

Welcome to Religious Education at St. Philip the Apostle Church

What is St. Philip Religious Education about?

The Religious Education program is a parish and family based religious education program, geared to help young people in grades pre K-12, come to know Jesus Christ and begin to form a life-long relationship with Him. Through the sharing of personal faith stories, personal witness, the use of Church-approved catechetical materials, family involvement in sacramental preparation, craft activities, study of the traditions of the Church, and praise of God through prayer, song and Liturgy, our parish children receive a solid foundation in their faith development.

What class times are available for my child?

Sunday School is for children age three years old through Kindergarten age.

Parents have a choice of Sunday at 8:45 or Sunday 10:30 AM.

Elementary Education is for students in 1st through 5th grade.

Parents have a choice of Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 4:15 PM or Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 PM.

Junior High is for students in 6th through 8th grade.

Jr. High students meet on Wednesday night at 6:30 PM

Youth Group is for students in 9th through 12th grades.

Youth group students meet on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM

Confirmation I and II is for students preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation I and II meet on Sundays at 3:30 PM or 7:00 PM

Is there a fee for enrolling my student? Yes, fee schedule is as follows:

Sunday School through High School	Registration Fees	Text/Materials	Retreat	Total
One student	\$30	\$30 per student	N/A	\$60
Second student	\$20	\$30 per student	N/A	\$110
Third student	\$10	\$30 per student	N/A	\$150
Family four or more	\$0	\$30 per student	N/A	\$150
Confirmation I and II				
Per student	\$50	\$40	\$120	\$210

Please note:

- 1) To register a student we must receive payment of the registration fee – registration fees will not be refunded
- 2) We can set up a payment plan option for the remaining fees
- 3) For a first or second year sacramental student (Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation) we must receive a copy of their Baptismal Certificate at the time of registration
- 4) All catechists must fill out registration paperwork for their children – no children will be admitted to class without registration
- 5) Second year Catechists will receive a waiver of the registration fee (not text/materials) for the program in which they volunteer, a waiver slip must be filled out by the program coordinator and approved by Diana Akroush.

Is there a year-long calendar available for the program?

Yes; one can be picked up in the religious education office or at the Youth Center starting in August 2010. Calendars will also be sent home with students during the first two weeks of class. The calendar and/or other events will be posted in the glass case by classroom #1. Our holiday schedule follows that of Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

When do I find out which classroom my child will be in?

You will be given a postcard at the time of registration; this is your reminder about the first week of class and class assignments. We will also have classroom assignments posted the week before class outside the religious education office. We ask all parents to stop by to check the lists and verify their students' classes and rooms before the first week.

How important is regular attendance at ERE classes?

For any student who wishes to grow and mature in the spiritual life, attendance at all classes is desirable. **For those anticipating reception of sacraments, attendance is mandatory, except for illness or family emergencies. To attend means to be present for the entire class period; children who arrive late consistently or are taken out of class early can be disturbing to both catechists and students.** We believe the religious education of our parish youngsters is a high priority, and we urge parents to see to it that their students are present each week for the entire class time, except in case of an emergency. *Sports and other after-school events are not considered emergencies.*

How do I find out about ERE events and activities?

In the summer months, information is communicated through pulpit announcements at Mass and the parish bulletin. Once classes have begun, information is given out by the catechists, published through bulletin and pulpit announcements. We ask that parents contact the catechists or RE office if they feel they are not receiving information of ERE events.

When will my student be allowed to receive sacraments for the first time?

The Diocese of Fresno and St. Philip the Apostle parish require two years of religious education before sacraments can be received. Sacraments are normally received in the spring of the second year of religious education, provided all requirements are met. A copy of the Parish Requirements for Sacramental Preparation follows:

REQUIREMENTS FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

If your student is unbaptized,

he/she will attend the appropriate grade level classes in the first year. Second year students will participate with you in the monthly Family Catechumenate and attend Sunday dismissals, which will prepare him or her for the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, usually received at the Easter Vigil service. Attendance at the grade level class, Family Catechumenate sessions, and the weekly dismissals are necessary if reception of the sacraments is desired.

If your student is baptized,

he or she will attend the appropriate grade level class on a regular basis, and make up any lessons missed due to illness or emergency.

First-Year Classes:

These classes all fulfill the diocesan requirement of first-year religious education, prior to the second year, in which sacramental preparation can begin. Regular attendance and participation in class, as well as attendance at the weekly Celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy, are necessary to complete this first year.

Late arrival for class, especially on a regular basis, and early withdrawal for any reason, are a distraction for catechists and students alike. If a student must be absent, it is the parent's responsibility to pick up class materials and see that appropriate lessons are completed and returned to the catechist. Inform the religious education office in the event of the student's absence so the catechist can prepare materials for you to use at home. Missed assignments can be picked up in the Religious Education office.

Poor attendance, lack of participation, and incomplete assignments could necessitate a repeat of the first year, if so designated by the catechist and/or Director of Religious Education (DRE).

Second Year:

Upon completion of the first year of religious education, your student is eligible to begin preparation for Sacraments.

And, if reception of the Sacraments is desired, Parents of first and second year students must additionally attend mandatory parents meetings, retreat, and practice sessions marked on the calendar. Attendance at Sunday Mass is also required for parents and students in first and second year sacrament classes. Parents not attending required events will be contacted by the DRE to determine the reason.

Preparation for Reconciliation begins in the fall of the student's second year, and the sacrament is usually received in early February. Preparation for First Eucharist begins in late February. The students, depending on circumstances, will participate in either a ten-minute interview with a sacramental team member, or be checked for readiness by their catechist. Enrichment activities will take place either during class time, or at a time to be specified during the school year. *All meetings, classes and family involvement at home are an essential part of the process of sacramental preparations and are required to complete your student's preparations.* Failure to fulfill these requirements could result in a delay in reception of sacraments for your child.

Questions, call # 833-2218 ext. 127 or 124
Fax number # 834-2214

Registration by mail, please send;

1. Completed registration form
2. Completed and signed Parent and Student policies form
3. Completed volunteer form
4. Completed and signed Diocese of Fresno Consent form for medical emergency
5. Copy of Baptismal Certificate (no originals please)
6. Full payment amount – check or money order – made payable to St. Philip the Apostle Church

Mail To:

St. Philip the Apostle Church
7100 Stockdale Hwy.
Bakersfield, CA. 93309
Attn: Religious Education Dept.