Parent Handbook

Church of St. Therese of Lisieux
5:9 Formation
2026-2027

Rev. Ryan Creamer
Pastor

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Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation

WELCOME FAMILIES!

St. Therese of Lisieux Faith Formation Program 2026-2027

Parking

The Office of Risk Management of the Diocese of Rockville Centre has advised the implementation of safety measures in front of the church and the Parish Center. Specifically, do not double park and please do NOT engage in 'drive by' delivery or pick up.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

*Children in levels pre-k, kindergarten, 1 and 2 must be walked to their meeting area where parents will leave them with their assigned catechist. Pick-up as drop-off.
*All children in levels 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 can be picked up in the main lobby of the Parish Center.
* If an adult other than the parent or legal guardian is to pick up your child, the catechist or director must be notified before class.

Early Dismissal

Please inform your child's catechist or the director if you need to pick up your child prior to the end of the session. The hall monitor will retrieve your child from his/her meeting room.

Attendance and Lateness

Children K through 6 are expected to attend meetings at the Parish Center on a bi-monthly basis according to the Faith Formation Calendar.
7, 8 & 9, in lieu of 5:9, will attend youth ministry weekly on Thursday evenings and Pre-k will attend weekly on Tuesday afternoons, also according to the Faith Formation Calendar.
Please notify the office if your child will be absent due to illness or vacation.
Attendance at Mass is most important. Lack of attendance at Mass and at the meetings will be viewed as lack of interest. In such case and according to the discretion of the director, your

child will be removed from our program.

Parent Meetings

Please make every effort to attend parent meetings when notified. If you are unable to attend, please inform the director to reschedule.

Snacks

There is no snack at Sunday morning meetings
On Tuesdays, a snack will be provided.
HOWEVER, if your child has dietary restrictions and/or allergies, please be sure to provide a snack for him/her.

Family Mass

Family Mass is on Sundays at 10:30am. Sign-in in the vestibule required for all Masses.
Mass times are on the back page of this Handbook.

Sacramental Preparation

Please review your spiral bound **Readiness for the Love to be Poured into your Heart** booklet (updated August 2025).
Included in this booklet is information on, together with expectations of, sacramental preparation and readiness.

Custody Issues and Orders of Protection

The safety of your child is paramount. Any issues related to the custody of your child and orders of protection must be made known to the director at the time of registration, who will in turn inform the catechist. Where there is an Order of Protection/ Custody in effect, the parent or guardian MUST provide the Order signed by a judge, together with a list of names of those persons allowed to pick up the child. Anyone other than the parent/guardian picking up the child must present photo I.D. to the catechist. **Information must be updated annually by the family.**

Discipline

We acknowledge that each one of us is made in the Divine Image and Likeness of God. Disruptive behavior and/or behavior that is disrespectful to the dignity of another person **will not be tolerated**. In addition, boys and girls are expected to dress appropriately and in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Please see more information on our website sttheresemontauk.com under 5:9 Formation on the expectations of this faith formation program with regard to student behaviors/ social transitioning.

Other Safety Concerns

Our volunteer catechists receive training through the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People. This program is dedicated to promoting and ensuring the protection of all children. Parent volunteers are also required to receive this training.

Canon law requires that each year, children in levels 1 through 8 enrolled in a faith formation program, participate in an age appropriate child safety program. In the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the latter is called Empower God's Children. Parents do have the option to 'opt-out' but must inform the director and complete the opt-out form.

Both programs above are offered through the Virtus online system at virtusonline.org.

Inclement Weather/Emergency Closing

In cases of severe weather conditions, classes may be cancelled. The cancellation notice will follow the Montauk Public School closings and can be found on **NEWS 12 Long Island** or http://longisland.news12.com.

General Information

Weekend Holy Mass Schedule: Saturday: 5pm, Spanish Mass 7pm (8pm in summer), Sunday: 8.30am & 10.30am Family Mass.

Daily Mass: Tuesday - Friday 8:30am.

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesday-Friday 9-10am & second Tuesday of every month 2-9pm