

What Is Catholic Apologetics? Why It Matters

Apologetics isn't about saying "I'm sorry"—it comes from the Greek word *apologia*, meaning "a defense." Catholic Apologetics is simply the practice of explaining and defending the truths of the Catholic faith with clarity, charity, and confidence.

Many people misunderstand what the Church teaches, and even lifelong Catholics can struggle to explain their beliefs. Apologetics helps all of us grow in our knowledge and love of God while building bridges with others. As 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

Apologetics matters because truth matters. Our goal isn't to "win arguments" but to share the joy and truth of the Gospel. Throughout the year, these articles will offer answers to common questions and show how faith and reason go hand in hand.

Have a Great Week!

God Bless,

Mr. Chris Meyer, School Principal

General Information

- 1.If you haven't sent in your signed documents (checklist, spirit shirt form, handbook form, E-Rate Income Survey, photo form) please do so as soon as possible.
2. Please take a moment to complete the survey at this link: <https://forms.gle/tz1JifyYWsdUfruPA>. This is for your child's Hallow account. This account is completely free to you, and provides multiple resources on the Catholic faith, including prayer, discussions and music. Please complete this form as soon as possible, as we will begin rolling out accounts next week.
3. We are looking for assistance during our daily lunch periods. If you are interested in helping out (and earning service hours), please use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AFA829A4F85-58117443-cafeteria> . If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Allison at ahayes@spcsjax.org.
- 4.Our new spirit store is open and ready for you to purchase this year's spirit items. The address for the store is: <https://bsnteamssports.com/shop/spc25>. The store will remain open until **Thursday, September 11**.
- 5.If your child is in 2nd grade, and is planning to make his or her First Communion this year, or if your child is in 8th grade, and is planning to make his or her Confirmation this year, then you must sign up for Sacramental Prep classes through our parish's Religious Education program. Classes won't begin until the second semester (they are already on our school calendar), but registration is already open. To sign up for these prep classes, please go to <https://form.jotform.com/252178565200050>. For more information, contact our DRE Cathy Taylor at ctaylor@spcsjax.org.
6. Please remember that if you would like to volunteer on campus (field trips, cafeteria, HSA events, etc.) that you need to have a background screening completed and you must attend a Protecting God's Children class. In order to sign up for the class, please use the directions that are attached to this email. To sign up for a background screening, please reach out to our business manager, Lorrie Mathews at lmathews@spcsjax.org to schedule an appointment.
7. We will have a morning prayer service on **Thursday, August 28, at 8:30am**. At that time, we will present the honor roll certificates and quarter awards from the fourth quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. Parents are welcomed to attend.

8. From our friends at Soccer Shots:

Hey Parents,

*This week **Soccer Shots** came out to do a Free Fun Day for all of your kids! And it was a blast!*

Some questions to ask your kids after you pick them up or at dinner tonight;

- *Did you have fun?*
- *Did you score a goal?*
- *Do you want to play soccer?*

And if the answers to any of these questions is yes, then click below to register your child. Space is limited and spots fill fast.

Soccer Shots is the nation's leading introduction to soccer program. Each week they teach the fundamentals of the game through engaging themed sessions. One week players will be astronauts flying to the moon and the next they'll be pirates sailing the seven seas all while learning how to dribble, pass and shoot. The program also has an emphasis on character development with the use of weekly character words. Sportsmanship topics like respect, integrity and determination are used to build stronger youth, beyond the game!

If you are interested in the Preschool or Elementary School programs, contact us at www.soccershots.com/northflorida, northflorida@soccershots.com or (904) 494-6446.

Home School Association (HSA) Happenings

1. For our returning families, the HSA is interested in what you thought about last year's events. If you are interested in providing feedback to the HSA, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/ZQUmqwnf2aWMH6V9>. You will receive 1 service hour for completing the survey.

2. The HSA is hard at work planning this year's activities. They would like to organize some committees to help them with their work. If you are interested in participating (or learning more), please use this survey link: <https://forms.gle/cSH3GftJpTpV3NeUA>

Week at a Glance

Monday, August 25

- PreK/VPK Assessment #1
- Basketball Practice
- Cross Country Practice
- Cheerleading Practice

Tuesday, August 26

- PreK/VPK Assessment #1
- Orchestra Rehearsal

Wednesday, August 27

- PreK/VPK Assessment #1
- Basketball Practice
- Cross Country Practice
- Cheerleading Practice

Thursday, August 28

- PreK/VPK Assessment #1
- Morning Prayer Service 8:30am
- Orchestra Rehearsal

Friday, August 29

- PreK/VPK Assessment #1
- Cheerleading Practice

The mission of St. Patrick Catholic School is to lay the foundation for success in students through Catholic traditions, rooted in the Eucharist and Gospel teachings of Christ, with high standards of education in a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment.