

St. Vincent de Paul Religious Education Handbook 2018-2019



Religious Education Parent Handbook

2018-2019

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul Religious Education Program. This handbook was designed to give parents and guardians basic information about our program. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Debbie Blackburn, at 260-489-3537 ext. 204.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission, as a Catholic, Christian Community, is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in response to God's call and grace. We do this by becoming Christ to one another through our worship of God and practice of Christian stewardship with a special love for the poor.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Preschool	During 9:00 AM Mass	Ages 3 - Kindergarten
Sunday	4:00 – 5:30 PM	Grades 1 – 8
Monday	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Grades 7 & 8 (REfuel Night of Light)
Monday	7:00 – 9:00 PM	EDGE All 7 th & 8 th Grade students welcome
Wednesday	6:00 – 7:30 PM	Grades 1 – 6

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Religious Education Office: 260-489-3537 ext. 204

Debbie Blackburn - Director of Religious Education (DRE) (260) 489-3537 ext. 204
debbieblackburn@saintv.org

Laurie Ciocca – Office Assistant, (260) 489-3537 ext. 235 - laurieciocca@saintv.org

Joanne Scully – Office Assistant (during the hours of Religious Ed) – (260) 489-3537 ext. 235

Lindsay Klinker – Junior High Youth Minister – Edge Program – (260) 489-3537 ext. 230

Mary Jo Parrish – REfuel Coordinator – maryjoparrish@saintv.org

Shannon Linder – Coordinator of RCIA for Children – shannonlinder@saintv.org

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Registration for Religious Education classes can be done online at saintv.org/RERegistration, saintv.org/REPreschoolregistration, or saintv.org/REfuelregistration for the new REfuel program. Registration can also be done in the Religious Education Office, or by requesting a registration form from laurieciocca@saintv.org. A form will then be emailed to you.

New families will need to submit a certificate of baptism to the Religious Ed Office for each child registered.

RCIA for Children – The Rite of Christian Initiation for Children and Teens is a process of initiation into the Catholic Church for children over the age of seven, not baptized as infants, or baptized in another denomination, or baptized but not catechized in the Catholic Church. If you, or someone you know, would like more information about this program please contact shannonlinder@saintv.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM and Preschool FEES:

One child parish member	\$ 60.00
One child non-member	\$ 85.00
Two children parish member	\$105.00
Two children non-member	\$155.00
Three or more children parish member	\$140.00
Three or more children non-member	\$190.00
Lost book fee	\$ 20.00
Confirmation Retreat Fee	\$ 15.00
Theology of the Body Retreat Fee	\$ 15.00



No one will be denied religious education for financial hardship reasons. Payment arrangements can be made through the Religious Education Office.

ARRIVAL

It is important that students arrive on time for Religious Education class. Please do not drop students off any earlier than 10 minutes prior to class start time. Please make sure your child is able to get into the building before you leave (See “Parking Lot Procedures”, p. 4). If the weather is questionable, please contact our office or website before dropping off your child (See “Class Cancellations”, p. 6).



PARKING LOT PROCEDURE

DROP OFF:

- **Parents of children in Grade 1 through 4** are asked to park in the parking lot near door #9 and enter there, taking their child to his/her classroom.
- **Children in Grades 5 – 8 may follow the procedure below (older siblings may accompany younger students to the classroom).**
 - Drop off at door #9
 - Pull forward to the STOP sign. Other cars follow closely behind allowing children in the next seven or eight cars to be dropped off at one time.
 - All children should exit cars on the passenger side and proceed into the building.
 - Once those eight cars have dropped off, they can pull away and the next several cars are to pull forward and drop off. (Having one or two cars drop off at a time is most inefficient, so please be considerate).
 - To ensure the safety of our children, door #9 will be locked shortly after the start of RE.



PICK-UP:

- Please be prompt.
- Try to park in the same area each week.
- Back into your space so that you can pull forward at dismissal.
- **Please do not park or form a line in front of the playground, RE Office and sidewalk.** This blocks traffic and cars cannot get in or out. All cars should be parked in a parking space!!!
- **Please do not park in the first four parking spaces near the playground.** Keeping these spaces open will allow an additional traffic lane for times when cars are blocking the drive in front of the RE Office.
- Children in Grades 1 – 4 must be picked up at the classroom by a parent or older sibling
- Children in Grades 5 – 8 may be dismissed to go to the car on their own.
- Children are to leave ONLY by door 9. **DO NOT PICK YOUR CHILD UP IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL!!!!!!**



Thank you for cooperating. These policies are for the safety of the children. Please be patient and reasonable in the parking lot!

EARLY PICK-UP

On occasion, your child may need to leave early. Please send a note with them. When you arrive, stop in the office and we will call the classroom to have your child sent down.

ATTENDANCE

You have asked us to help you with the religious education of your child. Their attendance is of utmost importance for their ability to grasp this very important material. When a student is going to miss a class, the parent should contact the Religious Education Office. If you know of the absence in advance, please send a note with them prior to the week they will miss. If the child is ill or it is a last minute absence, call the office at 260-489-3537 ext. 204 before class begins letting us know that the child will be absent and why will help us to keep them up to date with the rest of their class. If too many absences occur (more than seven in a non-sacrament year and five during a sacrament year), it may mean that your child will have to repeat the year in order to get a full understanding of the material. (This does not apply to preschool.) We will take into consideration the reasons for the absences and what has been done to catch up with missed lessons.

If your child misses a class, it is possible to make up the lessons at home using the at home lesson planes on the Alive in Christ website at http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/family/in_the_home/grade_1/187. Please see the at home lesson plan instructions included in the parent packet with this handbook. You will need to find out from the catechist the chapter that was covered on the evening of the absence, and the textbook will be needed in order to complete the lesson at home.

SACRAMENT ATTENDANCE (see also “Sacrament Programs” p.13)



First Communion and Confirmation students are expected to be at every class. Contact the Religious Education Office if there is a situation which prevents the student from attending class. **PARENTS MAY BE ASKED TO POSTPONE SACRAMENT PREPARATION WHEN THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE ABSENCES.** If a child misses a class for whatever reason, he/she is expected to make up the work (except for preschool).

It is especially important for students preparing for Confirmation to be present when Bishop Rhoades' Confirmation curriculum is taught. For those students attending the Sunday RE program, all absences cannot take place during the second semester (February – March) when this curriculum is taught. For those students in the REfuel program, all absences may not occur during the sessions with mentors.

ATTENDANCE and Sports and Dance (or other) Schedules

Responsible attendance—on time and prepared to participate—is of utmost importance for your child's ability to grasp the material. We accommodate parents' schedules by offering two class days and times. In the event that there is a conflict with a sport, dance, or other schedule for a number of weeks, parents may enroll their child in the alternate RE night during that time. If the conflict is a one-time conflict, we ask that you do not attend RE on a night for which you are not enrolled. In these instances, parents are asked to make up work at home with their child.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS

If Religious Ed is cancelled for inclement weather, an email notification will be sent to all families. Families can also check our website at <https://www.saintv.org/35>. Cancellation information will be posted on the website by 3:00 PM on Sunday and by 5:00 PM on Monday and Wednesday. You may also tune in to TV channels 33, 15, 21, or WOWO 1190 Radio, or call 260-489-3537 ext. 204. There will be a recorded message on the Religious Ed answering machine. *In the event we have not cancelled classes and you feel the roads are not safe, please keep your child home.* (Please call the Religious Education Office and let us know if you choose to stay home.)

COMMUNICATION

We are here to serve the Religious Education needs of our children, youth, and adults. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to share them with your child's catechist or call the Religious Ed Office at 260-489-3537 ext. 204. Electronic communication will be sent to your home through your email address. This mail will keep you up-to-date on all Religious Education happenings. If you have an email address, please make sure it is up-to-date in the RE records.

HOME ASSIGNMENTS/ CHILD'S FOLDER

Students in Grades 1-8 may be given brief home assignments each week. Please check your child's folder regularly for homework or notes from their teacher. Parents are asked to discuss class-covered material and help children re-iterate what took place during class. The lessons each week will be outlined in the "Family Take Home Page" which should be sent home in your child's folder.

DISCIPLINE

Please go over the discipline policy with your child. If their behavior disrupts the learning process for him or others, the steps listed below will be followed to ensure that class participation may continue.

1. When a student is sent to the office for breaking a rule or for any other conduct unbecoming a Christian student, the person on staff will speak to the student and retain the student for at least 10 minutes during class time in the office.
2. If the student is sent to the office a second time for breaking one of the rules, a parent will be notified.
3. If the student is sent to the office a third time for breaking one of the rules, a parent will be asked to come in for a conference with the DRE and/or Catechist.
4. If the student is sent to the office a fourth time for breaking one of the rules, measures will be taken which were decided upon by the DRE, catechist, and parent per their previous discussion.

If a child is threatened by another student, or threatens others, or brings weapons to class, the catechist will call down to the office immediately. Authorities may be called, depending on the circumstances.

Any child who displays disruptive behaviors that are deemed detrimental to the classroom or school environment or who cause safety concerns will be transferred to homeschool learning immediately without the benefit of the four steps outlined above.

CELL PHONES, TEXTING

No messaging or use of electronic devices is allowed in class.

MEDICATION

The Religious Education Office will not dispense any medication without the parent's written permission and a signed note by the child's doctor. Contact the Religious Ed Office for the appropriate forms and procedures.

Students may not have medication in their possession during religious education classes *except* for metered dose asthma inhalers, epinephrine auto-injector (epi-pen) or epinephrine inhaler. If your child needs to carry an asthma inhaler or epi-pen, please contact the Religious Education Office prior to the beginning of classes. Written approval from their physician and a parent is required for the student to possess and use these devices. We will also need to have a written emergency care plan.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND TESTS

Students may be tested periodically. Test scores along with the Catechists observation of classroom participation will be used to assess the students' understanding of the material being presented. A student that does not grasp the material may be retained at the same grade for the following year. (Typically this will only happen if the student misses too many classes and does not make an effort to make up the missed assignments.)

RECONCILIATION

Students are provided the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. (These may be rescheduled or cancelled due to weather.) Please refer to the RE calendar for the dates of the Reconciliation Services.

SPECIAL NEEDS

"All baptized persons with disabilities have a right to adequate catechesis and deserve the means to develop a relationship with God." (National Directory for Catechesis) This statement includes all learning disabilities.

If there is any information you can provide to help us better work with your child, please call the Religious Education Office. Together we can create a plan for their faith formation including their strengths, difficulties and any accommodations that they may need.



VISITORS

All visitors must check in with the office upon entering the building. Parents and guardians are always welcome to attend a class. Most catechists would like to have prior notification.

We do not allow friends of students to attend the student's class with the exception of our Edge and REfuel program.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our program is only possible through the help of many volunteers. Here are the areas for you to consider helping out:

- Catechists (teachers): Introduce students to Jesus and our wonderful Catholic Tradition by allowing them to witness your love for Christ and the teachings of the Church.
- Substitute Catechist: lesson plans will be provided
- Catechist Assistant: Help the primary catechist
- Parking Lot Supervision: Direct traffic in the parking lot at the beginning and end of RE.
- Door Greeters: Offer assistance to those who come into the building.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please contact the Religious Education Office.

Please be aware that all volunteers who have contact with children must:

- Submit to a Criminal History Background Check before beginning their volunteer assignment
- Adhere to the practices stated in the Volunteer Policy Manual
- Complete all documents necessary for the safe environment screening process.

CLASSROOM RULES

- Please make every effort to be in class on time.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for making up missed work.
- No candy, gum or drinks are to be brought to class. Hats are NOT worn in the building.
- Proper manners and Christian behavior are expected at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be allowed. There will be no improper language or comments.
- Students will not talk when the catechist is talking.
- Students will respect the property of others. Students will treat each other with respect.
- Good grooming is encouraged but should not be done in class.
- No toys or other items of entertainment are to be brought to class without permission of the catechist. Additionally, use of cell phone, texting or other forms of communication is not allowed during class time. If they are, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of class.
- If a child must leave a class early, the parent or guardian must send in a note with the child at the beginning of class. The adult must come to the office. We will then call the child to come to the office. This is a safety precaution implemented to protect your child and us.
- There will be no use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs. No weapons will be allowed on the premises.

CHILD ABUSE

It is the policy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend that all employees and volunteers, report all forms of abuse (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, emotional, etc.) against any minor, even if the person is no longer a minor, perpetrated by any person. If a child discloses any information that leads us to believe the child is unsafe, we will report it to the proper authorities.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

The Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend also requires that any employee or volunteer who may have contact with children must submit to a Criminal History Background Check before beginning their volunteer assignment and also must complete safe environment training. Additionally, the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend requires that children and young people receive safe environment education through grade/age-appropriate lessons taught by the DRE or the catechist. The lessons teach them to recognize God's love by helping them understand their own (and other's) dignity in mind, body and spirit. Please see the safe environment memorandum included in the parent packet. Specific details for each grade level are outlined. If you do not want your child to participate in the safe environment lessons, please contact the RE Office.



FAITH FORMATION

RE SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND NEW THIS YEAR

Grades 4, 5 & 6 – As a pilot program this year we are experimenting with a non-classroom model during Wednesday evening RE once per month. The pilot program will be called “pREfuel” in preparation for our students to enter the REfuel sacramental preparation program in 7th & 8th Grade. These nights will take place in the Life Center or Parish Hall. Students will experience interactive music, games, faith videos, teachings on the faith, and small group discussions lead by adults and high school student mentors. We hope this new format will light a spark in the souls of our children helping them become excited about Jesus and the faith we share as a community.

6th Grade Merge – Also new to RE this year is the Merge program. Merge will take place three times during the first semester and three times during the second semester on Wednesday nights in the Life Center (typically) from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Students from the Sunday classes are encouraged to attend. The format for our Merge nights models our Edge program. The nights begin with a song, scripture, prayer, and possibly a skit; followed by games, a teaching on the faith, and ending in small group discussions. This format allows friendships to be formed and a place where Jesus can be discussed and experienced. This is crucial in leading our children to a strong relationship with their creator.

REfuel Program – We strongly encourage all 7th & 8th Grade RE students to enroll in our new REfuel program. This program allows Religious Ed students to participate in the Edge youth ministry program three Monday nights per month and students and parents attend together a “Night of Light” one Monday night per month. At the Nights of Light priests from our parish or religion teachers from around the diocese teach topics of the faith. The nights also include food, music, and more. This program was a huge success last year. The good fruit produced was overwhelming and undeniable. It is worth the investment of your time.



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Preschool Ages 3 – Kindergarten will use the Our Sunday Visitor Allelu! early childhood program . Allelu! incorporates hands-on activities, arts, crafts, music, stories, pictures, and dramatic play to keep the children engaged and learn in the way that is most natural for them.

Grades 1-8 will use Our Sunday Visitors “Alive in Christ” texts. This program utilizes a spiral learning method. Each year students grow in their knowledge and understanding of the four pillars (Creed, Sacraments, Morality and Christian Prayer) of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* because the timeless truths of our faith are taught every year at every grade level. Alive in Christ has a useful website with helpful material for your child’s grade, games for students, and information for parents. Please check it out at <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/family>.

We are using a consumable textbook, which means the students can write in them and keep them at the end of the year. The book is the property of the student and he/she is responsible for it. Typically the student will leave his/her book at Religious Ed each week. If you have lost your book, please contact the Religious Education Office immediately. A \$20 replacement fee will be charged and you will be given a new book.

Grade 1

The first grade child will learn to know God as the giver of gifts, especially the gift of life. Lessons focus on our loving Jesus, the Christian community, our families and friends. The first grader discovers the beauties of God’s world. Each student learns to listen to God by listening to others, and shares experiences of belonging to God’s family. Each will show how he/she is a friend of Jesus and a child of God.

The first-grader will learn THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, THE OUR FATHER, THE HAIL MARY AND THE GLORY BE.

Grade 2

The second grade child will learn to celebrate the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The importance of the Mass is stressed throughout the year. The two principal parts of the Mass, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, will be explained. Each student should grow in his/her desire to receive Jesus and will verbalize this desire during the Eucharist preparation year.

The second grader will also be instructed on making their First Confession. Please refer to the RE calendar for the First Reconciliation dates.

Prior to First Communion, 2nd Grade students will participate in the First Communion Retreat which is held in the spring on a Saturday morning in St. Vincent de Paul School. Please see the RE calendar for the date of this retreat.

Additional prayers to be learned include GRACE BEFORE MEALS, THE ACT OF CONTRITION, AND THE GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER.

Grade 3

Each third-grader will become more aware of his/her membership in the Catholic Church, as each learns how God the Holy Spirit is present, helping in prayer and sharing the Good News of Jesus with others in the Christian community. The third grader will study how the 12 Apostles were called and how they followed Christ. In addition to prayers learned previously, the third grade child will learn THE MARKS (CHARACTERISTICS) OF THE CHURCH—One, holy, catholic and apostolic.

Grade 4

The fourth grade person will learn about the formation of his/her own Christian conscience, so as to grow in moral awareness. The child is taught to examine his/her life and actions in light of Jesus' example. Bible stories are used to present examples of the effects of sin, to understand the difference between accident, mistake and sin, and how important it is to choose God's way. Through learning concepts of God's forgiveness, the fourth grader is prepared to receive and offer forgiveness as part of daily living.

The fourth grade will also participate in the "Hall of Saints Museum" which is held around the time of All Saints Day in November. Students will choose and research a saint which they will portray in the "Hall of Saints Museum". Students in the other grades will tour the museum and will have the opportunity to ask questions of our 4th Grade saints. Students participating in the museum will dress in costume and are expected to know the facts and life of their saint in order to answer the questions presented by students touring the museum. Parents are welcome to attend!

Grade 4 will also participate in a retreat in the Spiritual Center during the hours of RE. Please see the calendar for the date of the retreat.

Prayers to be learned include THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Grade 5

Each fifth grader will learn a deeper meaning of what it means to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church, especially through appreciating the Seven Sacraments. He/she will differentiate among the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Service. The student will explore signs of love and new life, reflect on sorrow and forgiveness, recall people who serve the Church, and tell why we should work toward Christian unity.

Each fifth grade child will be able to recite and explain the SEVEN SACRAMENTS, and to recite THE APOSTLE'S CREED.

Grade 6

The Grade 6 student will discover the concepts of faith, trust, freedom, and justice displayed in the Old Testament through the stories of our ancestors in Faith (Abraham, Moses, and David); and the lives of Jeremiah and other prophets. Each sixth grader will study the covenant made by God and His people throughout salvation history, will imagine himself/herself as a modern-day prophet and explore trusting in God and living justly.

During the second semester the 6th Grade students, will be introduced to the Youth Ministry program Edge by participating in one to two Edge nights during the hours of RE.

Each sixth grade person will be able to LOOK UP A CHAPTER AND VERSE IN THE BIBLE AND RELATE A STORY FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Grade 6 Bibles – Students entering Grade 6 will receive a Bible which they will take home with them each week. They may write and highlight in their Bible. Students are expected to bring the Bible to class each week and will keep the same Bible through the 8th Grade. If students lose the Bible, the replacement fee will be \$7.00.

Grade 7

The theme of seventh grade is Morality. Each student will study the life, values and teachings of Jesus in the light of moral living. Each will learn about trust, caring, handling temptations, and making decisions as Jesus did.

Retreats and guest speakers will round out the year.

Each will learn THE SEVEN VIRTUES AND DISCUSS TWO OF THEM.

Students in Grade 7 are required to receive Theology of the Body education which is done in retreat format using The Theology of the Body Middle School Addition published by Ascension Press. Please check the RE calendar for the date of this retreat. It is required prior to Confirmation in the 8th Grade. If a student is unable to attend during the 7th Grade year, he/she may attend the retreat in the 8th Grade year. Only one Theology of the Body Retreat is offered per school year. Matthew Kelly's Decision Point program will also be used to enhance the 7th Grade curriculum. All Decision Point material and videos can be viewed at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/program-view/>.

Grade 8 Confirmation

Grade 8 – In addition to using the Alive in Christ curriculum, the YouCat (Youth Catechism) will also be used as a resource, as well as the Confirmation curriculum written by Bishop Rhoades for the students in the Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese.

The eighth grade student will study in-depth the Sacrament of Confirmation and the meaning of signs and symbols as expressed through ritual. Through preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, each eighth-grader will explore how to live out and renew baptism promises, while deciding how to be open to the Holy Spirit. Grade 8 students will volunteer their time by participating in 15 hours of community service. Service packets will be received at the parent meeting in October. Retreats, guest speakers and other activities will round out the year.

Each Grade 8 student will learn THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

ALL FAMILIES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND MASS EACH WEEK. ALSO, STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN CLASS EACH WEEK. IF THERE IS A SPORTS CONFLICT, THAT STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE-UP THAT LESSON AT HOME.

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST COMMUNION

It is strongly encouraged that parents register their children for religious education classes beginning with Grade 1, and continuing on through Grade 8, and be present for classes each year, unless a serious reason prevents them from doing so. (An example of a serious reason would be chronic or acute illness.) Our program offers two separate days of classes to accommodate busy schedules.

Children who have completed first grade religious education will be catechized for the celebration and reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist upon entering the second grade. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is received in second grade prior to the reception of First Eucharist. Families who have not completed Grade 1 classes, here or at another parish, will be expected to complete the Grade 1 curriculum before entering the sacrament program. Grade 1 lessons are an essential introduction to the Grade 2 curriculum and each grade builds upon the previous grade's curriculum.

Age appropriate instruction is provided to lead children to an understanding of the Church's teachings about the mystery of Christ's presence in the Eucharist. This includes classroom instruction, retreats and parental involvement. The Pastor determines whether a child is sufficiently prepared and has the right intention for the reception of First Eucharist based on information given from the catechist and the Religious Education staff. The parish also offers instruction to parents who have children preparing for the reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The parent meeting assists you in fulfilling your primary role for nurturing the faith of your child. It is very important that you attend. Please refer to the RE calendar for the dates of this meeting.

Verification of the child's baptism must be received prior to receiving First Reconciliation. If your child was baptized in a Christian denomination other than Catholic, they must make a profession of faith prior to receiving First Eucharist.

CONFIRMATION

Upon entering the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, after completing the Grade 7 curriculum, youth are expected to have completed the following:

1. Reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist.
2. Religious education through eighth grade
3. To be a registered member of St. Vincent de Paul
4. If a parent from another parish is registering their child for Confirmation here at St. Vincent's (due to a scheduling conflict or other serious reason), a letter from the Director of Religious Education of the other parish is to be sent, stating that the student has been in the Religious Education program at that parish, in good standing. This letter must be presented to our office before registering for Confirmation classes here.

Youth entering the Confirmation Program will be expected to:

1. Attend weekly Mass.
2. Attend ALL scheduled preparation programs, including retreats.
3. Write a letter to the Pastor requesting confirmation.
4. Participate in 15 hours of community service.
5. Have completed Theology of the Body education

The Pastor will determine whether the student is sufficiently prepared and has the right intention for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation based on information given from the catechist and the Religious Education staff.

PARENT'S ROLE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

“Parents are the first and foremost catechist of their children. They catechize informally but powerfully by example and instructions. They communicate values and attitudes by showing love for Christ and his Church and for each other, by reverently receiving the Eucharist and living in its spirit, by fostering justice and love in all their relationships. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others and their practice of frequent prayer, all make meaningful their profession of belief. Parents nurture faith in their children by showing them the richness and beauty of lived faith.”(Sharing the Light of Faith—National catechetical Directory for the United States)



You must be your child's primary example in matters of faith. Church authorities have helped us by developing positive laws called **Precepts of the Church** (listed below) to ensure our growth in our love of God and neighbor. We are obliged as Catholics to meet these minimum requirements of our faith (CCC 2041-2043.) As parents, we need to pass these precepts on to our children. This can make a big difference in their spiritual journey.

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from those works and activities, which would keep us from going to Mass on these days.
2. Confess our sins at least once a year.
3. Receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season. (If you have committed any mortal sins you should not receive Holy Communion until you go to confession.)
4. Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. Provide for the needs of the Church according to your ability.

Prayer is also a tremendous gift from God that will aid our children's spiritual journey. God hears and answers our prayers. When we are faced with difficult decisions we often pray the prayers we memorized as children. We need to pass on these traditional prayers so our children have them to fall back on as well. At the end of this handbook there is a list of prayers that students should know at each grade level. **Parents are responsible for helping their children memorize these prayers.** Catechists will periodically test the children on their prayers. Please work with them on memorizing their prayers.

Prayers

First Grade: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be

Second Grade: All prayers above PLUS Grace Before Meals, Act of Contrition and Guardian Angel Prayer

Third Grade: All prayers above PLUS Marks of the Church

Fourth Grade: All prayers above PLUS Ten Commandments

Fifth Grade: All prayers above PLUS the Seven Sacraments

Sixth Grade: All prayers above PLUS The Apostle's Creed and recite a story from the Old Testament and the New Testament

Seventh Grade: All prayers above plus The Seven Virtues

Eighth Grade: All prayers above PLUS The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and choose one of the following: Name the Four Marks and discuss, recite the Ten Commandments, name the Seven Sacraments and discuss one, recite a Bible Story, or Name the Virtues and discuss two (one moral and one theological).

Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Our Father: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



Glory Be: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Grace before Meals: Bless us, O Lord, and these, your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your goodness, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Act of Contrition:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen



Guardian Angel Prayer: Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard and rule and guide. Amen.

Morning Prayer: Dear God, as I begin this day keep me in Your love and care. Help me to live as Your child today. Bless me, my family, and my friends in all we do. Keep us all close to You. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Amen.

The Ten Commandments

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.
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 neighbors goods.



The Seven Sacraments: baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, reconciliation, matrimony, holy orders, anointing of the sick



The Virtues

Definition: Virtues are spiritual powers or habits or behaviors. They help us to do what is right and avoid what is wrong.

The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, Charity



The Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

