

St. Anthony Parish

Religious Education

Handbook

“In asking for baptism for your child you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him (her) in the faith so that keeping God's commandments, he (she) may love the Lord and his (her) neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?

Parents: We do.”

“Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, so that your children, enlightened by Christ, may walk always as children of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court.”

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.

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 e-mail and phone calls for those who do not respond to email. Every effort will be made to notify all students.

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 initiate a call to the parent/guardian to schedule a conference with the RE Coordinator and/or priest 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. After the scheduled conference a mutually agreed upon plan will be implemented.
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.

Progress Reports: Progress reports will be available in May at the conclusion of the final 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 \$300 annually, we are recommending a donation of \$35 for 1 child, \$55 for 2 children, \$65 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.

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 elective credits (including stewardship hours, Youth events, Eucharistic Adoration, and approved CD's, streaming, DVD's, etc.

SCHOLARSHIP – only students who complete all the requirements of our High School Program are eligible for our St. Anthony Scholarship.

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
 - † Take advantage of the adult catechesis offered at church
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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. An office phone is available for phone calls to home, emergencies, etc.
- † **NO FOOD, CANDY, OR GUM AT MASS**

Class times:

PreK – 3rd grades meet on Sundays from 10:15 -11:30 a.m. We meet in the classrooms upstairs, where drop off and pick up occur. Please only drop off your child when someone from the RE department is present upstairs.

4th – 12th grades meet on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. beginning with weekday Mass (Please note: Weekday Masses do not fulfill the Sunday obligation for Mass attendance). Drop off and pick up are in the narthex (by bell).

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.

See the religious education schedule for dates of all classes.

St Anthony RE Program

Philosophy

*W*E 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.

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

*W*E 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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