

**San Isidro Catholic Church**  
**Religious Education Program**  
**2310 Martin Luther King Blvd.**  
**Pompano Beach, FL 33069**  
**954-971-8780 Ext. 204**

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Welcome to the Religious Education Program at St. Isidore Church. We appreciate the privilege of accompanying you in the religious and spiritual formation of your children.

Parent participation is essential for the success of this program. You are your children's primary educators, and we are here to support you. We thank you for the effort you put into setting a good example by participating in Mass weekly and praying together at home as a united family.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this manual, which contains the rules and requirements of the program. Please do not hesitate to contact us throughout the year for any needs you may have. I am here to help you in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luz A. Lopez".

Luz A. Lopez

Coordinator of Religious Education

**Admissions:**

Our mission is to educate all children, youth, and adults in the parish in the faith. The pastor will make the final decision regarding admission and the reception of sacraments. To register, it is necessary to present the following documents:

- Baptism Certificate
- Birth Certificate (for catechumens)
- WhatsApp application must be installed, as all notifications and announcements will be sent through a group managed by the catechist.

**Attendance at Mass:**

Attendance at Mass is a mandatory requirement to receive the sacraments. This will be recorded using a control card that will be given on the first day of classes. Both parents and children are responsible for bringing the card to Mass and catechism classes.

- At the end of each Mass, the student must approach an usher to have their attendance card marked. Attendance will also be checked in each class.
- In case of loss of the card, it is the responsibility of the parents or students to request a new one from the parish office.
- If attending Mass at another parish, they must present the bulletin from that parish signed by the celebrating priest or an usher. Students who do not meet the attendance requirement will not be able to receive the sacrament.

**Schedule:**

- For first-year Confirmation students: Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- For First Communion students and catechumens: Saturdays from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

This is the procedure for parents of First Communion students and catechumens on Saturdays at drop-off and pick-up times:

- It is necessary to park the car and accompany your child to the classroom, where you must sign an attendance sheet with the catechist. The same procedure must be followed to pick up your child at the end of class.
- Please do not block vehicle access to the Church or obstruct parked cars.
- If for any reason, such as a delay or emergency, you cannot pick up your child on time, please notify the office as soon as possible.
- If you need to pick up your child before class ends, you must obtain permission from the Coordinator. If someone other than the parents will pick up your child, you must inform the catechist, as for security reasons, no one not authorized by the parents will be released.

For Confirmation students, they must wait for their parents in front of the office. They cannot wait in front of the Church or leave the area in front of the offices.

- To ensure the safety of the students, it is important that they wait for their parents in front of the office building and do not walk around other areas.
- Please pick up your children on time. For the safety of your children, the Coordinator cannot leave until the last student has been picked up by their parents.

**Attendance to Classes:**

Classes are held once a week, lasting approximately one and a half hours for the Confirmation course and two hours for the First Communion course. For the program to be effective, it is necessary for students to attend

regularly. A maximum of 4 absences are allowed during the year. If a student accumulates four (4) or more absences in a school year, parents must meet with the Coordinator, who will decide whether the student will be suspended or readmitted to the program.

- If your child does not meet the attendance requirements, they will have to repeat the year.
- If the student misses class, parents must inform the catechist via chat.
- Parents must obtain the work or assignments completed in class and ensure they are submitted the following week.

#### **Tardiness:**

- When a student arrives late, it interrupts the class. Likewise, if a student has three (3) tardies in a school year, 1 absence will be added to their attendance record.
- Students arriving 15 minutes late will be marked as absent. Please remember that four (4) or more absences may result in suspension from the program.

#### **Discipline:**

Students are expected to maintain respectful and appropriate behavior at all times. Respect for classmates, catechists, staff, and church property is a priority. Students who:

- use obscene or vulgar language,
- resort to physical violence,
- disrespect the catechist, classmates, or staff,
- or commit acts of vandalism,

will be sent to the Coordinator's office. Parents will be contacted immediately to pick up their child. The incident will be evaluated and may result in suspension from the program. Additionally, this behavior will be considered an absence, as the student will not complete that day's class.

#### **Requirements for Class:**

- Students are asked to pay attention in class and participate actively.
- Students must pass exams.
- Each student will receive a backpack with essential materials, which must be brought to class each week and cared for respectfully.
- If a student arrives at class without the backpack, parents will be called to bring it.
- In case of loss of books, parents will be responsible for covering the cost of new materials.

#### **Evaluations:**

Students' progress will be evaluated twice a year. Factors taken into account include: homework, class participation, attention, attendance, knowledge of prayers and taught content, behavior, among others. Parents are asked to review the results with their children and maintain constant communication with the catechists to identify areas where the student may need improvement.

#### **Dress Code:**

Students must attend Church and catechism classes in appropriate clothing. Long pants (jeans) are required, and shirts or t-shirts must not contain inappropriate designs. The following clothing is not permitted:

- Mini skirts are not allowed.
- Short, low-cut, transparent blouses or those showing the stomach are not allowed.
- Pants that fall below the waist, ripped pants, or shorts are not allowed.
- Students should not cover their heads with hoodies or similar clothing during class.

- If a student does not comply with these dress code rules, they will be sent home, no exceptions.

**Other Points:**

- Items such as alcohol, drugs, gum, laser pens, toys, electronic devices, or any other item deemed inappropriate by the catechist should not be brought to class.
- The presence of alcohol or drugs in class will result in immediate suspension.
- Students may bring water.
- Students are not allowed to bring friends or visitors to class.

**Parent Participation:**

Our goal is to evangelize the entire family. There will be some meetings that parents are required to attend if their children are to receive the Sacraments. At least one parent must attend at least 3 provided activities.

- Rosary in the month of October
- The first day of the parishes' Advent Mission (It will be a talk. It will be announced)
- A special Mass for all catechism students (it will be announced).
- Stations of the Cross during Lent (The day will be announced)
- Family Adoration (it will be announced)
- Day of Mary in May (it will be a Saturday morning. It will be announced)

**Confidentiality / Reporting of Physical and Sexual Abuse:**

Catechists and the coordinator will maintain confidentiality regarding any information shared with them unless it pertains to situations that threaten the life, health, or safety of someone. By law, we are required to report any suspicion of physical or sexual abuse to the relevant authorities.

**Abuse Prevention Program (VIRTUS):**

Every year, a class will be taught on the protection of minors and vulnerable persons. Information about this mandatory program from the Archdiocese of Miami will be provided. Parents must sign a form if they do not authorize their child to attend the class.

**For Confirmation Students Only:****Choosing the Confirmation Sponsor--**

- The sponsor must be chosen before October 29. If no sponsor is available by this date, we will provide one.
- Rules for the Sponsor (See page)
- A special meeting for godparents and sponsors will be held on Saturday, November 9, from 3-5 PM. This meeting is mandatory for godparents and sponsors.

**Special Classes:**

Second-year Confirmation students who have not received the sacrament of Eucharist must attend 4-5 special classes, in addition to regular Confirmation classes. These sessions will take place on Saturdays, and the corresponding calendar will be provided in the coming weeks.