

**Parish  
Catechetical Handbook  
for  
Families  
2017-2018**



Corpus Christi Parish  
6300 McKenna Dr.  
Mobile, AL 36608  
(251) 342-5474  
[church@corpuschristiparish.com](mailto:church@corpuschristiparish.com)

Dear Family,

Welcome to our parish catechetical program. The purpose of this program is to follow Christ's call "to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world and to hand his message on to successive generations by professing, living and celebrating the faith..." (*National Directory for Catechesis* #15)

In our parish, the pastor, working with parents and those in catechetical ministry, plans and carries out this catechetical mission. This handbook has been designed to provide general information, dates, and requirements for participation in the parish program. The parish reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parents will be notified, in writing, if changes are made to any procedure or information contained in this handbook. We hope this serves to enhance communication, and provide a clear presentation of expectations and responsibilities of students and their families. In the long run, we hope it makes family life easier!

In the *National Directory for Catechesis*, the U.S. Bishops remind us that it is in the parish that the faithful are "energized to carry out Christ's mission." It is here that the "spiritual, moral and material support for the regular and continuing catechetical development of the parishioners" is provided. (*NDC*, #60)

We thank you for your support and cooperation, and look forward to working together with you this year. It is in working together that we are the Body and Christ and carry out His mission.

May the Lord bless our efforts,

*Father Foghby*  
Pastor

*Diane Sloyka*  
Parish Catechetical Leader

## ***Mission Statement***

The mission of the catechetical program of Corpus Christi Parish of Mobile, Alabama, is to help all participants and their families develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to live out their Catholic faith in ways that draw others to Christ and the Church. We seek to carry out this mission through catechesis, sacramental preparation, liturgy, and service.

### ***Objectives of our Parish Catechetical Program\****

- ❖ To present a comprehensive and systematic formation in the faith, that integrates knowledge of the faith with living the faith
- ❖ To center on initiation into the life of the Triune God
- ❖ To be appropriate to the age level, maturity, circumstances, language and ethnic background of each participant
- ❖ To involve all members of the parish community, particularly the parents
- ❖ To focus on the symbols, rituals, and prayers of the Church
- ❖ To enable the believers to live out their faith in their everyday life

\* from the *National Directory for Catechesis*, 2005

The parish catechetical program admits students of any sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students in this catechetical program. Where possible, our parish program strives to make accommodation for children and youth with disabilities.

### ***Volunteers***

The parish catechetical program welcomes and needs volunteers to assist in some of the activities and service projects throughout the year. Anyone interested in volunteer service such as clerical and office help, substitute, catechist, aid, monitor, etc., should contact the Parish Religious Education Office or the Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL).

\*\*NOTE: In the Archdiocese of Mobile, all volunteers who have substantial contact with children and youth under the age of nineteen (19) are required to complete the CAPP training and have a background check. This can be arranged by contacting the PCL.

## *Catechetical Personnel*

### *Pastor*

Name: James F. Zoghby  
Phone 342-1852  
Email [Church@CorpusChristiParish.com](mailto:Church@CorpusChristiParish.com)

### *Parish Catechetical Leader*

Name Diane Stoyka  
Office Phone 342-1852 ext. 7  
Email dianestoyka@yahoo.com

### *Catechists*

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
Kindergarten	Primary Room 102	Amy Salazar and Theresa Breedlove
First Grade	Primary Room 202	Keri Williams and Michael Williams
Second Grade	Primary Room 100	Anne Norton and Jennifer Stoyka
Third Grade	Main Room 203	Paula Dinkel
Fourth Grade	Main Room 104	Brandi D'Lima and Patricia Spencer
Fifth Grade	Main Room 105	Cheryl and Mark Shelley
Sixth Grade	Main Room 107	Alicia Carruba
Seventh Grade	Main Room 108	Peter Stoyka
Eighth Grade	Main Room 208	Dave Burchette
High School	Main Room 207	Mitch and MaryAlice Pouliot

## ***Calendar for the Year 2015-2016***

***Classes begin on August 23, 2015***

***Last class is on May 22, 2016***

***Class times: 10:05-10:55 a.m***

### ***Holidays - (No Classes held on these Sundays)***

September 6th	Labor Day
November 29th	Thanksgiving Weekend
December 20 and 27	Christmas Break
January 3	New Year's Break
February 7	Mardi Gras (Mobile/Baldwin)
March 27	Easter
April 10 and 17	Spring Break Mobile County

### ***Sacramental Celebrations***

First Penance/Reconciliation - December 8, 2015 at 7 pm

First Holy Communion - May 1, 2015 at 1 pm

Confirmation – Senior Class of 2017 – September 17, 2015 at 6 pm

#### ***Important dates for Second grade***

October 13 – Reconciliation Meeting 6:30 pm

December 8 – First Reconciliation Service 7 pm

March 1– First Eucharist Parent Meeting 6:30 pm

March 6– First Eucharist Enrollment Mass 9:00 am

April 30– First Eucharist Practice 10 am

May 1 – First Eucharist Mass 1 pm

#### ***Important dates for Confirmation – class of 2017***

May 17, 2015 – Turn in Sponsor's name.

August 16, 2015 – Spirit day with Sponsor – Corpus Christi – 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

August 30, 2015 – 4:00-6:00 pm. Confirmation interview

September 13, 2015 – 4:30-5:30 pm. Confirmation practice

September 17, 2015 – 6 pm. Confirmation

#### ***Important dates for Confirmation – class of 2018***

August 23, 2015 turn in a copy of your baptismal certificate.

October 25, 2015 – Spirit day – Corpus Christi – 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Lesson 6

November 1, 2015 – Turn in Confirmation name.

January 30, 2016 – Confirmation Retreat – Visitation Monastery, Mobile AL – 10:00am –4:30pm  
Lessons 2/3/4

May 15, 2016 – Turn in Sponsor's name.

August 21, 2016 – Spirit day – Corpus Christi – 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Lesson 8

#### ***Important dates for Confirmation – class of 2019***

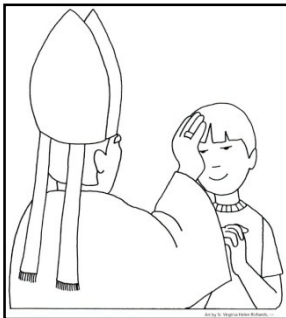
August 25, 2015- Parent meeting 6:30 pm

October 18, 2015 - Welcome mass- Corpus Christi – 11:00 am – 3 pm Lesson 1

## ***Sacramental Preparation Guidelines***

### **First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion**

Children in second grade who have attended a year of catechetical instructions are eligible to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. This preparation takes place in the parish catechetical program, the Catholic School, or home settings. Special preparation classes are held in the fall for Reconciliation, and the spring for Eucharist. There are sessions for both parents and children.



### **Confirmation**

The sacrament of Confirmation will be offered for students in the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade. To be eligible for this sacrament the student must: (1) either be enrolled in our parish catechetical program/Youth Group or Catholic School; (2) have regularly attended class for at least two years prior to reception of the sacrament; and (3) participate in the immediate preparation including classes, retreats, and service hours. It is expected that the candidates attend Mass weekly.



## ***Parish Catechetical Policies***

### **Attendance Policy**

Students and parents should make every effort to attend the catechetical sessions and/or parent meetings offered at the parish. Parents are expected to have their children there on time, and to pick them up promptly. Students and parents with specific family dilemmas preventing them from attending weekly catechetical sessions will be handled on a case by case basis by the Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL) in consultation with the pastor.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Please bring your child to class on time (preferably 5 minutes before the start of class), and pick your child up at dismissal time. Children, younger than 10 years old, must be collected by the custodial parent (or their designee who has been identified to the PCL).

### **Communication**

Since the catechist has the most direct contact with your child, parents should discuss any classroom problems with the catechist first. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, parents should speak with the PCL. If still unresolved, the problem may be brought to the pastor.

Comments, suggestions and ideas are always welcome. Please share them with the PCL by email (insert PCL address) or in a written form.

### **Emergency Class Cancellation**

If local schools are closed due to an emergency situation, catechetical classes will generally be cancelled. If you have any questions about cancellation, please email or phone [dianestoyka@yahoo.com](mailto:dianestoyka@yahoo.com) (251) 342-1852 ext. 7

### **Health Concerns**

Health information is collected on the Catechetical Registration Form. Catechists and other personnel are not allowed to dispense or administer medication to students.

If your child is on medications (for ADD or other such medications), please follow their doctor's orders in administering their medication.

### **Student Behavior and Expectations**

- Students will be expected to show respect to their teachers and classmates. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Classroom rules are posted in each classroom. At the first disruption, the child will be referred to classroom rules. After the second incident, the child will be sent to talk with the PCL. If inappropriate behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be contacted.
- All students are expected to share in the faith learning experience of the parish program. They are also expected to complete assignments and participate in group projects.

- Students attending parish catechetical sessions are expected to regularly attend the Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days, and celebrate sacraments in *this* parish. Parents or guardians are also encouraged to do so.

### **Sexual and other types of harassment**

Harassment, racial slurs, fighting, smoking, drugs, or other inappropriate (or gang - related) conduct among students will not be tolerated. Violations of this rule will warrant immediate notification of parents/guardians of the child involved, and may warrant suspension or even dismissal of the involved from the program.

### **General Expectations**

It is expected that each family become actively involved in the parish and in the catechetical program so that by their participation they model a living, conscious and active Christian faith, and reinforce the values and attitudes for living that faith. The family and their children are expected to embrace and live these values and attitudes.

### **Child & Adolescent Protection Policy**

In a pastoral effort to respond to a heightened need for the protection of our children, the Archdiocese of Mobile requires a catechesis be given to children and youth in all grades of Parish Programs and Catholic Schools. It is recommended that this yearly catechesis be done during Respect Life month which is in October.

A letter will be sent to each family, notifying parents of the dates of the classes.

All priests, deacons, school administrators, teachers, youth ministers, parish catechists, support personnel, coaches, and other volunteers having “substantial contact” with children are required to attend training in the prevention and recognition of all forms of abuse against children. This program is provided by the Archdiocese. All persons who work with children in the Archdiocese of Mobile will be required to have background checks as part of the CAPP training.

Pursuant to state law, we are required to report suspected child abuse, and we will also follow all Archdiocesan policies on such matters. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Archdiocesan Office of Child Protection.

Phone: (251) 434-1559

Email: [childprotection@bellsouth.net](mailto:childprotection@bellsouth.net).