

Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center



We are thrilled to have received accreditation from the Florida Catholic Conference as an **Accredited Infant through 4 year old School**. The FCC is one of the oldest Catholic accrediting programs in the country and sets a high level of criteria required to be considered for accreditation. Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center is proud to be the first Early Childhood Center in the Diocese of St. Petersburg to receive this honor.

THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE of the FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



Certifies that **Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center**
has fulfilled all requirements for accreditation and is hereby designated as
an
ACCREDITED INFANT THROUGH 4 YEAR OLD SCHOOL

In testimony whereof our signatures are hereto affixed this 1st day of March, 2019
Valid: through June 2026

+ Guido M. Barbato
Episcopal Moderator

Michael B. Sheehy
Executive Director
Accreditation Committee
Florida Catholic Conference

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- April 5th
- Lenten Fish Fry
- Holy Thursday Events
- SHECC Closed on Good Friday



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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Daily Mass: 7:30am

Sat. Vigil: 4pm

Sunday Mass:

8am & 10:30am

[https://
www.sacredheartdadcityfl.org/](https://www.sacredheartdadcityfl.org/)



SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

St. Catherine of Siena was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. She was the 25th child born to her mother, although half of her brothers and sisters did not survive childhood.

From 1375 onwards, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She became involved in the fractured politics of her time and was instrumental in restoring the papacy to Rome.

She established a monastery for women in 1377 outside of Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most influential and popular saints in the church.

St. Catherine's feast day is April 29, she is the patroness against fire, illness, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, and nurses

INFANT I

We would like to welcome Coraline to our room. She is such a sweet baby. We also would like to say good-bye to another little sweetheart McKenna. She is moving up to Mrs. Katie. We will really miss her because she is such a sweet baby. She will enjoy more space and lots more things to explore.

We are beginning to have more warm weather lately so please remember to sunscreen your child and bring some extra clothes so we can change them if needed. As the weather gets nicer we will be enjoying more tummy time outside on the blanket where we can explore nature. The babies really enjoy this, and they love the morning assembly and our walks.

This month we will be painting with spring colors and making a cross with our feet and making different Easter projects. We will practice praying and thanking God for blessing us each day. We also will read a lot of books to them. Reading and Praying with the babies each day helps them to learn. Thank you for letting us care for your child.

Mrs. Linda

Ms. Maryanne

INFANT II

We are welcoming Henry, Weston, and McKenna to our class. We are saying goodbye to Aliviana and Charlee. I know that they will enjoy being in the one-year old room.

Everyone enjoyed the art that we created through the month of March. The children really enjoyed putting their hands in the paint and spreading the paint all over the paper. We painted with the color green throughout the month of March for Saint Patrick's Day. The children painted their shamrocks green and we painted our pots of gold with gold paint.

We will be talking about Easter during the month of April. Everyone will be painting with the colors pink and purple during the month of April. We will also be stamping with their hands on an Easter eggs and making Carrot and Bunny Feet!

I really enjoy singing with the children every day and I believe that they enjoy us singing to them. They also love Patty Cake and they will clap along to the song. We will be working with the children on their balance and walking this month. Everyone can pull themselves up on the green table that we have in the classroom. We have walker toys in the classroom that the children love to use to walk with around the room. The teachers will help children who are showing interest in walk by holding their hands and walking around the classroom, building their muscle strength and confidence!

I have been asked about some ideas for finger food when children are ready to transition from baby food to finger food. Here are some of the foods that other children in the classroom have been bringing in for lunch: eggs, green beans, beans avocado, cut blueberries, chicken nuggets, cut fruit, cut lunch meat, rice, shredded cheese, macaroni and cheese, bananas. I hope that these ideas are helpful and if you have any other questions feel free to ask. Thank you for the monthly wipe donation we appreciate it so much and I know all the children do too.

Ms. Katie

Ms. Katelynn

Ms. Amanda

ONE YEAR OLD ROOM

Welcome spring! We are excited to start our spring activities. We will be learning about the meaning of Easter, and that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again. Jesus is our lord and savior and he gives new life to everything. We will be spending time out on the playground looking for examples of the new life that Jesus brings every spring. We will also be learning about gardens, planting seeds and watching them grow. Feel free to check out what we have growing in our greenhouse on the porch.

We will be having our Easter celebration on April 18th. I will provide the children with baskets to hunt for eggs with, but I do ask that each child bring at least 12 treat filled eggs to share. Please make sure that the treats are tree nut free. We will be hiding and hunting empty eggs and the treat filled eggs will go directly in their bags to take home so that each child gets the same amount.

Our class' spring photos are scheduled for Thursday March 28th. If this is not a regularly scheduled day for your child but you would like their photo taken please fill out the envelope and bring them dressed for photos on either Tuesday March 26th or Wednesday March 27th and we will get them taken. Friendly Reminders

We ask that each family donate 2 packs of wipes and a snack to share every month. I have snack suggestion sheets if you need ideas.

Please check your child's folder daily. They are located on the shelf next to the door with the sign in/out sheet.

The weather is changing so please check your child's basket and make sure they have at least 2 weather appropriate changes of clothes at all times. Please also make sure your child hasn't outgrown their spare clothes.

Dates to remember:

Easter Celebration April 18th

SHECC Closed April 19th in observance of Good Friday

Mother's Day Tea May 10th

Ms.Jenn Ms. Sandy Ms. Nicole Ms. Alexis

News from Ms. Monic

April



Monthly Teacher Tips:

~ A friendly reminder to not let your children bring toys from home. We have a wide range of educational toys in the classroom for the children.

~ Please check your child's folder on a daily. There is artwork that your child does throughout the day that gets put in there along with important information about upcoming events.

~ Please remember to bring in your monthly snack donations of Fresh fruit, popsicles, Goldfish, Cheese-itz, etc.

~ As move-up day is coming fast, we encourage parents to have their child potty trained before they move up to the three year old room.

Upcoming Events

~ April 5th – Last Fish Fry

~ April 18th – Easter Egg Hunt

~ April 19th – CLOSED

The VPK children will be putting on a resurrection play for all the children and families at 10am. After the play, we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt followed by a small party. There will be a sign up sheet in the classroom of items we are asking for.

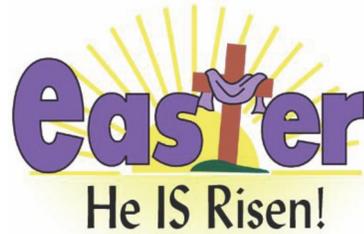
What We're Learning!

~ Last month, the children enjoyed learning about numbers and counting. This month, we will be focusing on Spring weather and Plants. Throughout the month, we will be teaching the children the steps on how to plant flowers and the process it takes to make a seed turn into a flower. By teaching the children the process of First, Middle, Last, it will prepare them for when they begin to read.

~ We are asking parents for donations of butterfly friendly herbs and flowers that the children can plant out front in our butterfly garden.

April Newsletter

April brings us to our Easter Unit. The main emphasis of this unit will be on the Easter story. It is my hope that by the end of the unit, your child will know why we celebrate Easter and will be able to retell the events of Jesus's death, burial, resurrection and ascension into Heaven.



During the week of March 25th, we will be concentrating on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The children will be doing a sheep craft, "shearing sheep" and herding sheep balloons. In doing these activities, the children will learn that Jesus is our provider, protector and guide.

Jesus as the Light of the World will be the focus for the week of April 1st. We will be exploring how light creates shadows and the concept of transparency. The children will enjoy making paper candles to use while singing "This Little Light of Mine". During this week, the children will learn that they can shine the light of Jesus by being kind, cooperative, honest, brave and responsible.

The next week brings us Jesus as our Rock and firm foundation. Painting, stacking, and sorting rocks will be just a few of the activities for the children. We will be conducting experiments to see what happens if you build a house on rock or sand. The take-away for this week is that we can trust in Jesus because He is always there and never changes.



Our unit will come to an end on Thursday April 18th. On that day, your family is invited to attend an Easter Play being put on by the VPK classes at 10:00am. Following the play, we will go back to our classroom and sing you some songs and read a book. Lastly, we will have our Easter Egg Hunt and party. The center will be closed on Friday April 19th in honor of Good Friday.

We will need at least a **dozen plastic pre-filled eggs** for our hunt. Please bring them to school by Wednesday April 17th. Your child will **not** need a basket for the Easter egg hunt. They will be decorating a bag to use.

I am very excited about sharing this Easter season with your children!

Happy Easter, Miss Sally and Miss Eloisa

MUSIC AND SOUND WALL

It's time to Spring Clean! We are looking for metal pots and pans that we can use to make a music and sound wall for the children. The discovery of the different sounds and tones that can be made from pots and pans is not only a great experiment and a cause and affect activity, it is also FUN!!



FUN PIPES

We are also on the look out for some gently used PVC Pipes of different sizes to make an outdoor xylophone on the playground!



PRESCHOOL II



Dear Families,

March was a great month of learning about Community Helpers and why we need them to take care of us. We engaged in role-play/dramatic play involving construction workers, doctors and nurses, teachers, and firefighters. We also did artwork such as painting with toothbrushes, "fire" finger painting, and painting with nuts bolts and screws. The children learned that Community Helpers provide a service to our community that makes our lives easier. They understand the job role that each has.

For the months of April and May, we will focus on Easter and Spring. For religion, we will read and have discussions about the life and resurrection of Jesus. We will read many books about the weather in Spring, bugs, butterflies, flowers, and growing fruits and vegetables. We will discuss all the different things that we see in Spring and encourage the children to draw a picture of their favorite part of Spring (flowers, birds, bugs, rain, and rainbows). When we think of Spring we often picture flowers in bloom. Parents may talk to you children about how seeds grow. First you plant the seed underground, then you water it, and then it turns into a plant. You may also talk about what the seed may turn into, such as a tree or a flower.

In addition to our center activities, arts and crafts, and reading, we like to play music in our room. "Playing music is the brain's equivalent of a full-body workout," writes Maria Popova in her article, "How Playing Music Benefits Your Brain More Than Any Other Activity," in Brain Pickings. The children have enjoyed listening to music during playtime activities as well as during their rest/naptime. They enjoy dancing and singing, and we have made this a crucial part of our day.

Thank you to all our parents for your continued involvement and support within our classroom and our center. Have a blessed Easter.

Ms. Angie

Sister Donna

Ms. Ashley



VPK Wraparound

April is here! Spring is here!

This month our class will be focusing on **Lent** and **Easter**. The **Palm Sunday** parade is April 12th. This will go along with the Bible story in



Matthew 21. The Bible talks about the people who cut palm branches, waved them in the air, and laid them out on the ground before Jesus rode in the city. The Palm branch represented goodness and victory. The donkey symbolized peace. The people who chose to ride the donkeys came with peaceful intentions. Then Jesus reminded us that he is the Prince of Peace. **Holy week is April 15-18th**. The

Children will be learning all about the true meaning of Easter, which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the good news. On April 18th, after our Easter egg hunt, the children will be participating in "The Resurrection of Jesus" Skit/Play.



If anybody has big boxes that they do not mind giving away, we can use them to make a Tomb.) For our Easter egg hunt please send in one dozen prefilled eggs. Please remember we are a tree nut and peanut free school. In addition, we will also be having our Easter class party this day as well. Be on the lookout for the party sign-up sheet as it gets closer.



There are other important dates in April to remember. Starting the last week of April, we will be assessing the children one more time to measure the children's growth and development. That same day is the **Zany Dress Up Day**, and the children can come dressed up for **April Fool's Day**. Miss Riley's last day in our classroom will be on April 5th. We will be having her "**Follow your Dreams**" Celebration as she will be a Naval Officer. We will miss her so much. On April 19th, the center will be closed for **Good Friday**.

Thank you for trusting us with your Children.

Love in Jesus,

Mrs. Ida, Ms. Riley & Ms. Heather

Mark 10:14 (14) When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the Children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."



The Southern Early Childhood Association Book Review

Author Stephen R. Swinburne provides a “comforting read-aloud story, in which small animals find cozy places to keep them safe and warm.”

This is a perfect book to read while holding a *little one* close or on your lap. The soft, pastel pictures are attractive and soothing.

This book is also reassuring and comforting to *preschoolers* and *young school aged children*.

News reports, movies, television programs and many other factors bring them fears and uncertainty. They, too, will be encouraged and strengthened by **Safe in a Storm**.

As the pages of this lovely picture book are turned, small animals are shown experiencing the winds and storms that can be so frightening to little ones. However, each small animal is comforted and kept safe by an adult, not identified as either male or female, mother or father. As the grown-ups providing education and care in a safe, nurturing environment, this book also provides comfort to us as well.

The animals shown in the book are both small and large. A tiny mole, a little owl and a soft fuzzy bunny encounter storms but find warmth and comfort. A large whale, tall giraffe and huge bear demonstrate care and understanding. Animals are cuddled, held tight, and snuggled. Beautiful illustrations, rich vocabulary and an important lesson are all provided in this lovely picture book.

The author dedicated this book “to teachers and school staff everywhere, who provide a safe harbor for children every day . . . in memory of the 20 Sandy Hook Elementary schoolchildren.”

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

April Showers bring May flowers and EASTER! We hope everyone is excited for Easter as this a special and holy time for all of us. Plus ... April 1st is April Fool’s Day so have your jokes ready.

Our themes this month are Spring, Rainbows, Easter, Holy Week, Earth Week & Recycling.

The children will learn all about spring time and what happens to the Earth at this time and how our weather changes. They will also learn what makes a rainbow and can we make one ourselves. What colors are in a rainbow?

We also have a lot planned for Holy Week. The children will learn all about that special week and what Christ did for us all. We will also be making all kinds of Easter crafts, cards, crosses, bunnies, and coloring Easter eggs.

Finally, our last theme is Earth week and Recycling. This is our favorite because the kids love to learn, recycle and clean our Earth to make it better.

Our next Fish Fry is Friday, April 5th. Please come and enjoy the wonderful food. This will be our last fish fry of the year so don’t miss out.

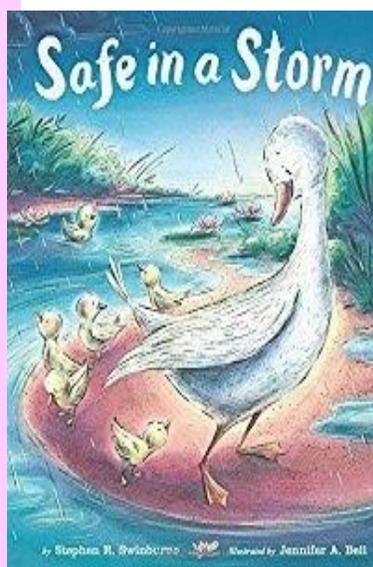
On April 18th, the children will have a busy day. In the morning, they will put on an Easter play for the

rest of the center. In the afternoon, we will have an Easter party. Look for a sign up sheet soon.

We appreciate your monthly donations of snacks. The children like the variety of snacks.

Have a Blessed Easter.

Miss Debbie & Miss Laura



Notes from Cindie...

Dear Parents,

I am excited to share with you the news that we have achieved Accreditation Standing with the Florida Catholic Conference. The process was long but well worth the effort. We will continue as a center to uphold the standards set forth by the FCC. The accreditation process renews every three years beginning with the Self-Study. In the interim there are ongoing assessments and trainings that the center staff will complete to maintain Accreditation Status. Please join me in congratulating the Staff on their accomplishment.

Thank you for all of the help and support of our Lenten Fish Fry's and Basket Fundraiser! They were a great success. We could not have done it without you!

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful spring weather! The days are so nice, and the flowers are so pretty.... Well, the flowers in our Butterfly Garden are looking a little ragged thanks to feeding our Butterfly caterpillars!! We could certainly use some more leafy plants for them to eat! Just as in the Very Hungry Caterpillar they are eating everything we give them. The children are enjoying going out and watering the plants and looking at how big the caterpillars are growing. What a wonderful experience for them to see God's life cycle in action.

Spring is God's reminder of the greatest gift we have ever received. The gift of Jesus and our redemption. Easter is often more difficult to talk about with children than Christmas. How do you talk to children about death? It is not a comfortable subject. It can be scary and confusing for adults let alone young children. The good news is that the story does not end there! There are many age appropriate stories available to read to the children that discuss the more graphic portions of Jesus's death and Miraculous Resurrection in a way that children can understand at this age. Some favorite titles are, Humphrey's First Easter, The Easter Story by Patricia Pingy and The Story of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross for Children by Mary Joslin. Please ask your Child's teacher for book recommendations.

Our VPK children will reenact the Resurrection Story on Holy Thursday at 10:00 am before our Easter Egg Hunt and Celebrations. Class parties will be after the Egg Hunt. We invite you to come and share the day and join in the Celebration of the Resurrection.

We will be closed on April 19th in Observance of Good Friday.

Please look in the newsletter for 2019 Decade of Invention Summer Information. There are lots of fun and interesting activities and trips and experiments that the children will participate in!

I pray that everyone has a Blessed Eater

Blessings,

Ms. Cindie



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Children are our Ministry



The Season of Lent



Lenten Resources

Loyola Press

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent>

Catholic Apostolate Center

<https://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/lenten-resources.html>

Catholic.org

<https://www.catholic.org/lent/>

Dynamic Catholic

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever>

I Believe

<https://newsletters.ibelieve.com/gs-ib-easter-lent-prayer-devotional>

Twenty-third Publications

<http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/lent.html>

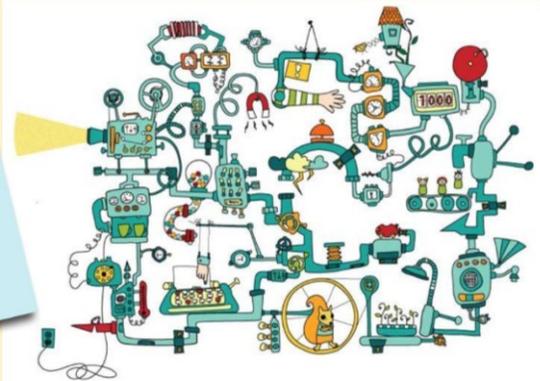
Formed.org

<https://formed.org/>

DECADES OF INVENTION SUMMER CAMP

May 30th — August 9th

Stay tuned
for
more details!



Fabulous Lenten Fish Fry Sponsor Board

If you can't help at our FISH FRY'S, please lend your support by sponsoring an ingredient or supply item!

2019 Fish Fry Dates: March 8th, March 22nd and April 5th

2019 Fish Fry Sponsorship March 8 March 22 April 5 Please return coupon with donation

Name _____ Sponsorship amount \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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Thank you for your support!