



# Religious Education Parent/Guardian Handbook



*"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"*

*Matthew 19:14*

## OUR MISSION

To work with parents in helping their children grow into holistic Christians, by establishing and affirming strong Catholic values, beliefs and traditions. With and through the grace of God, we provide multiple methods and tools to help our children develop a conscience well rooted in the gospel message. The catechetical formation received, will help our children immerse themselves in the Liturgical and Active life of the Church.

*“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

*Matthew 19:14*

**WE BELIEVE**, that the purpose of our catechetical ministry is to proclaim authentically and fully the message of Jesus Christ, to foster an understanding of and build community in all areas of life, and to encourage service to each other for the good of all.

**WE BELIEVE**, that you have entrusted your children to us to deepen the Faith you have given them as parents.

**WE BELIEVE**, that with your cooperation, such as, attending parent meetings, celebrating the Eucharist and the Sacraments together, and reinforcing Christian values in your homes, we will do everything we can to help you, help your child grow in their faith as they journey with you towards Gods embrace.

**WE BELIEVE** that the goal of religious education through formation is to make us aware of the action of God in our lives, both within us and outside of us. That religious formation is faith brought to understanding and action.

**THEREFORE**, we will work with you to awaken this awareness in your children and encourage them to gradually accept responsibility for their own Christian development, as they are able.

## PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

### *RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF*

Antonio Vomovolakis Jr  
(954) 473-6261 ext 1130  
[avomvolakis@saintgreg.org](mailto:avomvolakis@saintgreg.org)

*Director of Religious Formation and Sacramental Preparation*

Martha Betancourt  
(954) 473-6261 ext.1001  
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*Co-Director of Religious Formation and Sacramental Preparation*

### **ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CLERGY**

Father Michael Davis      *Pastor*

Father Gustavo Barros      *Parochial Vicar*

Father John Buonocore      *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Bill Horton

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday      12:00pm-8:00pm**

**Tuesday      12:00pm-8:00pm**

**Wednesday      8:00am-4:00pm**

**Thursday      8:00am-4:00pm**

**Friday      8:00am-4:00pm**

## GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that each family become actively involved In the St. Gregory the Great Religious Education Program and Parish in order to model a living, conscious and active Christian faith and to reinforce the values and attitudes for living that faith. The family and their children also agree to act in accordance with these values and attitudes.

## REGISTRATIONS

No person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin is excluded or otherwise subjected to discrimination in receiving services at the religious education program. Nor do we discriminate in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral and other aspects of employment on the basis of race, color, disability, age, sex or national origin.

It is the goal of the parish to provide religious education for every child in the parish. In rare cases, the parish may not be able to invite a student into the program because it does not have the resources to meet the special needs of the child, especially in preparation for the sacraments.

In matters of admission to the program or to the reception of a sacrament, the pastor is responsible for a decision. Admission to the Religious Education Program at St. Gregory the Great is open to all families who wish to attend.

### ***New Student Registration:***

Registration for new students is initiated in early spring for the following school year. Hours and dates are announced in the parish bulletin. Registration is conducted on a first come, first served basis. It is advised that registration forms are submitted as soon as possible to assure that you get the class day and time that are most convenient for your family.

New students transferring from another parish Catholic School or Religious Education program ***must present a letter from the sending program prior to acceptance and placement in our program.*** This will help us verify a child's attendance at another religious education program and place them in the appropriate classroom.

### ***Current Student Re-registration***

Students currently enrolled in the program need only to fill out a re-registration form and submit payment when necessary to complete their re-registration process.

## MASS ATTENDANCE

Religious Education is an invitation for the whole family to reinvigorate their faith, the Sunday Liturgy plays a crucial role in all catechesis. Please remember that Religious Education classes are not a substitute for weekly Sunday Mass attendance. Weekend Mass attendance by the entire family must be a priority and is expected of all students and their families. In addition to class attendance, Mass attendance is taken weekly by the teacher.

## INFORMATION REQUIRED TO REGISTER

### *Parish registration number*

*If you're not registered in St. Gregory Parish please call the office 954-473-6261.*

### *Emergency contact information*

Bring several names and phone numbers of neighbors/relatives who can be reached in case of an emergency. Doctor and medical information are also needed.

### *Sacramental information*

Copy of Baptismal certificate

Copy of First Communion certificate (when applicable)

Letter from Previous Religious Education Program (When transferring from another program)

### *Current passport sized picture of Student*

Does not have to be an actual passport picture, you may cut the face out of a larger picture.

### *Registration Forms completely filled out*

*New students must fill out the registration forms online.*

*Currently enrolled students must fill out the registration forms online*

*Acknowledgment of Arrival and Dismissal Procedures*

*Form signed by both Parents*

### **Payment**

One child - \$160.00

Two children - \$240.00

Three or more children - \$300.00

Confirmation fee \$40.00 (Gown and Spirit Day)

## REGISTRATION FEES

It is our ministry to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people, especially our youth. If you have any questions or problems concerning payment of fees, you are invited to come and

discuss this with the Director of Religious Education (954-473-6261 ext. 1130). Do not let finances keep your child from hearing God's Word! **No child will be refused due to financial hardship.** Payment plans and alternative payment methods are available. There is no refunds one month after classes have begun. If a refund is requested prior to the one-month deadline, \$50 per child will be subtracted (not refunded) from total to be refunded.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

### **ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

- All students are to be dropped off at the school entrance. Parents must PARK their car and lineup under the covered walk-way and wait until the school doors are opened. School doors are opened 5 minutes before class.
- Students will not be allowed to enter the school until 5 minutes prior to the start of their class.
- The Religious Formation Office is CLOSED 15 minutes before arrival and 10 minutes after dismissal.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building during the arrival or dismissal process.
- If a parent wishes to speak with a Catechist/Teacher they must email them.
- No bulky backpacks/sports equipment bags (Baseball bags with bats, etc.) allowed in the building.

### **DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

- All students are to be picked up at the school entrance. Parents must PARK their car and lineup under the covered walk-way designated as PICK-UP.
- All parents and guardians will be required to have their SAFE PICKUP APP scanned for the pickup process. A person will not be allowed to pick up a child without the SAFE PICKUP APP.
- If a parent or guardian does not have their SAFE PICKUP APP ready, they must wait until the dismissal process has ended and their identity can be verified at the religious education office.
- After the Parent or Guardian have their SAFE PICKUP APP scanned, they will make their way to the other walkway closest to the gym and lineup as they wait for their child to arrive.

## **LATE PICK-UP POLICY**

After a reasonable amount of time (approximately five minutes after class has ended) if there is a volunteer catechist who remains with a student who has not been picked up at dismissal time, the student will be brought to the Religious Formation Office. At that point, parents are called, or the contact person on the emergency form, and asked to pick up the student. If we are unable to contact any of the authorized persons for pick up after 30 min, local authorities will be notified.

## RELEASE OF STUDENTS

A child may never be released early to an unauthorized person without a written or verbal request by the parent/guardian to the Religious Education Office. Any unauthorized person (whose name is not on the list of approved names) seeking the release of a child must first go to the office and have the staff verify that they have been given parental permission to pick up the child, they may not go directly to the classroom.

*If a parent wishes to allow their child to leave on their own, with no adult over the age of 18. They must submit a notarized letter signed by both parents. Without this letter a child will not be allowed to leave the premises.*

## WE DO NOT HAVE EARLY DISMISSAL

Due to the fact that we have a limited number of sessions and a great deal of material to cover, we do not have early dismissal.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Religious Education is an ongoing process. Continuous participation in the Religious Education Program from grades 1 through 8 is recommended for the reception of the sacraments.

Because we want your child to receive the maximum benefit from their Religious Education experience, it is most important that your child attend each and every class. Perfect Attendance Certificates will be given out at the end of the year. We sympathize in advance regarding the choices that must be made.

**However, sports activities, dance classes and other extracurricular activities in no way outrank religious education as priority items!** Please do not confuse your child by placing these activities before the message of Jesus.

## ABSENSES

On the occasion that your child will not be able to attend class, we ask that you abide by the following protocol:

1. Contact the Religious Formation Office prior to class (954-473-6261 ext. 1001).
2. Obtain the child's make-up work upon student's return to class.
3. Return make-up assignments to the child's catechists.

**We ask that your child have no more than four (4) absences per year.** A student with more than



four absences in a sacramental or pre-sacramental year (grades 1 and 2, Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation, Pre-Catechumenate/Level I and Catechumenate/Level II) may be asked to delay the reception of the sacrament until such time that the student, in the judgment of the administration, is sufficiently prepared.

## **TARDINESS**

Every effort should be made so that students arrive on time for class. When the bell rings, ten minutes after the designated start time, students who are not in class, are late. The student must pick up a “late slip” at a designated area which will be stated at orientation. No student will be admitted to class without a late slip. **Three occurrences of tardiness will be considered one absence.**

## **CURRICULUM**

The Religious Education Curriculum has its foundation on the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the six key elements of Catechesis as stated in the National Directory for Catechesis. The Religious Education Curriculum goals invite and challenge both the learner and the Catechist to understand the meaning of discipleship and respond to the call of discipleship through full participation in the life of the Church and witnessing God’s mercy in every aspect of life.

The Religious Education Curriculum is organized in a spiral scope and sequence, meaning the participant returns to each topic each year, always in age-appropriate language and teaching methods and is invited to constant conversion and relationship with Jesus Christ. The task force also consulted the Mission Education Guidelines from the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States and the Archdiocese of Chicago Religion Curriculum.

Our Curriculum invites the child to dive deeper into what he has learned the previous years and also brings forth new topics that are age and grade appropriate. Because of this it is important for parents to make an added effort not to remove their children from the program after the sacramental years. Doing this will leave their children with an incomplete understanding of the faith and an unstable religious foundation.

In catechesis, we strive to help our children develop a well-formed conscience, rooted in the truth of Jesus Christ and His Church. We hope and pray that this will inevitably help them on their journey to make good and holy choices as they become holistic Christian adults who are steadfast and active in their faith.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The primary goal of sacramental preparation is to provide not only understanding and acceptance of the concepts related to each of the individual sacraments. A sacrament involves an encounter with Jesus and an ongoing relationship with Him. ***Readiness, not age or grade, is the criterion for the reception of a sacrament.*** The celebration of sacraments is the action of the community. The family has an essential role in the preparation for and celebration of a sacrament.

Before a student can be presented for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, ***a student must attend religious education classes for a minimum of 2 consecutive years.***

Parent/Student meetings are held for the reception of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. These **parent/student meetings are mandatory.** All requirements regarding the reception of the sacraments will be discussed at these meetings.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Each student is expected to bring his/her religion book, workbook and Bible (for students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above), plus a pencil. Lost books must be replaced at the student's expense.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

These reports are sent home by mail at the end of each semester (January and June). It is within our catechetical ministry to help students in their faith formation. We cannot grade them based on FAITH, but we can evaluate them on FORMATION. Using class participation, homework assignments and oral/written quizzes/tests as tools for assessing, we should be able to track their progress easily. Any missed homework assignments and tests are the student's responsibility for making up. Please go over this information with your child.

## DRESS CODE

The Religious Education Dress Code is casual; however, it should be appropriate for class or church, since students may be taken to church at various times during the year. Shorts may be worn, but must be an appropriate length for church. No tank tops, half shirts, or inappropriate Church attire should be worn. No t-shirts advertising alcoholic products, cigarette/illegal drug products, displaying profanity, offensive or suggestive words will be allowed.

**Absolutely no baseball caps may be worn to class.**

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Religion teachers are VOLUNTEERS who are giving their time and effort for the benefit of the students. They have very limited time in which to teach their lessons. They are NOT EXPECTED to deal with students who do not cooperate.

The learning environment is sacred. Any student who creates a problem in class will be removed from class and brought to the Religious Education Office. The parents will be notified by telephone. A conference with parents may be requested at that time.

Students using obscene language, physical violence, disrespect to classmates and/or teachers, theft or vandalism will be brought to the Religious Education Office. Parents will be notified immediately to take their child home.

### ***Student Withdrawal:***

Any student found leaving the grounds during their Religious Education classes or whose behavior or attitude is depriving others of a religious education may be asked to leave the program.

A student who engages in conduct, whether inside or outside the Religious Education Program, which is contrary to the moral code of the Church may be asked to leave the program.

## **ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING**

Students are not allowed to bring any kind of electronic device (not health related) to class. These items will be taken from the student and returned in May after classes have ended.

Cell phones are not to be used during class.

Students may not bring friends to class who are not enrolled in our program.

Religious education is a wonderful privilege. When discipline problems exist, the Director of Religious Education reserves the right to provide options as well as the right to remove a student from the program.

We ask parents/guardians to please help us ensure that our Religious Education Environment is one that lends itself to the encounter God is inviting our children to have. In order to accomplish this the parents/guardian's role is vital in guaranteeing that children are well aware of the importance of Religious Education and in helping their children live at home what they've learned at Religious Education.



## **ARCHDIOCESAN POLICIES**

### **PARENTAL COMMUNICATION WITH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Persons with concerns about a catechist should first attempt to address the concern with the catechist. Only after such attempts have failed, should the parent contact the parish Director/Coordinator of Religious Education. If the parent continues to be dissatisfied, the parent should contact the pastor. Only after such attempts have failed should the Office of Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Miami be contacted.

All concerns or comments arriving at our offices will be followed up with the pastor and the parish Catechetical Leader.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Catechists must keep confidential information entrusted to them as long as no one's life, health or safety is at stake. In these cases, parents will be promptly notified of catechist concerns.

### **CONDUCT**

A student who engages in conduct, whether inside or outside the religious education program that is contrary to the moral code of the Catholic Church may be asked to leave the program.

### **STUDENT RECORDS RETENTION**

The following records are kept permanently in the official file of the student: sacramental records, health records and an emergency information sheet. Only the contents of the official file will be forwarded to a new religious education program.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

The policy of the religious education program with regard to program closings in cases of emergencies is to follow Public Schools decisions in the county in which the religious education program is located. Parents should listen to broadcasts and keep their children home on days when the local public schools are closed.

### **HARASSMENT**

The Archdiocese of Miami religious education programs are committed to providing a safe, Christian, healthy and respectful environment that is free of discrimination. In keeping with this

commitment, our parish will not tolerate harassment of employee or volunteers or students occurring in the religious education program or at religious education program-sponsored events.

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, and/or visual, that is based on a person's protected status, such as sex, color, race, ancestry, national origin, age, physical disability, mental condition, marital status, veteran status, citizenship status or other protected group status. The Archdiocesan religious education programs will not tolerate harassing conduct that affects tangible job benefits, that interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or that creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment

## **USE OF STUDENT PICTURES AND VIDEOS**

The religious education program reserves the right to take and use student pictures in publications. Any parent who wishes to opt out must notify the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education in writing prior to the beginning of the religious education program year.

## **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION**

The Catholic Religious Education Program promotes friendship, charity, kindness, love, and respect for self and others. However, inappropriate displays of affection, such as kissing or embracing which connote more than simple friendship, are not permitted in the Religious Education Program or at any Religious Education Program event. The administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate behavior in a Catholic Religious Education Program.

## **CREATING AND MAINTAINING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

Recognizing that each individual is created by God, the Archdiocese of Miami is committed to the safety and well-being of its children and vulnerable adults and implements procedures to minimize risk and barriers and to build and foster a culture of safe environment. The Archdiocese does not tolerate abuse or neglect of anyone. It will comply with all obligations of civil and canon law; it will promote healing where it is needed, provide education, training and guidance when it is appropriate, and endeavor to prevent any abuse of minors or vulnerable adults with firm justice and mercy towards all.

The Archdiocese of Miami, in ongoing efforts to provide safe environments to our children and vulnerable adults, requires all employees and those volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted, complete Virtus training, and sign a Pledge to Promote Safe

Environment. Additionally, children in our Religious Education programs are to receive two lessons a year in the Virtus Teaching Touching Safety Program. This is an audited program that is administered with assigned age-appropriate lesson plans.

Parents may receive a guidebook and have an option to opt out, with proper documentation. For questions about the Teaching Touching Safety Program contact J. Rayburn at [jrayburn@theadom.org](mailto:jrayburn@theadom.org) or 305-762-1250.

## **REPORTING PHYSICAL/SEXUAL ABUSE**

A Catechist and/or Catechetical Leader who has been notified, or know, or have reasonable cause to suspect, that a child or vulnerable adult has been a victim of sexual abuse, shall immediately make any report required by law directly to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The parish pastor, archdiocesan Office of Catechesis and the archdiocesan Office of Safe Environment should be also notified.

Parents and guardians should understand that Florida State law requires a teacher or administrator who has reasonable suspicion that sexual or physical abuse has occurred to report this to the Division of Children and Family Services. The catechist or Catechetical Leader who fails to fulfill this responsibility can be charged with sexual or physical abuse, because the silence contributes to the crime.

A Catechetical Leader must contact the Office of Safe Environment in case of doubts about the archdiocesan policy on reporting procedures.

## **COOPERATION WITH LEGAL AUTHORITIES**

It is the practice of the religious education program to cooperate with any local, state, or federal investigators or law enforcement officers that contact the religious education program in the course of any criminal investigation. The religious education program will attempt to notify the parents of any student sought to be interviewed in the course of a criminal investigation on the religious education program premises, unless directed by an investigator or law enforcement officer to the contrary, which is usually the case in investigations involving sexual or physical abuse. The religious education program will attempt as well to have a representative present during such an interview, unless this is not permitted by the investigators, which is often the case in investigations involving sexual or physical abuse.

## STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

The Catholic Church considers the parents to be the primary catechists of their children. The education of a student is a partnership between the parents and the religious education program.

Just as the parent has the right to withdraw a child if desired, the religious education program administration reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student if the administration determines that the partnership is irretrievably broken. As part of this partnership, parents are expected to pay the tuition that is charged for the Religious Education Program.

## ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The Office of Religious Education at St. Gregory Parish is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, caring, and respectful learning environment for all. As such, bullying is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Therefore, this policy prohibits any unwelcome verbal or written conduct or gestures directed at a student by another student that has the effect of:

- 1) Physically, emotionally, or mentally harming a student;
- 2) Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property;
- 3) Placing a student in reasonable fear of emotional or mental harm;
- 4) Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
- 5) Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or the Catholic mission of St. Gregory Parish.

### I. Definition

- a. **Bullying** may involve but is not limited to: teasing, name-calling, slurs, rumors, jokes, false accusations, intimidation, stalking, innuendos, demeaning comments, pranks, social isolation, gestures, cyber-bullying or other verbal or written conduct. Cyber-bullying includes the following misuses of digital technology: teasing, intimidating, or making false accusations about another student by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital images or website postings (including blogs and social network sites).
- b. This definition includes students who either directly engage in an act of bullying or who, by their behavior, support another student's act of bullying.

### II. Scope

- a. This policy prohibits bullying that occurs either:
  - i. On parish premises before, during, or after Religious Education hours;
  - ii. On any bus or vehicle as part of any Religious Education activity; or

- iii. During any function, extracurricular activity or other Religious Education-sponsored event or activity.

### III. Reporting Complaints

a. Each student and parent has a duty to report any bullying to the Office of Religious Education immediately. If a student experiences (or a parent witnesses or learns of) any incident of bullying, the incident must be promptly reported to the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education. The DRE/CRE will provide the student/parent with the Bullying Complaint Report Form which must be completed, dated and signed by the complaining party so that the Office of Religious Education may initiate further inquiry, when appropriate.

### IV. Disciplinary Action

a. Any student found to have violated this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include: temporary removal from the classroom, loss of privileges, detention, counseling, parent conference, suspension, expulsion, and/or notification to appropriate authorities. The disciplinary action may be unique to the individual incident and may vary in method and severity based on the principal's discretion.

b. False reports or accusations of bullying also constitutes a violation of this policy and may subject the offending party to appropriate disciplinary action.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

All Archdiocesan religious education programs are committed to a drug free environment. Any student selling drugs on religious education program property or at religious education program functions are to be immediately expelled. All Archdiocesan procedures must be followed when it comes to child safety.

## **CUSTODIAL RIGHTS**

In the case of divorced parents, the Religious Education Program will interact with the parent who has legal custody of the child. The Religious Education Program ordinarily will deal with the parent having legal custody in matters of absence, tardiness, truancy, early dismissal, disciplinary issues, Religious Education Program records, authorization to receive sacraments, etc. Access to in-person conferences and the records and information pertaining to a minor child, including, but not limited to, Religious Education Program records, may not be denied to a parent because the parent is not the child's primary residential parent. Full rights apply to either parent *unless a court order specifically revokes these rights*. In the latter case, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to provide evidence of such a court order.



## **WEAPONS**

Weapons are not permitted anywhere on parish grounds. Students who bring weapons on parish grounds, who are in possession of weapons, or who threaten others with weapons or items used as weapons will be expelled from the religious education program.

Parents and law enforcement authorities will be notified.

For the purpose of this policy, a weapon is defined to be a gun, knife, or any other article, which could be used to cause injury.

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Search and Seizure are strongly discouraged in parish religious education programs. In case of reasonable suspicion of dangerous materials, we will report this to the legal authorities, inform pastor and archdiocesan Office of Catechesis.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Archdiocesan policy not only discourages field trips that extend beyond religious education program hours for elementary religious education programs but also prohibits overnight field trips for elementary religious education programs.

Field trips are privileges given to students; no student has an absolute right to a field trip. Students can be denied participation if they fail to meet academic and/or behavioral requirements. Students are required to bring a parental permission slip, which releases the religious education program from liability to participate in a field trip. Students who fail to submit a proper form will not be allowed to participate in the field trip. Telephone calls will not be accepted in lieu of written permission. Parents may choose not to have their child participate in a field trip.

## **MEDICATION PROCEDURES**

The administering of medicine to a child outside the doctor's office or a health institution is a parental responsibility and should not be delegated to religious education program personnel except under unusual circumstances. Only when absolutely necessary medications will be administered:

- The religious education programs will never administer/dispense medicines (including over the counter drugs) to students without specific authorization by both a licensed physician and the parent of the students. An Authorization for Medication form must be completed

and submitted by the parent. The name of the medication and dosage must be indicated on this form.

- All medication must be brought to the office with a parent's authorization.
- Only prescription medication can be brought to religious education program and must be stored in a religious education program office.
- Prescription medication must be in the original bottle, which must be labeled and must have the exact dosage.
- All medications will remain in a secure location. (By exception, students who are asthmatic may carry a prescribed inhaler with them during the religious education program day.) A written log will be kept of dispensed medication.

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM POLICY AND DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION'S RIGHT TO AMEND**

## **PURPOSE AND USE OF THE HANDBOOK**

This handbook has been prepared for the benefit of all who participate in the Religious Education Program of St. Gregory the Great Parish. It exists to help foster the efficient operation of this program by providing pertinent information. This handbook is not intended and should not be considered to create any additional rights for students, parents or guardians. In the appropriate circumstances, the Director of Religious Education has the discretion to take actions other than those specified in this handbook.

Any student action that is not in keeping with the philosophy/objective of St. Gregory Religious Education Program is subject to the review of the administration and may lead the parish to dismiss the student from the religious education program.

Since situations can arise that were not foreseen at the time of writing this handbook, the Religious Education Program reserves the right to initiate, change or modify the policies as needed. Parents and students will be notified of any amendments.

The Director of Religious Education and/or Pastor is the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rules for just cause at his/her discretion.

***Please keep the faculty and students of the  
Religious Education Program in your prayers***

We do not operate alone. It is a community effort that involves **FAMILIES** who profess their faith and live their Christian values, **MINISTRIES** who believe, proclaim and exemplify the Good News to the parish community, **PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER STAFF MEMBERS** who respond to the call of discipleship by sharing the message with this community, and the **ENTIRE PARISH** who prays for the Holy Spirit to bless these efforts given in love.

## PARENTS' PRAYER

*God, You are Parent to us. You have made us in Your image and likeness. Help us to become more like You in our relationships with our children.*

*God, You are always there for us. Even when we turn away from Your love, You stay with us always. Teach us to be good parents.*

*Help us to be present to our children in good times and in bad times. May we support them and love them as You have loved us—unconditionally.*

*God, give us the strength and determination to be just and honest in our relationships with our children. Give us the patience and perseverance to face each day, knowing You are with us, as we try to become the parents we must become for our children.*

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PARENT-STUDENT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

*(Signed form due to Religious Education office before or the first day of class)*

*I, as Parent or Legal Guardian, acknowledge that I have read the entire contents of the Parent-Student Handbook and understand the consequences of any violations of the rules and policies of the program.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Name (if different from child)

*Child (1) Name:*\_\_\_\_\_

*Child (2) Name:*\_\_\_\_\_

*Child (3) Name:*\_\_\_\_\_

*Child (4) Name:*\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Parent/Legal Guardian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature Parent/Legal Guardian*

**Religious Education Office**

200 N University Drive

Plantation, FL 33324

Phone: 954-473-6261 ext. 1001

Email: [avomvolakis@saintgreg.org](mailto:avomvolakis@saintgreg.org)  
[mbetancourt@saintgreg.org](mailto:mbetancourt@saintgreg.org)

