The Baptism of the Lord  
Sunday, January 12, 2025

Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day Masses  
Saturday, January 25, 2025

The Presentation of the Lord  
Sunday, February 2, 2025

Feast of St. Blaise/Blessing of the Throats  
Monday February 3, 2025

Ash Wednesday Services and Masses  
March 5, 2025

Palm Sunday  
Sunday, April 13, 2025

Lenten Penance Service  
Monday, April 14, 2025

Holy Thursday Mass  
Thursday, April 17, 2025

Good Friday Services  
Friday, April 18, 2025  
11:00 am Outdoor Stations of the Cross 3:00pm (English),  
5:30pm (Spanish) and 7:30pm Tenebrae (Trilingual)

Easter Vigil  
Saturday, April 19, 2025; 1:00 pm  
Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday  
Sunday, April 20, 2025

First Communion Day/May Crowning  
Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10:00am, Reception may follow Mass

Mother's Day Masses  
Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and May 11, 2025

High School Confirmation  
Sunday, May 18, 2025 during the 9:00 AM Mass

The Ascension of the Lord  
Thursday, May 29, 2025

Pentecost / Confirmation Day  
Sunday, June 8, 2025

Father's Day Masses  
Saturday, June 14 and June 15  
Celebrated during all weekend Masses

Feast of Corpus Christi  
Sunday, June 22, 2025, during all weekend Masses

## ***ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH***

### ***CONTACT US:***

***Pastor:*** Rev. Leonardo Jaramillo, PhD.

*Phone:* (973) 340-1300 ext. 102

*Email:* [pastor.stpaul@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.stpaul@verizon.net)

### ***Coordinator of Religious Education:***

*Deacon Hector Castellanos*

*Alvaro Leal*

*Phone:* (973) 340-1300 ext. 106

*Email:* [dre.stpaulchurch@verizon.net](mailto:dre.stpaulchurch@verizon.net)

### ***Parish Secretary: Sonia Almonte***

*Phone:* (973) 340-1300 ext. 101

*Email:* [stpaulchurchcnj@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulchurchcnj@verizon.net)

*Parish Office:*

*231 Second Street*

*Clifton, NJ 07011*

*Fax:* 973-340-2083

*Website:* [www.stpaulcnj.org](http://www.stpaulcnj.org)

### ***FAMILY MASS AT ST PAUL:***

*Family Mass is usually celebrated the last Sunday of each month  
from September to April at 11:00am (English) and 1:00pm  
(Spanish)*

*Please join us to celebrate the gift of family.*