

# Saint Eulalia

— PARISH —

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

Saint Eulalia Parish  
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[sainteulalias.com/religious-education.html](http://sainteulalias.com/religious-education.html)

## *Welcome to our Religious Education program*

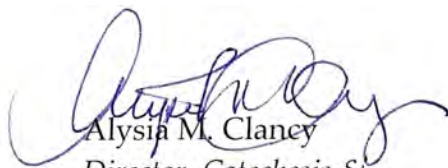
We are so happy you enrolled your child and are excited to teach them about the love and mercy of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

You are your child's first teacher (catechist) of faith. You show them the love and mercy of God as you care for them and your family, as you prepare and eat meals together and clean up afterwards, as you hold and comfort them when they are sad, and cheer for them when they succeed. If you are like many parents though, you may feel unprepared to teach them the specifics of their faith. Please know you have everything you need, and we are here to help and guide you.

This handbook is offered as a resource for parents to learn about our program and find answers to commonly asked questions. Of course, if you have questions not answered here please never hesitate to reach out.



Rev. Jeffrey D. Tudgay  
Pastor



Alysia M. Claney  
Director, Catechesis &  
Communications

## HOW OUR PROGRAM IS ORGANIZED

Classes are held Sundays from 9-10am in our F. Allan Conlan Religious Education Center. Parents may accompany students to their classrooms, or drop them off at the entrance to the Center in the back of the parish center building. Student are dismissed at 10am and will meet parents in the Atrium of the Conlan Center.

One of the tenets of our Catholic Faith is the requirement that all Catholics attend Sunday Mass each week. It's easy for us to look at an obligation as a burden, and in many cases, obligations can be a source of stress. In the context of our faith, however, it is important for us to look at the requirement to attend Sunday Mass from the perspective not of a burden, *but from the perspective of love*. The Eucharist, which we receive at Sunday Mass, is Jesus' real presence which we receive and become one with God. From the perspective of our faith, the Eucharist is what makes Catholicism distinct and facilitates a unique relationship with God. Additionally, understanding that responsibilities and obligations are often not burdensome, but life-giving, is an important lesson we can teach our children. *It is our expectation that each and every family in our School of Religion attend Sunday Mass weekly so we can experience the unique gift of Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist together.*

Students in our sacramental years (2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) will sign in the book located in the back of the church.

## GRADES AND CURRICULUM

**Kindergarten:** An introduction to class setting with an emphasis on learning to bless ourselves and learning about God's love for us through stories, crafts, and activities.

**First Grade:** This is the first year of the two-year program re-

quired for children to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The goal at the end of first grade is for all children to know their four major prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Act of Contrition.

**Second Grade:** This is a major year for students as they receive two sacraments -- First Reconciliation in December and First Holy Communion in May. Teachers need to cover a lot of material with the students so they understand the sacraments and are well prepared. Although many adults may recall their First Reconciliation or First Penance or Confessions with fear, our teachers are wonderful at making sure the children understand there is nothing to be afraid of. We try our best to make sure each student is well prepared and make the experience a comfortable and welcoming one. The year culminates in the beautiful sacrament of First Holy Communion.

**Third Grade:** Building upon the excitement of First Holy Communion and the base of knowledge students received in first and second grades, students in the third grade continue to learn about the church's liturgical year and holidays. They are taught about the rosary and Bible.

**Fourth Grade:** As each grade builds from the previous, the students learn more in-depth about the Bible, its use, praying the rosary and saying it reverently. The Ten Commandments are studied with a breakdown of each commandment, as well as the beatitudes, teaching the students how to live and bring about the kingdom of God.

**Fifth Grade:** Students use the Bible to learn scripture, its interpretation of chapters and verses; explaining the seven sacraments' meaning and symbols; and celebrating God's life and love through each one. Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Service are introduced to the students.

**Sixth Grade:** Students discuss Sacred Scripture, the Old Testa-

ment consisting of 46 books, and New Testament consisting of 27 books, with its stories of people and topics. The sacraments, the commandments, the beatitudes, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are all studied.

**Seventh Grade:** Students begin the preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation which is a two-year program. The students by now have a better understanding of weekly scriptures and how they can apply the teachings of our faith to the world around them. In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation the candidate prepares to research a saint whose name they will chose, a sponsor (someone who will mentor the candidate), and perform church and community service hours so as to better understand with faith comes action.

**Eighth Grade:** During this year students prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation bestowed in the spring. Students must research and choose their confirmation name, invite an adult to be their sponsor, perform 20 hours of church and community service, and attend a scheduled Confirmation retreat. Our dedicated teachers ensure the students are prepared to confirm their faith before the parish community.

*Although some see receiving Confirmation as a "graduation" from Religious Education in the sense that students no longer have to attend weekly classes, we like to think that everyone continues their own personal education in our Catholic Faith throughout their lives. Following Confirmation, students are invited to actively participate in the parish thru ministry (as altar servers or lectors), service, Youth Ministry, and other opportunities that speak to them.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

***How do I register my child for religious education?***

Complete the online registration form or print the PDF and mail to the parish office. [sainteulalias.com/religious-education.html](http://sainteulalias.com/religious-education.html)

***How do I join Saint Eulalia?***

Complete the online form at [sainteulalias.com/how-do-i/join-the-parish.html](http://sainteulalias.com/how-do-i/join-the-parish.html) or print and mail the parish census pdf.

***My child is missing sacraments, what do I do?***

We're thrilled you want to get your child back on track. Please call Mrs. Clancy or Mrs. Dermody, our pastoral associate, at 570-842-7656 and we will work with you and your unique situation.

***I didn't know First Communion and Confirmation were two-year programs and my child is off course, what should I do?***

Please reach out to Mrs. Clancy and we can discuss your particular situation and figure out our next steps together.

***Will my child participate in retreats?***

Currently retreats happen for the sacramental grades (2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>), although we may have opportunities for other grades to go on retreats in the future.

***Is my child safe while in religious ed classes?***

All adults working with children are required by the Diocese and state to have background clearances which are updated every five years. Also, all catechists have completed mandated reporter training and the Diocese VIRTUS child protection course. Please contact Mrs. Clancy for additional information.

***My child has a disability, can they enroll?***

Absolutely, all of God's children are welcome. Please call Mrs. Clancy with your concerns.

***How much does religious ed cost and what does that cover?***

Tuition is \$35 per student with a maximum of \$105 per family. This covers the cost of the textbook, a portion of Mrs. Clancy's salary, postage and mailing costs, classroom supplies, and utilities for the Conlan Center classrooms.

***When do classes begin and end?***

Typically September—May

***When is First Reconciliation (First Penance)?***

Typically in early December

***When is First Communion?***

Typically in early- to mid-May

***When is Confirmation?***

Typically held on Pentecost Sunday. We are on a three-year rotation to celebrate with the Bishop at the Cathedral, the other two years the ceremony will occur at the parish with Fr. Tudgay conferring the sacrament.

***We are parishioners but my child attends Catholic school, do they still need to enroll in religious ed?***

No. However, if you wish them to receive their sacraments here with Fr. Tudgay please contact Mrs. Clancy.

***We have a family trip (or sport tournament or family illness), is there an attendance policy?***

We understand vacations and sports are an important time for families, please let your teacher know and be sure to submit any work missed upon your return. However please know, frequent absences may require the student to homeschool during the summer or repeat the grade.

***What about snow days?***

Use your judgment. If the road are poor where you live err on the side of caution and stay home. If the roads by the parish are bad a text will be sent using the Remind system.

***What is expected of my child?***

Our teachers spend a lot of time preparing for class and we only have a short time each week with the students. Children are expected to attend regularly, be on time for class, and treat their peers and teachers with respect.

***What time is mass?***

Daily at 8am, Saturdays at 4pm, and Sundays at 8am, 10:05am,

and 11:30am. Times could change. The parish website always has the most up-to-date information.

***How can I help my children have a positive attitude toward religious ed and attending mass?***

By attending mass together you are setting a good example and providing your child a solid foundation. Have patience and relax and know that your fidgeting child or teen may be frustrating you, but many parishioners are enjoying the life they bring to our parish family.

### GLOSSARY

**Catechism**—a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.

**Catechist**—a teacher of the principles of Christian religion, especially one using a catechism.

### *Clergy*

**Priest**—an ordained minister of the Catholic, Orthodox, or Anglican Church having the authority to perform certain rites and administer certain sacraments.

**Pastor**—a minister in charge of a Christian church or congregation. Father Tudgay is a priest and our pastor. Not all priests are pastors, but all pastors are priests.

**Deacon**—an ordained minister of an order ranking below that of priest. Can be married.

**Bishop**—a senior member of the Christian clergy, usually in charge of a diocese and empowered to confer holy orders. The Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton is Rev. Joseph Bambera.

**Cardinal**—a leading dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church. Cardinals are nominated by the Pope, and form the Sacred College which elects succeeding popes .



**Pope**—Also known as the bishop of Rome, he is the chief pastor of the worldwide Catholic Church, and head of state or sovereign of the Vatican City State. The current pope is Pope Francis.

### *At Mass*

**Ambo**—the lectern from which the lector and priest proclaim the Liturgy of the Word

**Altar**—the table in a Christian church at which the bread and wine are consecrated in communion services

**Cantor**—Song leader

**Eucharistic Minister**— an individual that assists in the distribution of Holy Communion to the congregation of a Christian church

**Lector**—a reader, someone who reads in a church service.

**Tabernacle**—a fixed, locked box in which the Eucharist (consecrated, holy hosts) are kept

**Liturgy of the Word**—The first part of mass which includes the opening prayers, readings, responsorial psalm, gospel, homily, and prayers of the faithful (petitions)

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**—The second part of mass when the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

**Sacristy**— the room where a priest and other ministers prepare for a service, and where vestments and other things used in worship are stored

**Seven Sacraments:** Baptism, First Reconciliation (Penance), First Communion (Eucharist), Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick

**Beatitudes:** The eight blessings recounted by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

**Missal (missalette) v Bible:** The book found in the pews at church is the missal (or missalette). While the missal contains readings and psalms from the Bible, it also includes a variety of additional information for the celebration of mass (Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist) along with various prayers and songs. The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is not intended to be read as history text, a science book, or a political manifesto. In the Bible, God teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation. (source USCCB.org)

**Ten Commandments:** Guide us in making choices that help us to live as God wants us to live. The first three commandments tell us how to love God; the other seven tell us how to love our neighbor. 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 (Sunday).* 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.* (source LoyolaPress.com)



*Icon created by  
parishioner Linda Naro*

Eulalia was a 13-year-old virgin who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians in the reign of emperor Diocletian, for refusing to recant her Christian faith.

Patron Saint of Barcelona  
Feast Day December 10  
b. 290 AD - d. 303 AD  
Canonized in 633 AD

Patron saint of sailors,  
safe sailing, and against  
drought.

## HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

### **Religious Education Web Page**

*Includes links to each grade-specific web page*  
[sainteulalias.com/religious-education.html](http://sainteulalias.com/religious-education.html)

### **Parish Facebook Page**

[facebook.com/sainteulaliaparish](https://facebook.com/sainteulaliaparish)

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