

SS PETER & PAUL FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK

Amendments to Handbook: Statements in this handbook are subject to amendment with or without notice. The Religious Education/Faith Formation program will attempt to keep you informed of all changes as soon as possible. Some changes might be made immediately however due to unforeseen circumstances.



2017-2018

“STRIVING TO BUILD THE
KINGDOM OF GOD,
ONE CHILD AT A TIME!”



Fatima Prayer: *O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen.*

Glorious Mysteries (recited on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and the Sundays after Easter until Advent)

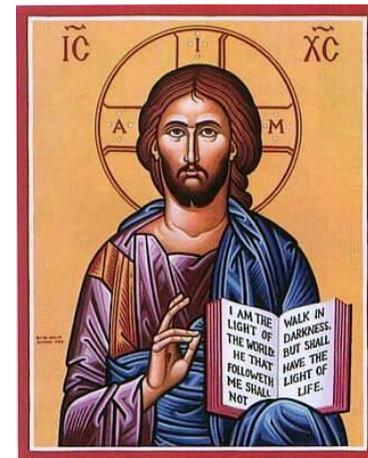
1. The Resurrection (Faith) – Jesus rises glorious and immortal, three days after His death. [Easter]
2. The Ascension (Hope) – Jesus ascends into heaven forty days after His Resurrection. [Ascension Thursday]
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles (Love) – The Holy Spirit descends upon Mary and the Apostles. [Pentecost]
4. The Assumption (Eternal Happiness) – The Blessed Mother is united with her divine Son in heaven. [August 15]
5. The Coronation (Marian Devotion) – Mary is gloriously crowned Queen of heaven and earth. [August 22]

Luminous Mysteries (recited on Thursdays)

1. The Baptism of Jesus (Openness to the Holy Spirit) - Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River .
2. The Wedding at Cana (To Jesus through Mary) - Jesus turns water into wine after Mary requests it.
3. Proclaiming the Kingdom (Repentance and trust in God) - Jesus preaches the gospel of the Kingdom of God.
4. The Transfiguration (Desire for Holiness) - Jesus reveals His glorified body to the apostles Peter, James and John .
5. The Institution of the Eucharist (Adoration) - Jesus celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist and instructs his apostles to do so also in remembrance of Him.

“When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.”

-Mark 6:34



Christ the Teacher

Christ *Our* Teacher

August, 2017

Dear parents,

Let the children come to me and do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these [Luke 18:16].



Once again it is time to follow our Lord's words and lead our children to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through our parish Religious Education process for those children who do not attend Catholic schools. When you presented your children to the Church to request the sacrament of Baptism for them, you committed yourselves to raising them in the Catholic Faith. That commitment takes place primarily in the home, for the Catholic Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith.

Parish religious education programs exist as an important supplement to the Christian life our children experience in their homes and families. [1] Teaching our children the doctrines of the Faith, [2] helping them understand what it is we do when we come to Mass on Sunday and when they are ready to receive the other sacraments of the Church, and [3] helping them be more concerned about serving others as Jesus taught us: these are the three pillars of a Catholic education, according to the American bishops' great 1972 letter *To Teach as Jesus Did*. Through this kind of Catholic education, and with the grace of God which is active in the lives of our children, we trust that the seed of faith given them in Baptism will flower into a wonderful relationship with Jesus. In such a relationship we begin heaven on earth, for the main experience of heaven is an intimate, loving relationship with our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This handbook is filled with important information regarding the Religious Education Program in our parish. Please keep it handy and refer to it often. Here you will find contact information, important dates, policies, curriculum and other helpful information.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. Although I will not have regular office hours at the Parish Center, I will be happy to meet with you at a time upon which we can agree.

Msgr Thomas Dzielak, Religious Education Director pro-tem
cell phone: 620-213-2832 ***
St. Mary's rectory phone: 815-827-3218

How to Pray the Rosary

The Rosary is a form of vocal and mental prayer on the Mysteries of Redemption, divided into 20 decades. The recitation is accompanied by meditations on one of the 20 events or "mysteries." The Mysteries consist of four groups listed below:

Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries (recited on Mondays and Saturdays, the Sundays of Advent, and the Sundays after Epiphany until Lent.)

1. The Annunciation (Humility) – The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary, announcing she is to be the Mother of God [March 25]
2. The Visitation (Charity) – Elizabeth greets Mary: "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." [May 31]
3. The Nativity (Poverty) – The Virgin Mary gives birth to the Redeemer of the world. [December 25]
4. The Presentation (Obedience) – The Blessed Mother and Joseph present the Child Jesus in the temple. [February 2]
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Piety) – The Blessed Mother and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. [Feast of the Holy Family]

Sorrowful Mysteries (recited Tuesdays, Fridays, and the Sundays in Lent)

1. The Agony in the Garden (Repentance) – At Gethsemane Jesus prays as He contemplates the sins of the world. [Holy Thursday]
2. The Scourging at the Pillar (Purity) – Jesus is cruelly scourged until His mortified body could bear no more. [Corpus Christi]
3. The Crowning with Thorns (Courage) – A crown of thorns is placed on the head of Jesus. [Christ the King]
4. The Carrying of the Cross (Patience) – Jesus carries the heavy cross upon His shoulders to Calvary. [September 14]
5. The Crucifixion (Self-renunciation) – Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies after three hours of agony. [Good Friday]

How to Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use Rosary beads

- 1.) *Holding the crucifix, make the sign of the cross*
 - 2.) *Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Apostles Creed*
 - 3.) *On the Large Bead before each decade: “ Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”*
 - 4.) *On each bead of the decade: “For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
 - 5.) *Conclude with: Holy God, Holy Might One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” (Three times)*
- “Jesus, I trust in you.” (Three times)*



Jesus, I trust in You

Stewardship – A Way of Life

A Steward is a disciple of Jesus who “receives God’s gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly with others and returns them with increase to the Lord.

(U..S. Bishops’ Pastoral Letter)



We are called as disciples of Jesus to share our time, talent, and treasure with the Church and other organizations or people in need. It is a way of living out our faith in our daily lives. Stewardship is a **choice** to live a Christ-centered life. It means realizing all we have and all that we are able to do are gifts from God, and that everything we choose to do with those gifts is, in a sense, our gift back to God in gratitude.

Fr. Perfecto is asking the parents of Faith Formation families to volunteer at least 20 hours per year. For some, this will not be a problem, but for others who work full time we realize this commitment may not be feasible. Therefore, we ask you all to keep an eagle eye open for times when we need help for the various events occurring this year in faith formation, especially our First Communion Family Meetings and Retreat, First Reconciliation activities and Youth Events.

What a great opportunity to teach our children the gift of stewardship by our own example. Stewardship will also be addressed in your child’s classroom on a regular basis. We hope to have envelopes available for each class to help with teaching our children to tithe, reminding them that God’s gifts to us are to be shared with our Church and Community.

Everyone knows how to share and care...it is a God-given gift!

STAFF OFFICE & DIRECTORY

Staff:

Fr. Perfecto L. Vasquez - Pastor

Msgr. Thomas Dzielak– Priest in residence

Religious Education Director pro-tem

Deacon Jim Newhouse- Deacon *jim.mary.newhouse@gmail.com*

Deanna Smith - Parish Secretary *ssppvirgil@aol.com*

Judy Yagen - Religious Education Liaison *hyjud@juno.com*

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Phone: 630-365-6618

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

Mass Times

Saturday (Anticipatory) 5:30 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

*(Youth Mass is celebrated the beginning of each month, according to the R.E. calendar or as announce, at the 9:30am Mass) **All are invited!***

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM

Adoration & Benediction

Wednesdays 8:30 - 9:30 AM
& 5:00-7:00PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 PM

Holy Days *As announced*

Apostles Creed (4th - 9th):

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; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there he will come again 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 Hail Holy Queen (6th - 9th):

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee to we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Memorare (8th - 9th):

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit (8th - 9th):

Come, Holy Spirit, fills the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your divine love.

V. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray: O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in Your consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Before Meals (K - 9th)

Bless us, O Lord, and these, Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Morning Offering (1 - 9th):

O my God, I offer You every thought and work and act of today. Please bless me, my God, and make me good today.

Guardian Angel Prayer (1 - 9th):

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

Act of Contrition - (2nd - 9th):

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.

Act of Faith (3rd - 9th):

O my God, I believe all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have made them known.

Act of Hope (3rd - 9th):

O my God, because You are all-powerful, merciful, and faithful to Your promises, I hope to be happy with You in heaven.

Act of Love (3rd - 9th):

O my God, because You are all-good, I love You with my whole heart and soul, and I love my neighbor as myself

St. Michael Prayer (4th - 9th):

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of soul. Amen

MISSION STATEMENT

The religious education program at SS. Peter and Paul Church seeks to enhance the Faith formation for all members of our faith community. We will present knowledge of our Catholic faith tradition while also encouraging Prayer, Fellowship and Service. We fulfill our baptismal promise to know and love God through our efforts to live the gospel message in service to our neighbor through our prayer and sacrament. We hope to instill an understanding and desire to participate in joyful worship of God at Holy Mass and prepare our parish children for the celebration of the sacraments that will lead them to develop lives of prayer; preparing them to form Christian morals; and ongoing yearning to follow Christ throughout their faith journey.

TO BUILD A FAITH COMMUNITY: We gather at Mass each Sunday and witness to Christ's Presence among us. We learn from the Scriptures and eat at the table reminding one another that:

Eucharist is at the Heart of Catholic Christian Life.

TO INSPIRE CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Through charitable activities and projects we use our individual gifts and talents and financial resources to share with others what God has given to us.

TO TEACH DOCTRINE: We pledge ourselves to share the basic truths of our Catholic Faith through instructions and example.

Through these goals we aspire to CONVERSION OF MIND AND HEART. We strive as members of the Catholic Community to become more dedicated and committed followers of Jesus.

PRAYERS

Class Time

Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:45 PM

All students in sacramental preparation classes (2nd grade for 1st Reconciliation & 1st Communion and 9th grade for Confirmation) **MUST** be catechized the year before receiving the above sacraments. Please provide us a letter from the parish in which your child was catechized if you are new to our parish.

Students in 8th grade may begin the discernment process for the Sacrament of Confirmation which is a 2 year program. Confirmation Formation Sessions, Retreats Day of Reflection and Service hours are implemented beginning in 8th grade.

Tuition:

One Child \$ 125

Two Children \$250

Three+ Children \$350

For what does my tuition pay? *It helps offset the cost of textbooks, activity books, catechist manuals and materials, staff salaries, catechist education, sacramental preparation, volunteer appreciation, family and special programs, curriculum development and general office operations. We also count on parents volunteering their time and talent to help keep the cost of tuition down. We have one of the lowest tuition programs in our Diocese.*

A consistent prayer life is essential to grow in a strong relationship with God. Regular prayer times are necessary for all of us to calm down and refocus our energies away from the world and to look toward God. It is especially important to start children early so that they form a habit of regular prayer.

The following pages are the most common Catholic prayers. We have assigned memorization of these prayers to certain grades levels in staying within the guidelines of the Diocese of Rockford. Teachers will spend some time in class reviewing the prayers with their students, however, the teachers cannot do it alone - Parents' help is vital. Please work with your child/children to help them memorize and understand the importance of these prayers.

Prayer is not limited to these rote prayers, but they do provide a starting place. Creating prayer time and space for family and individuals will be most beneficial as the child grows and matures in his/her faith.

The Sign of the Cross (K - 9th):

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

The Lord's Prayer (K - 9th):

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

The Hail Mary (K - 9th):

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

The Glory Be (K - 9th):

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.

Important Dates (Con't)

Apr. 8	Youth Mass 5-6 grade 9:30 AM
Apr. 11	R.E. Class
Apr. 14	First Communion Retreat 11:30 AM– 3:30 PM- Place TBA
Apr. 18	R.E. Class
Apr. 25	Last R.E. Class
Apr. 29	1st Communion 9:30 AM Mass
May 6	Rosary/May Crowning 9:00 AM

Times and dates are subject to change. Please check the weekly bulletin for important announcements.

Catechists/Aides

Kindergarten:	MRS. JULIETTE KERR/MR. DAN KLUG
2nd Grade:	MRS. LOIS MORTON
3rd Grade:	MRS. TRACIE KLUG /MRS. AMIE NYSTROM
4th Grade:	MRS. DEB REYNOLDS /MR. BRAD AUBERG
5th/6th Grade:	MRS. TERI AUBERG/MS. TAMMY LEXA
7th/8th Grade:	MR. JOE GANNON/MRS. MARY ANDERSON

Family Role as Support Staff

Parents together with their children are expected to participate in the Catholic Community of SS Peter & Paul by joining in the celebration of the Mass and partaking in the Sacraments. Parents need to give visible signs of their faith through prayer, worship and sacramental celebrations. Daily prayer and good example will reinforce the journey in this faith life. It is important that parents make faith formation a priority so as to enrich our children's lives with our Catholic values and traditions. Faith Formation must begin with regular attendance at the Sunday Liturgy, thus providing a sound basis for faith formation classes. Your children are with you only a few years and attend faith formation only one hour and fifteen minutes per week. What do you want them to remember about their religious experience? At baptism, as parents, you were named the primary educator of your child.

The Faith Formation Catechist is merely an aide to the parent's role in this process. Be familiar with the materials your children are using and feel free to consult the CRE/Liaison or our Pastor with questions or concerns. We use **Ignatius Press - Faith and Life Series**. And by all means, please take the time to discuss, share, and build a faith relationship with your child.

Appropriate Attire: Students wearing clothes with imprints, symbols, or names of supporters of death, drug, violence, or sex, as well as clothing that is immodest in nature, will be kept from class until a parent can provide a change of attire. No hats, "short-shorts", mini-skirts, midriffs, or skinny strap tank-tops. If in doubt, always err on the side of conservative.

Cell Phones, I Pods and other Electronic Devices:

THESE ITEMS ARE NOT TO BE USED DURING

CLASS OR OPEN THE WORD. They are disruptive and disrespectful to the Catechists, Aides, and other students. Therefore a strict “*No Electronics*” policy will be issued. Students who use such



devices will have the item taken away and given back at the end of class. If it should occur a second time, the device will be taken away and a parent must come into the CRE’s Office to pick it up.

Bullying: *Under no circumstances will bullying be tolerated in class, Church, or within parish parking lot/grounds!* Should such an instance occur, the child doing the bullying will be sent to the CRE/Liaison’s office and the parent will be called immediately. The student must also make amends by apologizing and the parent will need to attend class with their child for at least 2 classes.



VISITORS: Although our Faith Program permits an “*Open Door Policy,*” all visitors are asked to sign in at the RE Office and inform our Hall Monitor of their presence. Parents are most welcome to attend any class session or catechist’s meeting. Interviews/ Meetings with the Catechists MUST be arranged in advance through the CRE/Liaison.



Dec. 3	Youth Mass 3-4 grade 9:30 AM
Dec. 6	R.E. Class
Dec. 13	R. E. Class-Reconciliation 3-8 grade in Parish Hall
Dec. 20	R.E. Class
Dec. 27-Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Jan.10	R.E. Classes Resume
Jan. 17	R.E. Class
Jan. 21	Catechist Meeting-11:-00 AM; SSPP
Jan. 24	R.E. Class
Jan. 31	R.E. Class
Feb. 4	Youth Mass 1-2 grade 9:30 AM
Feb. 7	R.E. Class; Tornado Drill
Feb. 9	CHILI/BINGO- SSPP Parish Hall
Feb. 10	Reconciliation 10:30 am –St. Mary, Maple Park
Feb. 14	R.E. Class; Ashes Distribution 7:00 PM Church
Feb. 21	R.E. Class; Stations of the Cross/Mass 6:45-8 PM Church
Feb. 28	R.E. Class; Stations of the Cross/Mass 6:45-8 PM Church
Mar. 4	Youth Mass 7-8 grade 9:30 AM
Mar. 7	R.E. Class; Stations of the Cross/Mass 6:45-8 PM Church
Mar. 14	R.E. Class-Reconciliation 3-8 grade; Stations of the Cross/Mass 6:45-8 PM Church
Mar. 21	R.E. Class; Stations of the Cross/Mass 6:45-8 PM Church
Mar. 28	Holy Week -NO CLASS
Apr. 4	R.E. Class

Important Dates

Sept. 10	Parish Mass for Welcome & Opening of R.E. Classes 9:30am
Sept. 11	Confirmation Mass at SSPP Church 5:30 PM
Sept. 13	First Day of Religious Education Classes 5:30-6:45 PM Parent Meeting 5:30 PM SSPP Parish Hall
Sept. 17	Catechetical Sunday 9:30 AM Mass
Sept. 20	R. E. Class-Fire Drill
Oct. 1	Youth Mass 7 & 8 grade 9:30 AM
Oct. 4	R.E. Class
Oct. 11	R. E. Class
Oct. 15	Second grade Sacrament Meeting at St. Mary 11:00 AM
Oct. 18	R.E. Class
Oct. 22	Confirmation Sponsor Meeting 11:00 AM-SSPP
Oct. 25	R.E. Class; Chastity Instruction
Oct. 29	Pancake Breakfast 7:00-11:00 AM Youth Summit Grade 8-9 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Nov. 1	R.E. Class; ALL SAINTS DAY MASS & Parade 7:00 PM
Nov. 5	Youth Mass 5-6 grade 9:30 AM
Nov. 8	R.E. Class; Safe Environment Instruction
Nov. 15	R.E. Class
Nov. 22	No R.E. Class
Nov. 29	R.E. Class
Nov.	1st Reconciliation for second grade- TBA

Communication

Communication between the parish and family is the backbone of a successful program. Parents are asked to keep the CRE/Liaison informed of any special problems or needs in your family as they pertain to your child's involvement in our programs.

Children's folders, mailings, parish website, mass emails, and the parish bulletin will keep you informed of any changes to our calendar including information regarding inclement weather or emergency closings. Please take the time to read any and all material sent to your attention.

Website: <http://www.ssppvirgil.org>

Liaison of R.E email: hjud@juno.com

Attendance and Absentecism

Since occasional absences affect a student's progress, we expect cooperation in keeping instances to a minimum as well as doing make up assignments. Scheduling of the year coincides with the public school year as much as possible. We have many students who attend from several school districts which can create scheduling problems.

Please notify our Faith Formation Office prior to the beginning of class when a child is ill or if there is an emergency. Parents of children who miss two consecutive classes without notifications, or are habitually late will be contacted by the CRE/Liaison.

Absent students **WILL BE REQUIRED** to complete assignments missed during their absences. Absences due to a sport activity also are expected to do make-up sessions. **Any student missing 5 classes will constitute a meeting with the CRE/Liaison and Pastor.** Reminder: If your child is not able to attend class, simply call the Parish Office explaining the situation and they will be marked as **EXCUSED** but will be expected to complete assignments (*please do not take advantage of this courtesy.*) After 5 excuses you will be asked to meet with the CRE and or Pastor as stated above.

Arrival and Departure

Parents are required to pick up their children at the classroom from Kindergarten through Second (2nd) Grades. Arrangements for alternate adult pickup **MUST BE GIVEN TO THE CATECHIST IN WRITING.**

Dramatic Changes in the Family: If your child experiences any traumatic changes, such as the death of a loved one, divorce, family illness, etc., please notify the CRE/Liaison so that our Catechists can be informed and be sensitive to the child's needs and the situation.

Property: It is the responsibility of the child and parents to replace or repair any damage that occurs to property such as defacing of furniture, bulletin boards, books, walls, etc...

Discipline: For each class, the Catechists and Students will set the ground rules. Some basic ground rules are:

- ❖ to be attentive and respectful in class and to treat other students/ Catechists likewise
- ❖ to assist in keeping the classroom in order showing respect for others and their property or possessions

Inappropriate behavior will be handled in the following manner:

1. If after correction by the Catechist, a student does NOT cooperate, he/she will be led to the Office to speak with the CRE or Pastor.
2. A second infraction will warrant another visit to the office and the student will need to call his/her parents to be picked up immediately..
3. The student **MUST** attend the next class **WITH A PARENT IN ATTENDANCE.**

Parents should inform the Office of any special needs a student may be experiencing. Often, a simple awareness or sensitivity to special needs or situations is all that is needed.

Confirmation - *This sacrament will be celebrated in 9th grade and is a two year program.* Those students entering 8th grade may discern for Confirmation. All students **MUST** be faithful in their Mass attendance and must have attended at least one full year of religious education prior to entering a sacramental preparation program.

- ➔ **1st Year: Attend at least one retreat and participate in 8 service hours.**
- ➔ **2nd Year: Maximum of 8 service hours will be required; attend at least one retreat and the Confirmation Retreat.**

Holy Days of Obligation

Holy Days of Obligation are special feasts on which we as Catholics are **SERIOUSLY OBLIGED**, as on Sundays, to attend Mass and to avoid unnecessary work. When a Holy Day falls on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation to attend is generally commuted to Sunday; however it is a good practice to attend Mass nonetheless.

January 1 Mary, Mother of God

August 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 1 All Saints

December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

December 25 Christmas-the Birth of the Lord

Sacramental Preparation Guidelines

Parent meetings are required for all parents prior to the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. These meetings are necessary, because parents have an important role in the preparation and learning process for these Sacraments. Celebrating and living the sacraments is a family affair. Children will never fully understand God's wonderful love and forgiveness if it is not a priority in your own faith life. The family that prays together stays together and puts God first. Your family will grow in God's graces together!

Families preparing children for these sacraments will be given information as to dates and times of preparation meetings, practices and celebrations after the program year begins. ***(SS Peter & Paul Religious Education/Faith Formation policies require all children preparing for sacraments to attend a minimum of one full year of catechesis immediately prior to the year the sacramental preparation begins.)***

1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Communion - These sacraments will be celebrated in 2nd grade and are a two year program. If your child has not been catechized in 1st grade, they will celebrate these sacraments in 3rd grade. These sacraments are early steps on the child's journey of faith-not the end of the journey. Reconciliation and Holy Communion will strengthen and grace each child at every step of life's journey. ***One indication of readiness is whether the family attends Mass regularly.***

*Please note: *Discipline policies are not meant to punish the parent. They are meant to impress upon the student that Parents and the Faith Formation Program are working together toward a common goal and that the family is supportive of the importance of religious education.*

Elementary Religious Education/Faith Formation

Programming: Each level of the Faith Formation Program recognizes four key elements: *The Person, Prayer, Scripture, and Celebration*. Each of these elements are part of the life of a Christian and needs to be continually developed throughout a person's whole life. **Attendance at Sunday Liturgies by each family is the best way to start each week,** helping to reinforce these key elements taught in the child's RE class.

All students receive a textbook and activity book and will be asked to complete the various activities assigned. Your child/children will also be expected to memorize prayers, scripture verses, and vocabulary words. Parents need to be involved and help their child with these tasks, and take the initiative to see that all assigned reading and work is complete. Your involvement and active participation is a sign to your child that you care, and are interested in their faith formation.

Each child is given a folder in which to keep various assigned activities and handouts. Please check your child's folder each week for assignments, family activities, and/or program information.

Curriculum GRADES K-9

Kindergarten

PRAYERS (I-introduce)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace at Meals, Angel of God

PRAYERS (M - master) Sign of the Cross

1st Grade

Creation for God's Glory

7 Sacraments of the Church

10 Commandments (I-introduce)

PRAYERS (M-master)

Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace at meals, Angel of God

2nd Grade

Explain God's revelation of Himself as one true God

Define Faith

The story of creation, God created man in His image

Stories of Jesus' Miracles

Describe how Jesus healed, forgave, suffered, died

Presence of the Holy Spirit at Baptism of Jesus

Define Church as a People of God

Define Heaven & Hell

Define Penance as a sacrament

Ten Commandments

Define Grace

Difference between Venial & Mortal sin

The relationship between sin and penance

Define Conscience

Define Eucharist

Define parts of the Mass

PRAYERS (M - master)

Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail

Mary, Angel of God, Holy Spirit, **Act of Contrition**

3rd Grade

Explain man's desire for God

God is revealed through Sacred Tradition

God's covenant with Abraham & how it's fulfilled

Beginning of Jesus' public life/ministry

Role of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost & Church today

Describe the Church as founded by Christ

Define Assumption

Mary as Mother of Jesus, Mother of God

Mary's role in the Church today

Define canonized saints & why we pray to saints

Explain the Sacraments of Matrimony, Holy Orders and

the Anointing of the Sick

Identify the teaching authority of the Church regarding

moral laws

Define virtue & list the Cardinal Virtues

Development of a well-formed conscience

The Rosary

Define the term sacramental

PRAYERS (M - master)

Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Angel of God,

Apostles Creed, Act of Contrition

PARENT expectations:

You, as parents, are the first teachers in the way of the faith with your children. You need to give visible signs of your faith through daily prayer, worship, sacramental celebrations, and good works. Your example of living your faith and making religious education a top priority will guide and strengthen your child in the practice of his or her own growing faith. The job of parenting is a most challenging vocation, especially in a morally challenging society. It is probably the most difficult one can have, but it can also prove to be the most rewarding. We encourage you, as primary teachers of the faith to do the following:

- * Attend Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.
 - ◆ Pray with your children, even the older ones.
 - ◆ Work with your children to memorize and understand the prayers.
 - ◆ Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation when your child is celebrating it during class time.
 - ◆ Discuss the weekly lessons with your children's teachers.
 - ◆ Attend our Youth Masses.
 - ◆ Support the outside-the-classroom activities assigned.
- Help support the Food Pantry and our Parish and R.E. Events.

Student expectations:

You, as students, are growing in your faith. You will grow in holiness with the help of the Holy Spirit. You will become more like Jesus, always listening for and following God's Will for you. You learn about our Catholic faith; how to worship God; and how to pray. To help you learn, your parents and teachers expect you to:

- ✦ Attend Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ✦ Attend all classes (if unable to attend, get your assignment from your teacher).
- ✦ DO ALL HOMEWORK; complete all homework assignments.
- ✦ Be respectful and obedient to your teachers and other students.
- ✦ Be quiet and attentive.
- ✦ Treat the parish buildings and property with care.
- ✦ Attend and participate in YOUTH MASSES; sit together with your class in Church. No electronic devices are allowed in class.

CATECHIST expectations:

You, as catechists, are called to assist parents in the faith education of their children. You are to be examples of holy lives in practice. You are to witness to the love and truth of Christ and his Church. In accepting the responsibility as catechist you have the privilege and duty to provide authentic Catholic instruction to the children of our parish family. You are expected to:

- ✦ **ATTEND MASS REGULARLY** (at least every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.)
- ✦ Pray Regularly and be committed to living out the Gospel message in your daily life.
- ✦ Fulfill your duties as a Catholic in accord with the Precepts of the Church (see Be familiar with the Catechism of the Catholic Church).
- ✦ Maintain good communication with the parents of your students. Keep them informed of their children's progress, achievements, and concerns.
- ✦ Be receptive to comments from parents.
- ✦ Follow the school schedule; begin and each class with prayer; be in classroom 15 minutes before class begins.
- ✦ Insist that students be respectful to the teachers and other students; take attendance.
- ✦ Do not dismiss class BEFORE the bell is sounded.
- ✦ Immediately report any problem with attendance, homework, or behavior to parents and to Msgr. Dzielak so that it can be addressed.
- ✦ Report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect.
- ✦ Do not be alone with a student if at all possible.
- ✦ **Pray DAILY for each student.**

4th Grade

Define Immaculate Conception
Name the 3 Sacraments of Initiation

Describe the responsibility of the baptized

Explain the parts of the Mass

Define Truth

Identify various forms of theft

Name the authentic teachers of the Church

Identify the 6 precepts of the Church

The Beatitudes

Define sin as a violation of moral law

Describe how original sin affects all nature

Examples of God speaking in the Old Testament

Recite the Ten Commandments
Corporal Works of Mercy (**M-memorize**)

Spiritual Words of Mercy (**M-memorize**)

PRAYERS (Master –grades 1-3)

5th Grade

Name the 7 Sacraments of the Church

Define Penance as a prayer, fasting & almsgiving

Describe the married couple as a sign of God's love

Define divorce and its relationship to the Church

Define greed, avarice, and envy
Explain Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy

Identify the duties of children, parents & civil authorities

Describe the importance of going to Mass

Identify the two greatest commandments

Define prayer as a personal relationship with God

Explain how the Psalms are personal & communal prayers

**Bring Bibles to class EACH week
PRAYERS (M-Master all including Rosary)**

6th Grade

Tell stories of Jesus' parables

Describe how Jesus is still present to us

Describe the meaning of the Messiah

Describe the meaning of the Son of David

Describe the presence of the Holy Spirit at Creation

Explain the 4 marks of the Church

Explain Mary as a model of faith

Define eternal life

Define purgatory

Name the gifts & fruits of the Holy Spirit

Define modesty

Define blasphemy

Define dignity

Identify 3 major expressions of prayers

(M-Master Grades 1-5)

7th Grade

Virtue Challenge: Prudence and Fortitude

Creation, the Fall of Man, Angels

Salvation History, Covenant

Old Testament—Abraham to Prophets and Judges

Jesus' Incarnation, Life, Death & Resurrection

Revelation and our Relationship With God

Name the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost, the Holy Spirit and Church

Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium

Theological and Cardinal Virtues

Grace, Mercy and Redemption

Ten Commandments and Seven Sacraments

The Apostles, Pope and infallibility

8th Grade - Confirmation Year 1 - Discernment

Virtue Challenge: Justice and Temperance

Four Marks of the Church, Commission

Creeches, Councils, Doctors of the Church, Doctrine

Church Authority, Infallibility and History

Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, and Second Coming

Sacraments and Prayer

Mary and the Communion of Saints

Holiness, Sin, Conscience and Justice

Virtues and Works of Mercy

Vocations and Laity, Society/Social

Order, Ecumenism

Experience

8 Service Hours

Special Events

Reconciliation

Eucharistic Adoration

9th Grade - Confirmation Year 2

- Prepare, be sealed, and go forth! It's just the beginning!

The Creeds and all they contain

Church: The People of God

Body of Christ/Temple of the

Holy Spirit

Liturgy, Sacraments, Grace

Responsibilities to ourselves

and our community

What it means to be a Catholic disciple

Beatitudes, Virtues, Sin, Charity

Prayer and Witness

Holy Trinity, Paschal Mystery

Pentecost

Experience:

8 Service Hours

1 Youth Retreat

Special Events

Eucharistic Adoration

Reconciliation

Saint Report

Sponsor Report

Letter to Fr. Perfecto

Commitment Pledge

Emergency Closings

In the case of severe weather or other emergencies resulting in the closing of the RE classes, each Catechist will contact their students home phone numbers as well as cell numbers we have listed for the household. **IF YOU** have a new email or cell number, please notify our **RE Office ASAP** so we can post the new numbers in your file. If we know of inclement weather approaching, we will also email each household.

We will cancel classes if the roads inside/outside Maple Park/ Virgil are dangerous. Always use your discretion. If your roads are bad, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. Safety first. Just call the RE Office to inform us of your child's absence.

Travel:

All students participating in an event that requires travel off the parish grounds **MUST** have a completed liability/permission slip turned in **PRIOR** to the event. Permission slips will be distributed by coordinator of the event .

Teachers:

SS Peter and Paul relies on the generosity of volunteer catechists to teach our classes. If you have an interest in teaching or helping in class, or substituting as a Catechist or Aide, call Judy Yagen. We expect our catechists to work towards diocesan certification by participating in training classes. These classes help catechists deepen their faith, increase their knowledge of subject matter, and improve their teaching methods. We track the progress of our teachers' participation in these classes.