

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK ST. MARY/ST. PATRICK

2017 - 2018



Living as Missionary Disciples

Grades K-12 meet from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. and preschool meets during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Preschool, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades meet in the Church Hall. Students in High School & 8th grade meet in the lower level of the Rectory. Grades 6th and 7th meet upstairs in the Parish Center and 5th grade in the Parish Center basement.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Following is a list of Holy Days of Obligation in the United States. Attendance at Mass is important and binds under pain of sin unless the Obligation is commuted by the U.S. Bishops. When the Obligation is commuted it will be announced from the pulpit as well as published in the Sunday bulletin.

We trust that parents will support the RE program by bringing their children to Mass on Sundays and on these Holy Days of Obligation.

November 1, 2017	All Saints
December 8, 2017	Immaculate Conception
December 25, 2017	The Birth of the Lord (Christmas)
January 1, 2018	Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
August 15, 2018	Assumption of Mary

AREAS OF STUDY FOR THE RE PROGRAM

Religious Education students in Preschool and Kindergarten will be using *Allelu!* from *Our Sunday Visitor*. Religious Education students in grades 1-8 will be using the textbook series from *Loyola Press* called *Finding God*. This series is built on the Scriptures, the Liturgical Year, teachings of our Faith, and also incorporates today's technology. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has found these series to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and therefore is an approved text for Catholics to use to teach their young people. The High School students will be using *The Didache Series* textbooks. Prayer lists have stayed the same as last year.

Monthly themes are: September - The Profession of Faith; October - The Profession of Faith/Rosary; November - The Profession of Faith/Saints; December - The Profession of Faith/Advent/Christmas; January - Celebration of the Christian Mystery/Epiphany/; February - Celebration of the Christian Mystery; March/April - Life in Christ /Lent/Easter and April/May - Prayer/Pentecost.

CATECHISTS/AIDES

PRESCHOOL:	Kathryn Abele	275-3293
	?, Aide	?

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Grace Before Meals.*

KINDERGARTEN: Cara VandeVoorde 494-8652
Sarah Achafer, Aide 691-9018

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father.*

GRADE 1: Veronica Miller 616-6442
Dan VandeVoorde, Aide 494-8651

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals.*

GRADE 2: Kelly Nestler 239-2579
Erin McLevige, Aide 299-1809

Students in second grade are prepared for the reception of Reconciliation and Eucharist. The dates for these Sacraments are: First Reconciliation - December 2, 2017; First Eucharist ó April 8, 2018.

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments.*

GRADE 3: Lisa Flynn 871-3945
Tom Liszka, Aide 248-3233

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments; Apostles Creed.*

GRADE 4: Polly Stache 291-6300
Brian White, Aide 541-8865

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments; Apostles Creed; I Confess (Confiteor); Holy, Holy, Holy; Lamb of God; Hail Holy Queen.*

GRADE 5: Susan Knaack 248-1022
Dave Rieman, Aide 297-2637

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments; Apostles Creed; I Confess (Confiteor); Holy, Holy, Holy; Lamb of God; Hail Holy Queen; Holy Days of Obligation; Nicene Creed; Know How to Say the Rosary; Angelus.*

GRADE 6:Steve Artisuk
Margie Schafer847-525-2195
691-9018

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments; Apostles Creed; I Confess (Confiteor); Holy, Holy, Holy; Lamb of God; Hail Holy Queen; Holy Days of Obligation; Nicene Creed; Know How to Say the Rosary; Angelus; Memorare.*

Should become familiar with - *Divine Praises; Episcopal Blessing; Eternal Rest; Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Litany of the Saints; Magnificat; Joyful Mysteries; Sorrowful Mysteries; Glorious Mysteries; Luminous Mysteries; Acts of Faith, Hope, & Love; Beatitudes; Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy; Two Great Commandments; Petitions to the Saints; Stations of the Cross.*

GRADE 7:Cindy Nicolosi
Corey Anderson, Aide248-3106
865-5929

The main focus this year is Jesus Christ along with the Catholic faith, learning about the lives of various Saints, how to use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and preparing for Confirmation.

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments; Apostles Creed; I Confess (Confiteor); Holy, Holy, Holy; Lamb of God; Hail Holy Queen; Holy Days of Obligation; Nicene Creed; Know How to Say the Rosary; Angelus; Memorare; Morning Offering; Episcopal Blessing; Eternal Rest.*

Should become familiar with - *Divine Praises; Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Litany of the Saints; Magnificat; Joyful Mysteries; Sorrowful Mysteries; Glorious Mysteries; Luminous Mysteries; Acts of Faith, Hope, & Love; Beatitudes; Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy; Two Great Commandments; Petitions to the Saints; Stations of the Cross.*

GRADE 8:Linda Medley
Dermot Dolan, Aide262-8564
742-3032

This year students will study Church history, the Catholic faith along with learning about the lives of various Saints, how to use the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and preparing for Confirmation.

Prayers: *Sign of the Cross; Glory Be; Angel of God; Grace Before Meals; Our Father; Hail Mary; Grace After Meals; Act of Contrition; The Ten Commandments; Be able to name the 7 Sacraments; Apostles Creed; I Confess (Confiteor); Holy, Holy, Holy; Lamb of God; Hail Holy Queen; Holy Days of Obligation; Nicene Creed; Know How to Say the Rosary; Angelus; Memorare; Morning Offering; Episcopal Blessing; Eternal Rest.*

Should become familiar with - *Divine Praises; Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Litany of the Saints; Magnificat; Joyful Mysteries; Sorrowful Mysteries; Glorious Mysteries; Luminous Mysteries; Acts of Faith, Hope, & Love; Beatitudes; Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy; Two Great Commandments; Petitions to the Saints; Stations of the Cross.*

GRADES 9-12

Pat Flynn
Claire Abele, Aide

871-3981
275-0808

This fall the students will use the *You: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body*. In the spring, the High School students will be using *The Didache Series* textbooks. These books are a semester long each with eight different subjects. The second semester the book used will be *The Sacraments: The Source of Our Life in Christ*.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GENERAL INFORMATION**REGISTRATION**

Since Religious Education is the responsibility of the Catholic community and since registration is the visible mark of identification with that community, only those children will be admitted to RE whose families are registered in the parish. Non-registered families should meet with the pastor. Please call the Parish Office, 248-2490, to make an appointment. Occasional guests of RE students are always welcome and do not fall under this category.

TUITION COST

Tuition cost for the Religious Education Program is as follows:

- \$ 60.00 for one student
- \$ 80.00 for two students
- \$100.00 for three or more students

There is also a \$15.00 sacramental preparation charge for each student in Second Grade (First Reconciliation/First Eucharist) and for each student in Seventh & Eighth Grade (Confirmation). This fee is to help cover additional costs for books, certificates, supplies, additional parent sessions, retreats, receptions, etc. related to sacramental preparation.

Families are expected to pay tuition and sacramental prep fees at the time of registration or make alternate plans with the Pastor, CRE, or Parish Secretary.

No students will be accepted for the new Religious Ed year unless tuition and fees have been paid for the previous year. Cases of emergency and/or family hardships are always an exception.

ANTICIPATED ABSENCES

If a parent knows ahead of time their child will not be attending a class, the parents and/or the student should inform the teacher of the absence prior to class time. If the teacher cannot be contacted, please call the parish office, 248-2490. (A message can be left on the answering machine.)

ABSENTEEISM

Parents/guardians will be contacted regarding any un-excused absence.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Reconciliation & First Eucharist

(Reconciliation is scheduled for December 2, 2017, and First Eucharist is scheduled for April 8, 2018)

The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are important sacraments which reflect the ongoing life of faith. Parental modeling is very crucial if children are to understand the reception of sacraments. In view of this, parents are asked to attend the parent preparation sessions. All parents are encouraged to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, at the time of their child's first reception, unless prevented from doing so by church law.

Confirmation

Confirmation represents the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation. Toward this end, students are expected to make an adult commitment to the Catholic faith. Students are expected to be in regular attendance at Mass, the common table of the worshipping community. They are expected to attend RE and Confirmation classes, participate in service activities as part of how we live our faith, attend a retreat, to pray and to be ready to live the Catholic way of life as a mature adult. Confirmation preparation is a two year program and will be held in the fall of 2019 at St. Mary Church.

Confirmation Sponsors

Like the role of Godparents at Baptism, the role of the Sponsor in the Sacrament of Confirmation is not an honorary title. To be a sponsor, one must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic (i.e., one who attends Mass regularly and partakes of the sacraments) other than a parent. Sponsors are expected to pray for and support the candidate and to share faith with the young person.

STUDENT MASS ATTENDANCE

Religious Education is aimed at preparing students for active participation in Catholic life, especially the central act of worship, the Eucharist. All students in the RE program are expected to regularly attend Mass. Studies show Religious Education without the nurturing support of the Mass and the Sacraments, is ineffective for living the Christian life. (The knowledge of the head must be supported by a commitment of the heart.)

FREQUENCY OF RECONCILIATION

All RE students will have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least twice a year, during Advent and Lent. At other times, parents are urged to encourage their children to receive this sacrament, especially by their own example.

STEWARDSHIP

To educate the children of the parish to use God's gifts wisely there is a Stewardship program in RE. Each family, beginning in Kindergarten, will have children's envelopes for church support. These envelopes include the stewardship of time and talent, as well as treasure.

ELECTIVE OUTINGS

Students attending retreats, rallies, etc., are to return permission forms and/or fees by the due date. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the outing and conduct themselves in a Christian manner. The Confirmation retreats do not fall under elective outings.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We encourage parents to become involved with their child's religious education by taking the time to find out what their child is learning in their religion class, by helping the child learn at home, and especially by parental example. If you have any questions regarding what is taught in class, please contact your child's catechist. You may contact the CRE for any additional questions.

PRAYERS

Each class (preschool - 8th grade) will be given a prayer sheet at the first Religious Education class. An extra sheet will be given to students to use at home with the help of their parents. Students will be tested approximately 3 times a year. Students should know all prayers on their sheet by the end of the year. Reports will be sent home after each testing.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRIORITY IN SCHEDULING SPACE

In all scheduling of parish meeting space, the RE program has priority. Class time shall not be intruded upon by anyone preparing for other activities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Students are asked not to bring sporting and/or recreational equipment or toys to class unless instructed to do so by the catechist.