

St. Anthony Parish

Religious Education

Handbook

*“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?
Parents: We do.”*

“Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He (she) is to walk always as a child of the light. May he (she) keep the flame of faith alive in his (her) heart. When the Lord comes, may he (she) go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.”

Objectives

- † to support and offer continuing education for our catechists;
 - † to encourage more parental involvement;
 - † provide a quality religious education experience for each student; and
 - † foster a deeper relationship with God through prayer, Mass attendance, living a life of virtue, and ongoing formation.
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Policies

Policies in this handbook are guidelines and are subject to amendment. All specific situations will be dealt with individually.

Attendance: Regular attendance at religious education class is essential. Please call and inform the R.E. Coordinator if your child will be absent from class. An absence will be completely excused if make-up work is completed and handed in to the coordinator. We will call a parent/guardian if a registered, regularly attending student does not show up to class and no one called to let us know.

Mass Attendance: St. Anthony Religious Education Department fully encourages and supports the Church's teaching on weekend Mass attendance:

We do well to recall... that it is first of all the parents who must teach their children to participate in Sunday Mass; they are assisted in this by catechists, who are to see to it that initiation into the Mass is made a part of the formation imparted to the children entrusted to their care, explaining the important reasons behind the obligatory nature of the precept. (John Paul II. Apostolic Letter. *The Lord's Day (Dies Domini)* #36)

Envelopes are used to keep track of Mass attendance (and service hours). High School students will assess their growth in developing the habit of weekend Mass attendance each semester.

Class Cancellation: If Niagara Schools close due to inclement weather, classes will be cancelled for the evening. If there is a cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances, an announcement will be made through Niagara School, facebook, and e-mail. Every effort will be made to notify all students.

If Sunday classes are cancelled, we will make phone calls and send e-mails.

Discipline: Our catechists generously give of their time and energy to be here and should not be expected to tolerate disobedience or disrespect. If a student is disruptive in class or at Mass, the following disciplinary action will be taken:

1. The student will be sent to the office of the R.E. Coordinator.
2. A second trip to the office will result in a conference, including the student, his/her parent/guardian, the catechist and the coordinator/Pastor. The goal of the conference will be to adopt a plan to help the student achieve a positive outlook and attitude in and out of class.
3. If a third trip to the office is necessary, the parent/guardian will be phoned and asked to pick up their child immediately. To return to class, at least one parent/guardian must accompany the child and sit through class with him/her. This will continue until the catechist feels the student is ready to attend class unaccompanied.
4. Continued disruptive behavior will result in the student's removal from the class. Resources will be made available for the parent/guardian to offer a home study program.

**Note: Due to staffing limitations, St. Anthony is not responsible for your child(ren) after the designated end time of class.*

Grading: The grading policy is based on a pass/fail system. Students must be working to their capacity and fulfill all the requirements of class and Mass attendance and service hours. A minimum comprehension of the appropriate material should be demonstrated. Extra study may be done at home or in specifically arranged lessons at St. Anthony if this becomes a problem.

Stewardship Requirements: Elementary and Middle School students are required to complete service hours. The grade level determines the minimum hours of community service that are required *each semester*:

1st Grade – 1 hour each semester

2nd Grade – 2 hours each semester

3rd Grade – 3 hours each semester, and so on...

Stewardship Verification Forms are available or simply use the envelopes for Mass and write in the stewardship time each week. High School students may choose to turn in stewardship hours for their elective credits. The stewardship hours for High School students must be one of the approved activities (Mass ministry, community service, mission work, etc.)

Progress Reports: Progress reports will be available in December and April at the conclusion of each semester. Parents are asked to discuss it with their child. If a parent would like to meet with the catechist or coordinator to discuss their child's progress, please call the RE Office to schedule a conference.

Tuition: Although the actual cost per student is approximately \$200 annually, we are recommending a donation of \$30 for 1 child, \$50 for 2 children, \$60 for 3 or more. We do NOT turn any child away due to non-payment. All personal information will be held in the strictest confidence.

High School requirements: Our High School requirements begin with an understanding that all students are called to form a relationship with God. This is done through a regular habit of Mass attendance, living a life of virtue, prayer, forming authentic friendships, and continued formation.

Next, there are 16 credits that must be earned to complete the High School RE program: Six credits from the Didache Parish Semester Series; two credits for classes on the Kerygma and Discipleship; and eight credits are electives (including stewardship hours, Wednesday Mass, Youth events, Eucharistic Adoration, CD's from Lighthouse Catholic Media, approved DVD's, etc.)

All Sacramental Preparation classes are done outside the RE class time. Please fill out the appropriate application if you/your child desires to receive a Sacrament of Initiation.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

- † Attend Mass weekly with your child
- † Serve as an example to your child by becoming involved in the various ministries offered at church and in the RE program
- † Read and post the Religious Education calendar.
- † Ensure that your child arrives on time and is picked up promptly
- † Help your child memorize prayers and learn required course material
- † Discuss your child's progress report with him/her
- † Encourage/Participate with your child to complete the stewardship requirement each year
- † Take advantage of the adult catechesis offered at church

Student Expectations

- † Listen to and respect your catechists. Treat ALL others as YOU would like to be treated.
- † BE PREPARED. Complete your homework on time
- † Participate *respectfully* in classroom discussion.
- † Keep gum and electronics (cell phones, DS, iPods, etc.) out of the classroom and Mass. (*Food and drink in the classroom with permission.*)
- † Turn OFF ALL cell phones prior to Mass/Class. Keep them out of sight or leave them at home. Office phone is available for phone calls home, emergencies, etc.
- † **NO FOOD, CANDY, OR GUM AT MASS**

Class times:

PreK – 2nd grades meet on Sundays from 10:15 -11:30 a.m.

3rd – 12^h grades meet on Wednesdays from 6:10 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. *For the children's safety*; no child under 6th grade will be permitted to leave the building without a parent or other designated family member.

Wednesday Mass is from 5:30-6:00 p.m. and counts for an elective credit for our High School students.

See the religious education schedule for dates of all classes.

St Anthony RE Program

Philosophy

WE BELIEVE as a faith community, it is our lifelong task to form, inform, and transform ALL of Christ's followers to live out their baptismal promises and someday share in the joy of the Resurrection.

WE BELIEVE that parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children and we are here to assist them.

WE BELIEVE that the teachings of the Catholic faith need to be presented in a systematic manner in obedience to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Religious Education Personnel

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