

Religious Education Agreement for First Communion Family

Instructions for student/parent/caregiver/legal guardian

1. Please read this document carefully.
2. At least one parent/legal guardian is required to sign this document.
3. The signed original form will be returned to DRE prior to attendance in class.

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to St. Anthony Mary Claret's Religious Education Program! We are looking forward to a wonderful year working with you to help share our beautiful Catholic faith with your children and prepare them for their sacraments. To ensure your child receives the most from this program, it is imperative that parents, catechists and the Director of Religious Education all work together as a team.

We in the Religious Education Program of St. Anthony Mary Claret take very seriously Jesus' command to "go out and teach all people" and we care deeply how these words are lived out in our program. As such this Religious Education Agreement has been established to promote the effective running of our program. You are asked to read this agreement carefully and sign your acceptance of this agreement.

Religious Education is a fundamental part of our existence as a Catholic. Parents are, first and foremost, the primary educators of their children. It is from you that they first learn about their faith, love and forgiveness. Parent involvement is crucial in the growth and enrichment of your child's faith. We ask that parents please make a sincere commitment to the following requirements:

_____A copy of Baptismal Certificates must be received at the time of registration. (Copies of Baptismal Certificates from other countries need to be requested ASAP)

_____A child in a custody situation must now have custody paperwork on file with DRE in order to attend classes. This paperwork should state that the registering parent has the right to educate the child in religious formation. Any child who will miss class due to custody situation will be required to complete classes missed at home. Arrangements must be made with DRE in this situation. At any time a custody situation changes, the DRE should be informed immediately and documentation must be provided.

_____Special needs, including physical disabilities, allergies, and language and learning barriers, should be discussed with the DRE at the time of registration and the classroom catechists on the first day of class. We will make every effort to assist in addressing special needs in the best way possible. Please contact the DRE if you desire to discuss a plan for your child.

_____Due to the fact that teachers volunteer their time and prepare for a certain number of children in their classroom, it is our preference that your child's attendance session not change after October 6th/9th. Any changes must be approved by the DRE.

_____Mass is the center of our life as Catholics, it is MANDATORY to attend Sunday Mass regularly and on Holy Days of Obligation with your family. This is recorded by the catechist along with attendance at each class session. For young children in the program, it is encouraged to have the parent discuss attendance when dropping off child for class for a more accurate record.

_____The parents should help reinforce your child's lessons and prayers at home. It is important to understand that it is your responsibility as a parent to take an active part in the faith formation of your child.

_____Ensure that your child attends religious education classes regularly, with no more than 3 absences per R.E. school year. Attendance days will not be changed due to conflict with sports. In case of illness or family emergency please contact Michelle by email at reoffice@saclaret.com

_____A parent, guardian or authorized adult must drop off their child at the classroom and pick up at the child's classroom. It is important for the safety of the children and allows for communication with the catechist on a regular basis. Anyone under the age of 18 may not come in place of a parent, unless arrangements have been made with the DRE.

_____Parents will make sure that their child(ren) make-up missed classes and assignments. There will no longer be make up sessions available. Any make up work will be turned in to the DRE in person and discussed with the child before credit given. The parents understand that a failure to make up classes and/or assignments may prevent/delay my child(ren) from receiving the sacraments.

_____A parent or guardian must accompany their child to three (3) Saturday retreats for Reconciliation (see calendar). This is a mandatory requirement for child to continue in the program. This is also a special time for the child, so if possible, please make other arrangements for younger siblings.

_____Since the program only meets for a limited number of weeks each year (24 weeks), it is imperative that parents ensure their child(ren) attend all sessions, arriving on time, fully prepared with books, homework and any other required materials. If a child arrives 15 minutes after session begins, a make-up assignment will need to be completed by student and turned into the DRE for class credit.

_____At least one parent of children who will be receiving Sacraments in 2020 are required to attend a parent class each month (see calendar). These classes will take place during the attending session (Parents can attend other sessions if there is a schedule conflict.) in Hubertus Hall.

_____Discipline problems will be approached in a firm, but caring manner. If a student is continually disruptive during class, the parents will be notified so that the issue can be discussed and a mutual agreement can be reached. It is the parents' responsibility to remind their child(ren) that appropriate Christian behavior is expected and required at all times. Parents understand that if their child exhibits disruptive behavior they will be notified and a meeting will be set up with a member of the Religious Education Office.

_____It is MANDATORY that all adults helping in the classroom MUST attend the "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" program and have Background Check conducted through the Archdiocese of San Antonio, as well as complete a Volunteer Form. This includes any parent who regularly attends class with their child.

_____The Archdiocese of San Antonio are very concerned about the safety of your children. Since 2001, the Archdiocese has required that all children in parish religious education classes be taught how to provide for a safe environment. We are required to discuss this in class lessons approximately six times each year. We also have a class on Sanctity of Life beginning in 3rd grade that is a part of our program once per year. The parent is encouraged to attend class on these days and discuss further at home with papers sent out at the end of class session.

_____The DRE will make every effort to send out reminders about requirements throughout the year. However, please keep track of program dates on calendar (given during registration) and read the weekly bulletin for announcements related to the Religious Education program. Also, add the Religious Education email address to your accepted list.

I have read and will abide by this agreement.

Parent's Signature

Print Name

Child(ren) Name

Date

Please note: A copy of this Agreement will be kept on file with your child's enrollment forms. A copy is available on the St. Anthony Mary Claret website for your reference.