SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Helping Everyone Take Their Next Step to be More Like Jesus

PARENT HANDBOOK

SCUBA SUMMER PROGRAM 2024

Website: [www.ssppeaston.org](http://www.ssppeaston.org)

HANDBOOK FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUMMER PROGRAM

SS. Peter and Paul Church

Easton, Maryland

Dear Families,

We know how busy family life can be and realize that sometimes the required religious education classes can seem like “one more thing” you must fit into your busy schedule. It is our hope that you and your children will come to see it as much more than the “one more thing.” Our pastoral staff and team of catechists are dedicated to making the time your children spend with us as interesting and inspiring as we can. It is our goal to teach the lessons of our faith by praying with them and engaging them in activities that are rooted in the Catholic faith so your children can grow into faith-filled adults who love God and the Holy Catholic Church.

None of this can be accomplished without support from the family. What you *do* and *say* as Catholic parents and caregivers is far more important and will teach your child more than we can in the short time we are with them. Your example and your attitude toward their faith instruction speaks volumes. We ask you to review the policies in this handbook to ensure that our program operates as smoothly and safely as possible for our families. We encourage you to ask your child about the lessons that are taught each day and also to continue to attend Mass regularly with them. Your interest in their faith and moral development will teach them that **these things matter**, and it will make their time in religious education summer camp all the more worthwhile.

We pray for many blessings as you continue to raise your children in the Catholic faith and we are humbled to walk with you on this journey.

Joyfully in Christ,

Rev. James Nash, Pastor Mrs. Linda Steinmiller, Director

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MISSION

Our program at Saints Peter and Paul Church serves as an aid to the parents

in their own lives and the lives of their children. We are **all** full-time catechists

by our Baptism. Our combined mission is to spread the Word, live the Gospel and

create, redeem, and sanctify the world with our presence. Our mission is:

+ To **proclaim** and teach God’s Word by guiding families to a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith, Jesus’ love for us, and the traditions and history of the Holy Catholic Church.

+ To **celebrate** the Sacred Scriptures by assisting families with spiritual development and prayer when we celebrate Mass together as a community.

+ To **serve** one another by nurturing relationships with families, the parish, and our community.

The Church continues the mission of Jesus Christ whose teaching has come down to us through the apostles. The ministry of catechesis serves the Church in that mission. It enables our faith to become living, conscious, and active through the catechetical ministry given by the bishops of the United States.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Hours: Religious Education Office

The religious Education Office is open: Monday – Thursday 8:00 – 4:00.

Our direct phone number is 410-822-6581.

You can contact Mrs. Sandy Stasi, Religious Education Assistant at religioused@ssppeaston.org.

You my contact Mrs. Linda Steinmiller, Religious Education Director at lsteinmiller@ssppeaston.org.

Summer Camp Classes Offered:

**Saints Peter and Paul Scuba Summer Religious Education Camp and Second Grade Sacramental Formation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.**

**\* If your child is enrolled at SS. Peter and Paul Elementary School, you may attend this camp, but it is not a requirement for Sacramental Formation. In August, please look for the link to in the bulletin or on the parish website for registration for formation of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. First Holy Communion is received in the Second Grade at SS. Peter and Paul Church. You must have attended First Grade at SSPP, also.**

In some instances, this year, families who have already secured a vacation for the week of July 15 – 19, will be homeschooling their children. If you are considering this option, please contact the Office of Religious Education for registration information.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES – open until May 23, 2024

Parish-based religious education formally begins when a child enters first grade at a public or non-Catholic private school. Children enrolled at a Catholic school are not required to attend religious education classes in the parish; however, they will need to be in contact with the Office of Religious Education and fulfill corresponding requirements during sacramental years (grades 2, 5, and 9).

**Required Materials for Registration**

The following materials are required to successfully register a student for religious education:

* A completed registration form or online registration.
* A completed Form A Consent and Release Form for each child.
* A $100.00 registration fee for **each** child Grades 1 - 8.

$50.00 for Kindergarten.

* An Arrival/Departure Form

Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with parish members and SS. Peter and Paul Elementary School students given first priority.

*Non-Parish/Parish School Students*

Saints Peter and Paul accepts students from other parishes provided there is room available in a class. First consideration is for the Parish and Parish School students.

*Students who did not receive their Sacraments at the Ordinary Age:*

Students who did not complete their formation or receive their Sacraments at the ordinary time and with the ordinary “two consecutive years” and are now in a higher grade are required to wait until they have successfully been prepared. The ordinary time for reception of the Sacraments is:

**Infant/Young Child Baptism** - 6 years of age or younger

**First Holy Communion** - Second Grade

\*Must attend First and Second Grades, successfully

**Confirmation**: - Ninth Grade

\*Must have attended Eighth Grade and Ninth Grade Confirmation, successfully

**It is very important to attend Mass regularly and not to delay enrollment in Religious Education classes. Enroll your children in Parish Religious Education or Catholic School at the appropriate time. Otherwise there will be a delay until the child is appropriately catechized, which is at the discretion of the Pastor and his delegate, the Director of Religious Education.**

**Please contact the Office of Religious Education for guidance if this pertains to you.**

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS AND CLASS EXPECTATIONS

CURRICULUM

We are always looking for and presenting the most current curriculum which meets the objectives of the Diocese of Wilmington standards for the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The texts may be updated from year-to-year. This year, we are using SCUBA Vacation Bible School 2024 along with Finding God from Loyola Press, Copyright 2021.

ATTENDANCE and Pick/Up Drop Off for SCUBA Summer Religious Ed Camp

To assure quality and consistency of Religious Education for your child(ren), attendance is expected. If a child cannot attend class, a phone call to the Religious Ed Director at 410-822-6581 or email lsteinmiller@ssppeaston.org from the parent, prior to the absence is expected. If we have no prior notice, we assume that the child should be in class.

Students must arrive to the Church’s Family Life Center Social Hall between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. daily for Summer RE Camp. Please do not drop off earlier as there will not be any supervision until 7:45 a.m. Thank you! Please park and bring the children inside so they can be signed in.

They will be given a badge to present each morning to the Arrival Buddies! These are a group of H.S. Teens who are helping campers this week.

Students will be dismissed as follows:

11:30 am **Kindergarten Pick Up** – SSPP High School Front Left Entrance

 *Kindergarten parents will park in the Church Parking Lot, nearest the school and come to the doors on the far left of the High School.*

3:00 pm **First Grade – Fifth Grade Pick Up** – Parish Family Life Center (Far Right Door) *Parents of First to Fifth Grade campers will park in the Church Parking Lot nearest the Social Hall and come to the far right door to sign their children out.*

3:00 pm **Sixth – Eighth Grade Pick Up** - Parish Family Life Center (Center Doors)

*Parents of Sixth to Seventh Grade campers will park in the Church Parking Lot nearest the center doors to the FLC and come to the center door to sign their children out.*

No student may leave the parish premises without written notice and a meeting with the Camp Director, Linda Steinmiller or Assistant Camp Director, Samantha Steinmiller.

OVERALL ATTENDANCE

For the Summer Camp Religious Education, you may only miss 1 day during the program and may not miss the last class day. Please do not register for Summer Camp Religious Education if you know your child has a tournament or other events that will require missing more than one day. Any students missing more than 1 day will automatically be removed from the summer program and required to repeat the grade level in a Homeschool Study Program (September to April). This does not apply to SS. Peter and Paul School children.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Students in the Saints Peter and Paul SCUBA Summer Religious Education Camp are expected to follow these rules:

* Respect yourself, others, and your surroundings.
* Contribute positively to the learning environment.
* Follow parish and classroom procedures.

Classroom disturbances will not be tolerated. Class time is very precious and the students are, too. Teachers will handle matters immediately to help students learn how to use correct behavior and remain in the classroom learning environment. The teacher will give one verbal reminder to help the student choose appropriate behavior. If the student does not follow the guidelines of good behavior again, the catechist will arrange for the Camp Director to meet with the child. The Director will help the student understand, to the best of her ability, the cooperation and behavior necessary for all campers to have a positive experience.

If the camper is sent to the Director a second time or this is an ongoing problem from day to day, the student will remain in the Director’s Office and parents will be contacted and asked to meet for a conference. Students may not be allowed to attend classes, if there is no resolution to the behavior.

CATECHISTS

Our catechists are stewards who willingly share their time and talents to educate our students. Catechists are provided opportunities to grow in their faith formation and learn new methods of catechesis through faith opportunities offered at SS. Peter and Paul Church and the Diocese of Wilmington. Some are Catholic, Private, or Public-School teachers. Others are basic or advanced certified by the Office of Religious Education. All are background cleared and trained under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

LITURGY OF THE MASS

SCUBA Summer Religious Education Campers will be attending daily Mass with their catechists and classmates each morning. We expect and encourage all Catholic families to regularly attend Sunday Mass. Students receive instruction on the Liturgy of the Mass.

*“As members of the Christian community, all are called to participate actively in the liturgical prayer of the Church. Religious Education therefore must involve the student in his/her faith community and in that community’s liturgy. Liturgy itself educates, it teaches, it forms community, and it forms the individual. It makes possible worship to God.” (U.S.C.C.B., “Basic Teachings for Catholic Religious Education”)*

DRESS CODE

* Campers may wear shorts that are modest in length (no more than 6” above the top of the knee cap and no words written on the backside of the shorts).
* Students may not have rude or offensive wording or anything that promotes weapons, violence, etc. on their clothing.
* No pajamas.
* No off the shoulder, crop style, bare midriff shirts, tank tops or spaghetti strap style shirts are allowed. All tops are to have sleeves.
* A SCUBA shirt will be given out on Thursday to be worn on Friday with pants or shorts.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Fire/Severe Weather Hazards, Alarms, Drills

Catechists are provided with instructions on how to lead the children in emergency situations. During emergency situations, silence and order will be maintained. In case of a tornado or weather-related emergency, all students, catechists, and others present will go to a designated safe area of the building until the all clear is give.

In the event of an emergency, parents will need to check with the Director before any child can be released. Students cannot be released directly by the catechist without first verifying with the Director.

* Directives are posted in each classroom for exiting the building or finding a safe shelter in the event of fire or tornado.
* All teachers are versed in the proper procedures for emergencies.
* No personnel will remain in the office to answer telephones or buzz in visitors. No one will be in the office to allow people into the building.
* Saints Peter and Paul Church and School are not responsible for any injury occurring to a parent/guardian or student choosing to leave the building during an emergency.
* In the event of an emergency that shuts down the camp for the day, personnel will remain at Saints Peter and Paul until parents have picked up all children.
* In the event there is information regarding a dangerous visitor, the classrooms will be locked-down and authorities will be called.

NO NUT POLICY

It is the policy of Saints Peter and Paul Summer Camp to eliminate or minimize the risk of exposure to nuts for our students and to have a plan in place to respond to an emergency. This policy is a safeguard to our Campers.

To help minimize the risk of exposure to nuts for our students, we will:

* Not allow foods of any kind to be consumed in the classroom. If teachers would like to have a treat with their students, they must reserve the cafeteria or share a snack outside (weather permitting).
* Teachers will know that they are not to offer any foods that contain nuts.
* Parents are discouraged from bringing in treats that contain nuts or were packaged where nut products are prepared.
* There will be a separate table at lunch break for anyone with a severe nut allergy.

LUNCH

Students will lunch in the High School Cafeteria each day. If the weather permits we may go outside for lunch. Parents please pack healthy lunches to sustain your child for the long day. Kindergarten is exempt from lunch as their day is over at 11:30.

Please send your child with a refillable water bottle marked with the first and last name of your child.

SNACKS

We will at times, provide popsicles, snowballs, or popcorn. If your child is not allowed to have a popsicle or has a dietary restriction please let us know.

HOMESCHOOLING FOR A YEAR

As mentioned previously, there are some Sunday School families who have already reserved their vacation week for July 15 – 19. We will have a Homeschool Meeting in late summer to be sure you have the resources and understand the one-year offering. You will become the primary catechists and we will meet several times throughout the year to enrich and check your child’s progress. Please look for information and Homeschool registration in the bulletin and online in August. Meanwhile, if you have questions please contact us at religioused@ssppeaston.org.