



Saint Patrick
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREP Parent Handbook

Parish Religious Education Program • Kindergarten through Seventh Grade

Our Mission

To provide a safe, loving, and joyful place where children are excited to come each Sunday, encounter Jesus, and grow in the Catholic faith.



Sundays 9:45-10:45 a.m. • Kindergarten-7th • jhendricks@stpatlou.org

Welcome to PREP

Faith formation that supports the whole family

OUR MISSION

PREP offers Catholic faith formation for children in kindergarten through seventh grade. We strive to create a loving and fun atmosphere where children look forward to gathering each Sunday and learning about their faith.

Our experienced catechists use engaging, hands-on learning that helps the program grow year after year. Children explore Scripture, Church tradition, prayer, and worship through Gospel-based teaching. Along the way, they deepen their relationship with Jesus and learn what it means to follow Him in the Catholic tradition.

WHAT CHILDREN DISCOVER

- Stories and truth found in Sacred Scripture
- The beauty of Catholic teaching and Tradition
- Ways to pray and participate in worship
- How to live as a disciple of Jesus each day

WHAT FAMILIES CAN EXPECT

- Welcoming classrooms and age-appropriate lessons
- Experienced catechists committed to children
- Hands-on activities, discussion, and prayer
- Regular communication and family partnership



Parents are the primary teachers of the faith

The home is where the seed of faith is planted, nurtured, and encouraged to grow. PREP supports and strengthens the faith formation already taking place in your family.



WEEKEND MASS MATTERS

Families are encouraged to attend Mass every weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation. The Eucharist is the heart of Catholic life and gives children the chance to experience what they are learning in the classroom.

View the parish Mass and Reconciliation schedule: stpatlou.org/mass-and-reconciliation-times



Getting Started

Registration, eligibility, and attendance



PARISH REGISTRATION

New to St. Patrick? Please complete a parish registration form so we can welcome your family and keep your information current.

[Complete the St. Patrick Welcome Card](#)



Parish Athletics Eligibility

A child wishing to participate in St. Patrick Athletics must have a Catholic parent who is registered and in good standing with the parish. For full eligibility requirements, please review the CSAA Handbook.

[Review the CSAA Handbook](#)



ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

- Absences should be limited to sickness and emergencies.
- Attendance is recorded every week.
- For Grade 2 students in sacramental preparation, makeup assignments will be provided for missed weeks so important material can still be shared at home.
- The Children's Formation Office will contact parents after more than two consecutive absences to check in and help address the family's needs.



For children participating in parish sports

Weekly attendance is reported to Celtic Athletic Ministry (CAM) officials. Missing two or more consecutive classes could affect a child's eligibility to participate in that week's game.

Sunday Routine

Simple steps for a smooth and successful morning

ARRIVAL: 9:40-9:45 A.M.

- Classes begin promptly at 9:45 a.m.
- Parents may bring children to their classrooms between 9:40 and 9:45 a.m.
- Please avoid arriving before 9:40 a.m.; catechists need this time to prepare the room and lesson.
- Have children use the restroom before class to limit interruptions.
- Students should arrive with all necessary materials and completed assignments, when applicable.

DISMISSAL: 10:45 A.M.

Classroom pickup required

PREP concludes at 10:45 a.m. Parents must pick up their children directly from the classroom at dismissal.

Parents are warmly invited to remain in the Commons Library during PREP for fellowship and connection with other parish families.

AT-A-GLANCE TIMELINE

9:40 a.m.

Classrooms open for arrival

9:45 a.m.

PREP begins

During class

Prayer, Gospel-based learning, activities, and discussion

10:45 a.m.

Parent pickup in the classroom

Living Like Jesus

Behavior expectations for every classroom

Students are expected to show respect and Christ-like behavior toward their classmates and catechists. These expectations help every child feel safe, included, and ready to learn.

SHOW RESPECT

- Respect God and be thankful for the opportunity to learn
- Listen when adults or classmates are speaking
- Follow directions the first time
- Use kind words and respect belongings that are not your own

BUILD COMMUNITY

- Come with a positive attitude
- Limit interruptions and help keep the classroom neat
- Include others as Jesus did
- Love your neighbor through patience, kindness, and helpfulness

When extra support is needed

If a catechist reports a behavior concern, the Children's Formation Office will contact the parent or guardian. Together, we will discuss practical strategies to help the child succeed moving forward.

A shared goal

We want every classroom to be safe, joyful, prayerful, and welcoming so children can grow in faith and friendship each week.

Communication & Leadership

Staying connected throughout the PREP year



HOW WE COMMUNICATE

Program updates, reminders, assignments, and important information will be shared through:



EMAIL

Program news and detailed information



TEXT

Time-sensitive reminders and updates



GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Assignments, resources, and class materials



OUR CATECHISTS

All catechists are Safe Environment trained as required by the Archdiocese of Louisville. They are people of faith who create an atmosphere of the Holy Spirit and encourage children to grow in relationship with God.

Through their words, example, prayer, and teaching, catechists communicate God's love and proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the children entrusted to their care.



Questions or concerns?

Please contact Joanie Hendricks, Director of Children's Formation and parish liaison for the PREP ministry.



JOANIE HENDRICKS

Director of Children's Formation

jhendricks@stpatlou.org

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's faith journey.

Together, we help children know Jesus, love their Catholic faith, and live as His disciples.