

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. To register a student in the Religious Education Program at Holy Ghost each student and Parent/Legal Guardian must be a registered member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church Parish.** If not a member, written permission must be obtained from the church parish in which you are registered. Following this, permission must be given by the pastor of Holy Ghost Catholic Church.
- 2. Only parents or legal guardians can register a child.**
- 3. First Graders** will need a Baptism Certificate.
- 4. First Communion Candidates** will also need a Baptism Certificate if they did not attend first grade at Holy Ghost Catholic Church.
- 5. Confirmation Candidates** will need Baptism and First Communion Certificates if not already on file.
- 6. All New Students** will need a Baptism Certificate and First Communion Certificate (if applicable).
- 7. Fees** (twenty dollars - \$20) are due the day the child/children are registered unless arrangements have been made with the pastor. Fees are used to purchase textbooks and supplies. (No one will be denied religious education for financial reasons. Consult the Director of Religious Education.)
- 8. Early Registration:** Will be held in April thru May. We strongly encourage parents to register during this time period. In addition, a reminder note from the Religious Education Office will be sent home with the students.
- 9. Summer Registration:** Will be held in July thru August.
- 10. Late Registration:** Begins the Wednesday after the first day of Religious Education class and continues through the third week of class. After the third week of class, on registrations for home schooling will be accepted.
- 11. Home Schooling** is also available but, NOT for student who are making their 1st Communion and Confirmation.

Students

- Must register
- Must take exams
- Must attend Mass weekly (Saturday/Sunday)
- Must attend Advent /Lenten Revival
- Must attend Penance Service
- Must attend Holy Week Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil)

NOTE: As per diocesan policy, First Communion and Confirmation students **MUST attend class at Holy Ghost for the purpose of sacramental preparation. This includes all public, private, parochial, and home schooled students who are members of Holy Ghost Catholic Church Parish. For this reason, home schooling is NOT allowed at those two levels. Therefore, First Communion and Confirmation registrations **MUST** be completed by the end of Late Registration or the child's First Communion/Confirmation will be postponed until the following year. In addition, all students will start at the beginning of the Catechetical Religious Education year not the second semester.**

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Twenty-two classes are scheduled. Students in Grades K-1 **MUST** attend a **minimum of 20 classes** in order to be considered for promotion. All absences should be explained by a written excuse from the parent or guardian or a doctor's excuse, if applicable. All class work/tests are to be made up. Parents need to contact the Director of Religious Education so arrangements can be made with the teacher for makeup.
(EXCESSIVE ABSENCES MAY RESULT IN FAILURE TO BE PROMOTED)
2. **STUDENTS MUST BE ON TIME FOR ALL CLASSES.**
(3 Tardys will count as one day absent)
3. The religious education schedule generally follows the public school schedule. Please keep the Religious Education schedule for reference. Changes will be announced in the church bulletin and/or printed announcement and sent home with the students.
4. Students are responsible for the upkeep of their own books. Should a student lose a book, he/she is responsible for purchasing a replacement.
5. Students will behave in a Christian manner at all times showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students.
6. Students will actively participate in classroom activities and discussions.
7. Students will attend class regularly and complete all assignments or homework.

STUDENT RULES

1. A student is not allowed to enter a classroom unless there is a teacher or teacher's helper in the classroom. Students are not allowed to turn on lights, air conditioner, etc.
2. A student is not allowed to leave the campus during class for any reason without permission from the office.
3. Students are not to be dismissed before the bell rings. When the bell rings, teachers are to have students leave the room **QUIETLY**.
4. **Students are NEVER allowed behind the Religious Education Building (on the street side)**
5. Students are not allowed to "play" in the building or on the parking lot.
6. Students are to go to the restroom **BEFORE** class starts. They are not to go to the restroom during class time unless it's an "emergency."
7. Students **may not** bring food, candy, beverages or gum **IN** the Religious Education Building. Smoking, alcoholic beverages, and illicit drugs are strictly prohibited on church property.
8. Behavior problems will be discussed with parents/guardians as the need arises.
9. **NO RUNNING ON CHUCH PROPERTY!!!...NOT EVEN ON GRASS PLAYGROUND AREAS!**
10. Students will show respect for others and for other's property.
11. Public displays of affection are strictly prohibited on school campus. This includes kissing, hugging, holding hands, etc. (between students). Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action. The catechist and director of religious education will determine consequences depending on the severity of the students' actions.
12. **Cell phones are not to be use during class time or at assemblies**

NOTE: DISCIPLINE AND PROBLEM SOLUTIONS

All students are expected to share in the faith learning experience of the parish program. If the child/children's behavior disrupts the learning process for him/ her or others, the steps listed below will be followed to ensure that class participation may continue.

- At the first incident the student will be reminded of expected behavior and the consequences of misbehavior.
- After the second incident, the student will be sent to the office for a discussion with the Director of Religious Education about appropriate behavior.
- After returning to class, if inappropriate behavior continues, the student will be sent to the office to do his or her religious education assignment. The student parent/guardian will be contacted.

If the student behavior continues to disrupt learning, it may be necessary to dismiss the student until a meeting is conducted with parent/guardian, Director of Religious Education and Pastor. At this meeting, if the problem is resolved, the student will be allowed the opportunity to rejoin the class if an understanding can be reached as to how all involved may best continue to learn and grow in their faith.

**ALL RULES APPLY TO "ON AND OFF
CAMPUS" ACTIVITIES**

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

1. If a student must leave class early, the parent/guardian picking him/her up must first sign out the student in the Religious Education Office.
2. Mandatory meetings of parents/guardians of students in the 2nd and 11th grades will be announced. This meeting is also for parents/guardians whose 2nd or 11th grade students attend parochial, private, or home schools.
3. Ensure that your child/children attend classes regularly and on time.
4. Communicate any special needs or circumstance/s that may affect your child/children within the classroom.
5. Be an active part of your child/children's learning and be involved in the classroom at the catechist's request (e.g., help with special and/or service projects.)
6. Progress Report will be sent out in December and April.
7. **Dress Code for Boys:** Long pants or school-length shorts, shirts with sleeves.
8. **Dress Code for Girls:** Skirts, dresses, pants, or shorts must be an appropriate, modest length (same as school requirements). Top clothing must cover chest area completely.

NOTE: We are here to serve the religious education needs of our children, youth, and adults. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to share them with your child/ children's catechists or call the Religious Education Office.

HEALTH CONCERNS AND MEDICATION

Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the Director of Religious Education during registration. Parents or guardians should know that:

- A diocesan approved health card can be provided for them to record special medical needs.
- A confidential appointment with the Director of Religious Education should be made to discuss special medical needs.
- If a child is diagnosed with a medical condition after registration, please inform the Director of Religious Education and catechist as soon as possible.

Regarding medication, the usual policy is to **NOT** administer any medication to students. Arrangements can be made if there is a need to make a policy exception.

- Only medication in the original prescription bottle will be accepted and administered.
- All information is confidential.

SAFE ENVIROMENT

ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS, CATECHISTS, AND PERSONNEL WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO ATTEND A SAFE ENVIROMENT CLASS.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

First Communion/Confirmation

EXPLANATION:

The policies of the Diocese of Lafayette, as put forth by the bishop, make it clear that a person is to be prepared to receive any sacrament in his/her home parish by participating in the life of the community through worship and catechetical formation. The parish provides on-going faith formation. You show that you are a member of this parish by worshipping here.

Also, according to the policies of the Diocese of Lafayette, parents (as the primary educators of their children) have a duty to be involved in the preparation of their child for First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation.

In addition, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God’s holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.**”

Keeping in mind the above explanations, the following are requirements for First Communion and Confirmation at Holy Ghost Catholic Church:

First Communion Requirements:

- *Attend Mass weekly at Holy Ghost Catholic Church
- *Attend at least 85% of classes
- *Attend First Communion Retreat/s
- *Understand that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus at Mass—that the child will receive Jesus at his/her First Communion.
- *Learn required prayers
- *Attend a Holy Hour with parent(s)
- *Complete homework assignments
- *Attend Advent / Lenten Revival
- * Attend Penance Services
- *Attend Stations of the Cross

- *Attend Holy Week Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil)
- *Pass all 1st Communion exams

Confirmation Requirements:

- *Attend Mass weekly at Holy Ghost Catholic Church
- *Attend at least 85% of classes
- *Attend Black Youth Conference
- *Attend Confirmation Retreat/s
- *Complete at least 5 hours of Community Service
- *Complete at least 5 hours of Eucharistic Adoration with parent(s)
- *Pass all Confirmation exams
- *Learn required prayers
- *Attend Advent / Lenten Revival
- *Attend Penance Services
- *Attend Station of the Cross
- *Attend Holy Week Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil)
- *Interview with Pastor

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The process established for the universal Church for individual to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation-Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. This initiation process also involves parish community experiencing a renewal in faith as it prepares and welcomes new members into the Church. The Rite speaks of conversion as a “spiritual journey”. Centered on fostering a deep relationship with Jesus and the Church he founded, this journey takes place through distinct stages over a period of time suitable to bring thorough catechesis, significant experience of a parish community and commitment to liturgical and moral life of the Catholic faithful. The RCIA process is a restoration of the ancient catechumenate, arising within the first three centuries. The Second Vatican Council called for the restoration and user of the venerable and powerful method of initiation for the worldwide Church.

RCIC

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children

It is also a process established for the universal Church for individual to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation-Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation in which is adapted for children.

NOTE: If a student does not attend religious education class after making their 1st Communion until Confirmation, they will have to attend RCIC class for the first semester, and then continue with second semester in the regular class with the sacramental preparation for Confirmation.

**Requirements for receiving credit for home-schooling:
(No home-schooling for 1st Communion or Confirmation)**

1. Register at the church office.
2. Purchase textbooks and other materials.
3. Participate in all calendar events (except classes).
4. Spend at least one hour per week on lessons.
Suggestion: Try to do the lessons at the same time/day each week.
5. All assignments in text should be completed by the last day of Religious Education for the current year. (This deadline date can be extended. Call to request an extension.)

6. Prayer Requirements:

All Grades: Sign of the Cross

1st Grade: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

2nd Grade: All of the above, plus Hail Holy Queen, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, and Apostles' Creed.

3rd thru 11th Grades: All of the above

NOTE: These are minimum requirements. There are other prayers that you are encouraged to learn (i.e. grace before meals). See other prayers that are listed at the back of most textbooks.

1. Grades 5 thru 11 should know how to say and/or write the following from memory: The Seven Sacraments, The Ten Commandments, The Beatitudes, The Mysteries of the Rosary, Nicene Creed, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and Precepts of the Church.
2. All grade levels should attend Mass (every Sunday). Grades 3rd thru 11th should go to confession on a regular basis and should receive Communion worthily.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Method

First Confession

CHILD: **“In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”**

“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.
This is my first confession.”

Then name the sins.

When finished, say:

“For these and all of the sins of my life, I am truly sorry.”

PRIEST: Gives words of advice.
Tells the child his/her penance.

CHILD: Says the Act of Contrition:
“O My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, My God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen”

PRIEST: Gives absolution.

CHILD: “Thank you, Father.”

NOTE: The child should complete the penance in private as prescribed by the priest.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Method

Not First Confession

CHILD: **“In the name of the Father, and the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”**

“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.
It has been _____ since my last confession.”

Then name the sins.

When finished, say:

**“For these and all of the sins of my life, I
am truly sorry,”**

PRIEST: Gives words of advice.
Tells the child his/her penance.

CHILD: Says the Act of Contrition:
**“O My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee,
and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments,
but most of all because they offend Thee, My God, who art
all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with
the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near
occasions of sin. Amen”**

PRIEST: Gives absolution.

CHILD: “Thank you, Father.”

NOTE: The child should complete the penance in private as prescribed
by the priest.

Prayer Requirements By Grade Levels

All Grades.....Sign of the Cross

1st Grade.....The Lord's Prayer
Hail Mary
Glory Be to the Father

2nd Grade.....All of the above, plus
Hail Holy Queen
Guardian Angel Prayer
Act of Contrition
Apostle's Creed

3rd Grade thru 11th.....All of the above

Note: These are minimum requirements. There are, of course, other prayers that students are encouraged to learn. Ex. Grace Before Meals, etc.

Grades 5 thru 11.....**Know how to say and/or write;**
The Seven Sacraments
The Ten Commandments
The Beatitudes
The 4 Mysteries of the Rosary
Nicene Creed
Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Precepts of the Church

Students at all grade levels should attend Mass (every Sunday). Grades 3rd thru 11th should be going to confession on a regular basis and should be receiving Communion worthily.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

We make the sign of the cross by touching with the right hand:

- a. the forehead, saying, “In the Name of the Father,”**
- b. then the breast, adding “and of the Son;”**
- c. and then from the left shoulder to the right, while saying “and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”**

OUR FATHER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with you. Blessed art you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. *Amen.*

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us. And after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. *Amen.*

ACT OF CONTRITION

O My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, My God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. *Amen*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

The names of the seven sacraments are:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist
4. Penance
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Holy Orders
7. Matrimony

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

THE BEATITUDES

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs' is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
9. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kind of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father Before all ages. God from God, Light for Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceed from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. And one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess on baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom

Understanding

Counsel

Fortitude

Knowledge

Piety

Fear of the Lord

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Charity
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Generosity
Gentleness
Faithfulness
Modesty
Self-control
Chastity

Precepts of the Church

- You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during Easter season.
- You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
- You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Joyful Mysteries--*Monday and Saturday*

1. The Annunciation (*Humility*)
2. The Visitation (*Charity*)
3. The Nativity (*Poverty*)
4. The Presentation (*Obedience*)
5. The Finding in the Temple (*Piety*)

Sorrowful Mysteries-- *Tuesday and Friday*

1. Agony in the Garden (*Contrition*)
2. Scourging at the Pillar (*Purity*)
3. Crowning with Thorns (*Courage*)
4. Carrying of the Cross (*Patience*)
5. The Crucifixion (*Self-denial*)

Glorious Mysteries-- *Wednesday and Sunday*

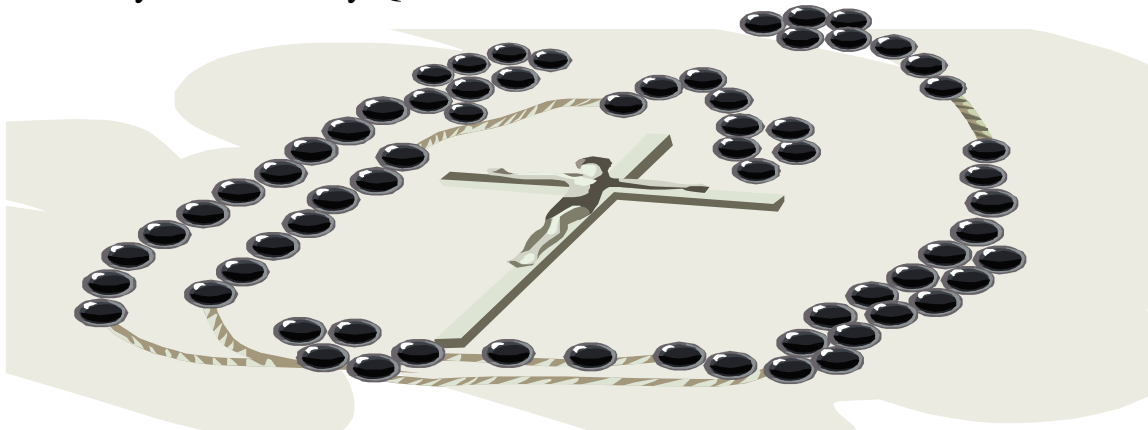
1. The Resurrection (*Faith*)
2. The Ascension (*Hope*)
3. Descent of the Holy Spirit (*Love*)
4. The Assumption (*Eternal happiness*)
5. Crowning of Mary (*Devotion of Mary*)

Luminous Mysteries—*Thursday*

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan (*Repentance*)
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana (*Commitment*)
3. The Kingdom of God (*Evangelization*)
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus (*Perseverance*)
5. Christ's Institution of the Eucharist(*The Mass*)

HOW TO SAY THE ROSARY

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. Say the Our Father.
3. Say three Hail Marys.
4. Say the Glory be to the Father.
5. Announce the first mystery; then say the Our Father.
6. Say ten Hail Marys
7. Say the Glory be to the Father.
8. Announce the second mystery; then say the Our Father.
9. Say ten Hail Marys
10. Say the Glory be to the Father,
11. Announce the third mystery; then say the Our Father
12. Say ten Hail Marys.
13. Say the Glory be to the Father.
14. Announce the fourth mystery; then say the Our Father.
15. Say ten Hail Marys.
16. Say the Glory be to the Father.
17. Announce the fifth mystery; then say the Our Father.
18. Say ten Hail Marys.
19. Say the Glory be to the Father.
20. Say the Hail Holy Queen.



First Communion Requirements
Holy Ghost Catholic Church

Student Form

Student's Name: _____

The policies of the Diocese of Lafayette, as put forth by the bishop, make it clear that a person is to be prepared to receive any sacrament in his/her home parish by participating in the life of the community through worship and catechetical formation. The parish provides on-going faith formation. You show that you are a member of this parish by worshipping here.

Also, according to the policies of the Diocese of Lafayette, parents (as the primary educators of their children) have a duty to be involved in the preparation of their child for First Confession and First Communion.

*In addition, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.**"*

INSTRUCTIONS:

Keeping in mind the above explanations please read and initial the following:

_____ I understand that class attendance is important and that my child must attend a minimum of **20 classes** or my child's First Communion will be postponed.

_____ Absences are excused for the following reasons:

- Significant illness (more than one illness absence will require a doctor's excuse).
- Death in family.

- Other plausible, reasonable explanations which must be discussed with the Director of Religious Education to determine its validity.

_____ I will assist my child with completing the weekly homework assignments.

_____ I understand that the written homework assignments must be in my child's handwriting.

_____ I will help my child practice for his/her First Confession (after Christmas).

_____ I will take my child to Sat. /Sun. Mass **weekly** at one of the following four Masses at **Holy Ghost Catholic Church: 5:00 p.m. (Sat.), 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. (Sun.)**.

_____ I will sign the Mass attendance form weekly—**after Mass**.

_____ **Both parents/ legal guardian and child must sign the Mass attendance form.**

****NOTE** Parents DO NOT SIGN for child/children.**

_____ If we go out of town, we will present a church bulletin (signed by the priest or deacon of the church attended) to the teacher on Monday.

NOTE

- **Child's name must be written on the bulletin.**
- **An unsigned bulletin doesn't count.**
- **A bulletin from another Catholic Church in Opelousas doesn't count.** (There are exceptions, but arrangements must be made with the Director of Religious Education **before** attending the Mass).

_____ I understand the following about missed Masses

- Attending Mass weekly is a basic belief/practice of the Catholic faith.
- All missed Masses require a valid reason: Ex. Significant illness or death in family.
- More than one missed Mass (due to illness) will require a doctor's excuse.

_____ If the Mass Attendance Form is **NOT** signed and the child/parent does not present an out-of-town signed bulletin to the teacher, I will call the Director of Religious Education to explain the circumstances. **If I don't call, the missed Mass will be marked as unexcused.**

_____ I understand that my child's First Communion will be postponed if he/she misses **(3) three Masses** for invalid reasons.*

_____ My child/children and I will attend Penance Services.

_____ My child/children and I will make at least 3 Holy Hour of the Adoration (First Friday of the Month).

_____ My child and I will attend the First Communion Retreat.

_____ I will help my child understand that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus at Mass that he/she will receive Jesus at his/her First Communion.

_____ My child/children and I will attend Advent /Lenten Revival.

_____ My child/children I will attend the Stations of the Cross at least 3 times.

_____ My child/children and I will attend Holy Week Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil).

***Because of unplanned life circumstances, there may be approved exceptions or alternate arrangements (which must be discussed with the Director of Religious Education).**

Dress for Girls: white dress, white veil, white shoes, and white socks

Dress for Boys: black dress pants and shoes, white shirt and black tie

NOTE FROM THE TEACHER

Parents, you play the largest role in your child's life. Without your support and guidance, your child will have difficulty fulfilling his/her duties in preparing for First Communion. Duties required with making his/her sacraments (especially Mass attendance) are going to require major interaction with your child. Since First Communion preparation is so important, the overload of homework and other responsibilities may be overwhelming, but the end will be very rewarding!!!

As the teacher, my suggestion to you is to do the following: Break the homework assignments into daily parts (including prayer mastery). This way a little bit is being done at a time instead of an overload of homework on Sunday night.

I have received and read a copy of the Holy Ghost Catholic Church First Communion Policy.

Child's Name: _____
PRINT

Parent's Name: _____
PRINT

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Confirmation Requirements
Holy Ghost Catholic Church**

Student Form

Student's Name: _____

The policies of the Diocese of Lafayette, as put forth by the bishop, make it clear that a person is to be prepared to receive any sacrament in his/her home parish by participating in the life of the community through worship and catechetical formation. The parish provides on-going faith formation. You show that you are a member of this parish by worshipping here.

*In addition, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.**"*

INSTRUCTIONS:

Keeping in mind the above explanations please read and initial the following:

_____ I understand that I must attend a minimum of **20** classes. All excused absences must be for a valid reason:

1. Significant illness (more than one illness absence will require a doctor's excuse).
2. Death in family.
3. Significant "life event" Note: This absence **MUST** be discussed with the Director of Religious Education and teacher **before** it occurs.
Ex. Play-off Game Only one unexcused absence is allowed. Confirmation will be postponed if a second unexcused absence occurs.

_____ I understand that I **MUST** attend Sat. /Sun. Mass weekly at one of the following Masses at Holy Ghost Catholic Church: 5:00 p.m. (Sat.) or 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (Sun.) and sign the Confirmation Mass Attendance Form each week. The form must be signed **AFTER** Mass.

_____ If I go out of town, I will present a church bulletin (signed by the priest of the church attended) to the teacher on the following Monday.

- Note:**
1. Student's name must be on the bulletin.
 2. An unsigned bulletin **does not** count.
 3. A signed bulletin from another church in Opelousas does not count. (unless the student and/or parent have discussed a valid reason for not attending Mass at Holy Ghost with the Director of Religious Education **prior** to attending the Mass)

_____ I understand that my Confirmation will be postponed if three Masses are missed without a valid reason.

Note: It is the responsibility of the parent to call the Director of Religious Education if Mass is missed. If no one calls, the missed Mass will be counted as unexcused!

_____ I understand that I **MUST** attend a weekend retreat from Friday, through Sunday. This includes 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

_____ I understand that I must pass all Confirmation exams.

_____ I understand that I must complete at least 5 hours of community service as verified by the completed Community Service Form. (Community service exemplifies faith in action.)

_____ I understand that I must complete at least 5 hours of Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Ghost Catholic Church as verified by the Eucharistic Adoration Form. An adult (preferably the parent must accompany the Confirmation Candidate).

_____ I understand that I (along with my parents) must select a sponsor that fits the requirements of the Sponsor Certification Form.

_____ I understand that I must have an interview with the pastor.

_____ I will attend Advent / Lenten Revivals.

_____ I will attend the Stations of the Cross at least 3 times.

_____ I will attend Penance Service.

_____ I will attend Holy Week Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil)

_____ I understand that my Confirmation may be postponed if all of the above requirements are not fulfilled.*

_____ I will attend Black Youth Conference

***Because of unplanned life circumstances, there may be approved exceptions or alternate arrangements. Please discuss with the Director of Religious Education.**

DRESS FOR GIRLS: White dresses, white shoes and white chapel veil
NOTE: PATTERN DRESS OR DRESS WITH APPROVAL FROM DRE.
NO SLEEVELESS DRESSES

DRESS FOR BOYS: Black dress pants, white shirt, and black tie

No shorts....No jeans....No tennis shoes.... No “flip-flops”

I have received and read a copy of the Holy Ghost Catholic Church Confirmation Policy.

Child's Name: _____
PRINT

Child's Signature: _____

Parent's Name: _____
PRINT

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

*Holy Ghost Catholic Church
 747 North Union Street
 Opelousas, LA 70570
 Business Office: 337-942-2732
 Fax: 337-948-4108*

**DOCUMENTATION FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION VISITS
 CONFIRMATION**

Name _____

Date: _____ Time: _____ Accompanied By: _____ Signature of Adult	Date: _____ Time: _____ Accompanied By: _____ Signature of Adult
Date: _____ Time: _____ Accompanied By: _____ Signature of Adult	Date: _____ Time: _____ Accompanied By: _____ Signature of Adult
Date: _____ Time: _____ Accompanied By: _____ Signature of Adult	The Five Hours of Adoration are to be completed on or before the date assigned.

**Holy Ghost Catholic Church
Confirmation Community Service Hours**

Student's Name: _____

Description of Activity:

Number of Hours: _____ Date(s) of Service: _____

Contact Person's Name: _____
(Print)

Contact Person's Signature: _____

Contact Person's Phone Number: _____

Student's signature & date

Parent's signature & date

Community Service Hours: A service to those around you, but **NOT** your immediate family. These hours should be voluntary on your part and no monetary compensation is allowed. Your only compensation should be the will to make someone else's life a little easier. These hours are also a way for you to get to know God on a deeper level and to emphasize the true mission of Christ of loving and serving one another. If there needs to be any clarification of what is considered service, please check with Mrs. Jason.

Suggested Service Hours:

Assist a catechism teacher

Help at Diner

Help at the New Life Center

Help at Nursing Homes

Help an elderly person with a chore

Assist the Religious Ed. Director

Pull weeds on the church grounds

Sponsor Certificate for Confirmation

This certificate must be completed, signed, and returned to Holy Ghost Catholic Church on or before: _____

I WILL BE A SPONSOR FOR _____

I AM A REGISTERED PARISHIONER OF _____

Print name of sponsor's parish

AND I RECOGNIZE

That by accepting the role of sacramental sponsorship, I become responsible to be a model and example of a committed and active Catholic and to be a support to his/her parents in the practice of our mutual faith.

I hereby assure that I am committed to my Catholic faith, that I am myself baptized and Confirmed in it, that I received the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, and that I am not married outside the Catholic Church or otherwise compromised in my own sacramental life.

I meet my fundamental obligation as a Roman Catholic by participating in Sunday Mass weekly, by receiving the Eucharist as often as possible, and Penance as necessary.

I further profess my complete loyalty and fidelity to the Catholic Church and its magisterium, and its teachings on faith and morals.

I solemnly promise to give my full support to the person I am sponsoring, by the Christian example of my daily life as a Roman Catholic, so help me God.

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

WITNESSED BY: _____

(Signature of Parish Priest where sponsor is registered)

SPONSOR'S CHURCH SEAL REQUIRED

**Holy Ghost Catholic Church
Religious Education
Progress Report**

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Parents:

In mutual concern that religious education should be an important part of your child's development as a Catholic Christian, I am pleased to give you this progress report. We welcome your questions and concerns.

Progress report will be sent out in January and April. Please be sure to sign and return it back next week.

Grading Scale: (P) =Poor (S) =Satisfactory (E) =Excellent

Class Participation _____

Conduct _____

Homework _____

Class Attendance _____

Mass Attendance _____

Knowledge of Prayers _____

Effort _____

General Attitude _____

Teacher's Comments:

Teacher's Signature: _____

Parent' Signature: _____

Parent's Comments:

PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO CONSENT FORM:

From time to time, pictures and video may be taken of youth ministry events and gatherings. We would like to be able to use these photographs and videos for flyers, parish and diocesan publications, and the ministry website. Written consent of both the student and parent/guardian is required. Names will not be posted unless written authorization is given by the student and parent/guardian, and then only first names will be used. If there are concerns about pictures or videos posted on the website, please contact the ministry coordinator or webmaster, and they will promptly be removed.

I/We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of this youth (name _____), authorize and give full consent, without limitation or reservation, to (parish/school) _____, to publish any photograph or video in which the above named student appears while participating in any program associated with (parish/school) _____ ministry. There will be no compensation for use of any photograph or video at the time of publication or in the future.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

RIGHT TO AMEND

This handbook is primarily a means of communication. It is meant to provide you the parent/guardian, with helpful information on how we intend to go about our work. Holy Ghost Catholic Church Catechetical Program reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parent /legal guardian will be notified, in writing, if changes are made to any procedures or information contained in this handbook.

Parent/Legal Guardian Acknowledgement Form

This is to acknowledge that I/we have received the Holy Ghost Catholic Church Handbook for Religious Education. We understand and agree to cooperate with the parish policies set forth in the handbook.

Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Date

Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Date

(If married, both parents should sign.)

Signed (Student)

Grade

Name

Grade

Name

Grade

Name

Grade

Name

Grade

Name

Grade