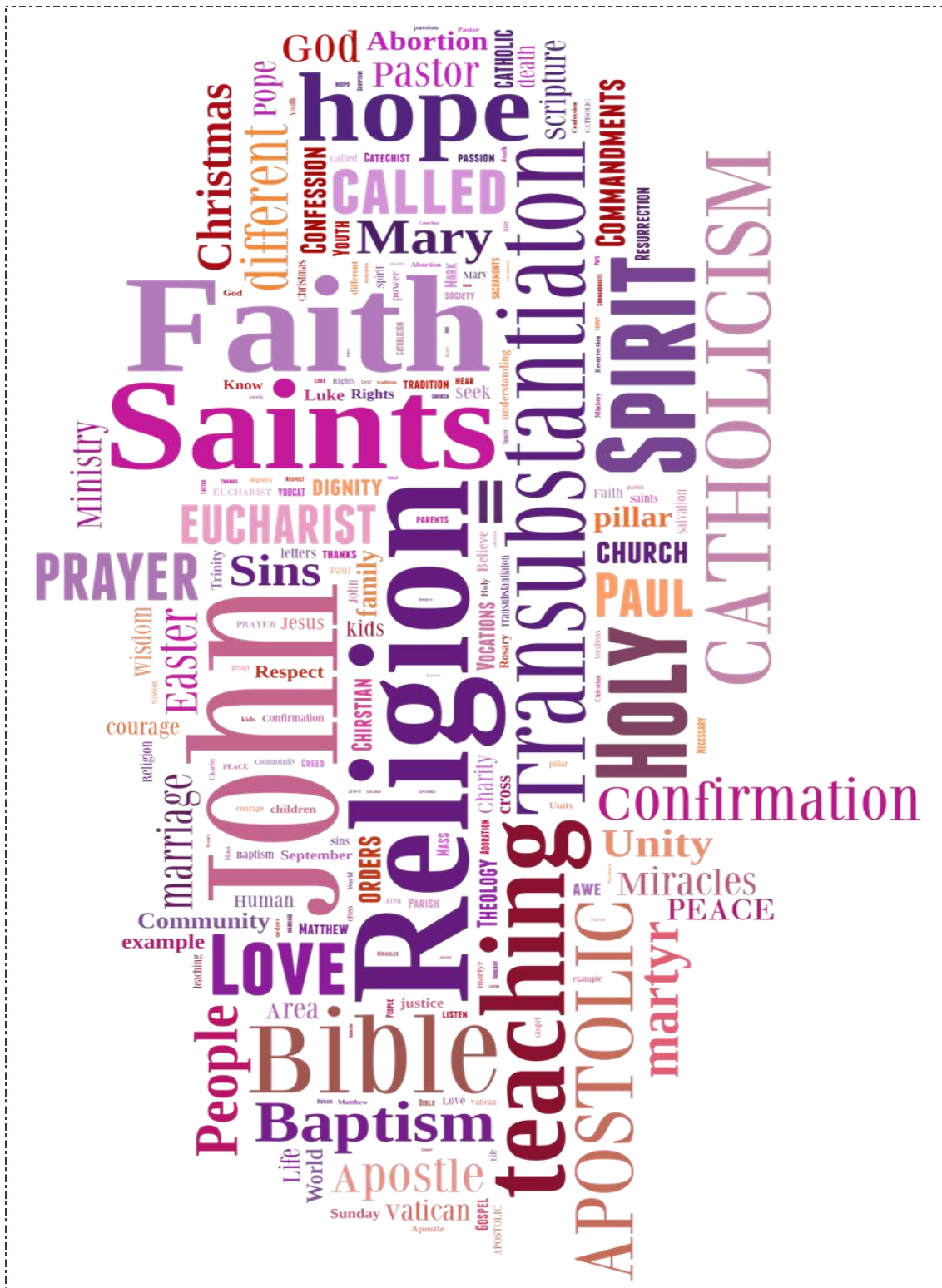


# 2017-2018 Religious Education Parent Handbook



Church of the Holy Family  
700 West Main Street  
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320-327-2356  
[www.holyfamilysilverlake.org](http://www.holyfamilysilverlake.org)



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Dear Students and Parents,

We are excited to welcome you to our Religious Education program and look forward to seeing you each week at class! Working together with our catechists and parish family, we hope to bring you and your child(ren) a deeper understanding of the riches of our Catholic faith, and countless opportunities to experience God's presence and never ending love for us.

The task of teaching a child about the faith is an awesome responsibility, takes many people working together, and is one of the greatest gifts we can ever give them. At your child's Baptism you accepted the challenge of educating your child in the ways of the faith. Being the best teachers for your child's faith development means that you practice your faith by praying at home, going to Mass every week, and making your home a place where love and forgiveness prevail.

Thank you for the faith foundation you have given your child(ren) and for allowing us the opportunity to partner with you in teaching and sharing our Catholic faith. We strive to allow each child many opportunities to gain a solid understanding of the faith, to ask questions and to gain the knowledge they need to face the many challenges they encounter in life with faith and courage. Our experienced and dedicated catechists and staff promote a family atmosphere to allow each child an opportunity to deepen their understanding and relationship with God through textbooks, scripture, prayer, ministry opportunities and real life experiences of both our Catechists and students.

The Religious Education program continues to enjoy strong support from our parish community. Our goal is to provide all children the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a solid Religious Education program while keeping tuition affordable.

I look forward to working with you throughout the coming year. If you would like additional information regarding the Religious Education program, have suggestions, or would like to simply stop by and visit the classrooms, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Lori Penas*

Lori Penas  
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## **Religious Education Policies**

As your son or daughter begins this year's Religious Education class remember that you, too, are a vital part of this program. At your child's Baptism you accepted the challenge of educating your child in the ways of the Catholic faith. As you continue to respond to the challenge of parenting your sons and daughters in living their Catholic faith, may you also continue to grow in faith and in love for your child and God.

Your faith makes a profound impact on your children, no matter what their age. Therefore, we will provide several opportunities to share the faith experience being lived within your family. These features aim at stimulating your own desire to grow in Christ and to live your daily life in fidelity to the Gospel message. More importantly, these opportunities will allow you to communicate with your children in a way that will support them in following Jesus. Opportunities include attending class with your child, attending Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, and most importantly, attending Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.

As a parent you can help your children by becoming involved in the activities listed in each lesson. These activities will help the student carry the message of Jesus from the classroom to all facets of life. They will involve prayer, family life, peer relationships, projects and weekend Mass participation. Many of the projects would be enriched by the assistance of a parent or another adult.

### **Attendance:**

Attendance at religious education classes is critical in order for the student to learn about their Catholic faith and grasp this very important material. We expect that your child will be in class each week – especially if they are preparing for sacraments. Those preparing for Confirmation are expected to attend all sacramental prep and regular Religious Ed classes through the end of the year.

Classes will meet Wednesday evenings at the below times:

- ❖ **Grades 1 - 6:** 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
- ❖ **Grades 7 - 11:** 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
- ❖ **Confirmation Class:** 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family (please see calendar)
- ❖ **Grade 12:** Will meet with Fr. Stubeda 4-6 times through the year

**Absence/Tardy:** If a student will be absent from or tardy for an RE class, parents are expected to call the RE office at least 15 minutes prior to class start time. The office phone number is 320-327-2356. If the office is not notified and a student is not in attendance, a member of the office staff will contact the parent(s). If parents know in advance that a child will be absent, please contact the DRE so that catechists can be informed. Students who are absent are expected to make up all homework and assignments from missed classes.

**Unexcused Absence:** If a student has three or more unexcused absences throughout a year we will ask the parents to meet with the director of Religious Education and with the pastor to evaluate whether or not the student is ready to move to the next grade level in their Religious Education. More than three unexcused absences from sacramental preparation classes will necessitate an evaluation of the student's readiness for the reception of the sacrament.

**Punctuality:** Please be on time dropping off and picking up your children. If your child attends the early session, please do not drop him/her off until 5:15 p.m. If your child attends the later session, please do not drop him/her off until 6:45 p.m. All children in all grades will enter and exit the Education Center through the northeast (red) doors.

**Early Drop-off/Late Pick-up:** If you will be dropping your child off earlier than 5:15 or 6:45 p.m. or picking them up later than their normal release time, please call the office ahead of time, and then enter the building through the main office door. Your child will stay in the office until their catechist arrives or until you pick them up.

**Early Dismissal:** On occasion a child may need to be dismissed from class earlier than the normal release time. On those occasions, students must either present a note to the DRE or Office Aide, or a parent must call or e-mail the DRE, who in turn will notify the catechist. Students being dismissed early must be picked up at the office.

**Mass:** Throughout the year, students may have an opportunity to attend and participate in Mass as part of their class. On those dates, students will meet in their classroom for attendance and then will proceed to the Church where the students will sit as a class with their catechist. Students will then be released from Church instead of their classroom. Please see the attached calendar for scheduled dates. If any of these dates should change, notification will be sent home. We invite and strongly encourage parents to attend Mass on these dates as well. Students are expected to dress in appropriate Mass attire.

**Custody:** If parents are divorced or separated, the Religious Ed program presumes that parents have joint custody unless one parent provides documentation that he/she has sole custody. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no contact or information given, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the DRE with an official copy of the court order which we will keep on file and follow explicitly. It is important for parents to agree on custody issues so that conflicts do not arise that affect the child's participation in Religious Ed classes. These and any personal issues may be discussed with the DRE or pastor so that we can support your efforts on behalf of your child(ren). All information is confidential.

### **Classroom Etiquette:**

*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*

Students are expected, at all times, to exhibit and maintain good Christian behavior. Self-control, consideration for others, being courteous, and following rules are desirable and **expected behaviors**.

**Environment:** Our Religious Education classes are held in classrooms where desks and/or tables are used. Our expectation is that the classrooms and other spaces will be left in the same condition and order in which they are found. Obviously accidents happen, but part of being a responsible Christian is reporting broken or misplaced items.

**Disciplinary Policy:** The first responsibility for discipline in the Religious Education program lies with parents to help their children understand appropriate behavior at class. Our catechists will have clear guidelines for behavior and will help the students to understand them. The catechists, then, will be responsible for enforcing classroom behavior. If a student is disruptive, even after intervention by their catechist, the student will be asked to talk to the Director of Religious Education, who will strive to resolve the issue. If a behavior problem persists, the student, his/her parents, the DRE and the pastor will meet to design a solution acceptable to everyone involved. Parents will be informed if a student is sent to the DRE office.

### **Classroom Rules:**

- Be on time.
- Come to class prepared:
  - Sharpened Pencil
  - Textbook
  - Bible (grades 6-11)
  - YOUCAT (grades 7-11)
  - Folder
  - Homework completed
  - If you are absent, you are responsible for contacting the catechist for your assignment and for making up all missed work.
- Begin and end class with prayer.
- Listen to and obey your Catechist.
- Raise your hand if you have a question.
- Be respectful of each other and the property of others.
- No toys, candy, gum, food, or drinks are to be brought to class.
- Hats are not to be worn in the building.

- Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight during class.
- Remember...God Loves You!

### **Modest Dress:**

Respect for self and others should dictate the dress and appearance of the Holy Family community. Although we want students to be comfortable, remember that our classes are held in a parish setting, and we all need to be respectful of where we are. Compliance to the dress code starts at home with the parents and students, and we fully expect the students to be respectful of the modest dress policy. As part of the Holy Family community we are expected to lead by example. Therefore, students are encouraged to make clothing choices that reflect the teachings of our Catholic faith, and help preserve the purity, modesty and dignity of the human person.

### **The Catechism of the Catholic Church states;**

**2521** Purity requires *modesty*, an integral part of temperance. Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden. It is ordered to chastity to whose sensitivity it bears witness. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with the dignity of persons and their solidarity.

**2522** Modesty protects the mystery of persons and their love. It encourages patience and moderation in loving relationships; it requires that the conditions for the definitive giving and commitment of man and woman to one another be fulfilled. Modesty is decency. It inspires one's choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet.

Students are expected to demonstrate their faith by recognizing the sacredness, goodness and beauty of the human body in the clothing that they wear to class. Today's fashion trends tend to be somewhat revealing and sometimes leave a lot to the imagination. Kids today are exposed to so many inappropriate things in movies, television, social media, and sometimes simply going to school or the mall. They are also dealing with trying to fit in, and peer pressure is greater than it has ever been. Wearing clothing that is too short or clothing that shows areas of the body that should remain covered often times lead to inappropriate thoughts and behaviors, and take away from the sacredness of the body.

For these reasons, we ask parents and students be cognizant of what kind of clothing is being worn to class. We expect students to dress in appropriate attire that is tasteful and does not draw attention to their bodies.

Examples of **inappropriate attire** include: cut, ripped or torn clothing (jeans or shirts), pajamas, lounge pants, sweat pants, slippers, short shorts, tight jeans, tank tops, and articles of clothing that expose underwear, bra straps, cleavage or inappropriate wording or logos (i.e. pants with words across the back, etc.). Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to leave the classroom and go to the DRE office, where parents will be called to bring a change of clothing for the student.

### **Communication:**

Communication is a key part of providing quality religious education for your children. In an effort keep our costs down, the preferred method of communication will be via e-mail. Please check your e-mails often to ensure you don't miss any announcements or changes. Be sure to also check your child's folder or backpack for any notes that may have been sent home.

**Parent Newsletter:** Every month you will receive a Parent Newsletter that will contain important information regarding the Religious Education program, opportunities for enrichment, parish and Area Faith Community happenings, dates, etc. Additional communication may include the parish monthly calendar and Liturgical Minister's Schedule. Paper copies of the monthly newsletter will be sent home with students whose household does not have internet access.

**Progress Reports:** Communication to parents how their children are doing in class is an essential part of working together. During Christmas break, catechists will be asked to write a

brief mid-year progress report for each student in their class. That progress report, along with a Prayer Progress Report, will then be distributed to parents. We ask that parents review the progress report, sign it, and then send it back to class with their child. This will help us to know that parents acknowledged the report. It will also provide an avenue for parents to communicate with the catechists.

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact the Director of Religious Education at 320-327-2356 or via e-mail [re@holyfamilysilverlake.org](mailto:re@holyfamilysilverlake.org) so these thoughts and/or concerns can be discussed.

If you wish to speak to one of the Religious Education catechists, please feel free to contact him/her directly or contact the Director of Religious Education to make an appointment.

If you are not comfortable discussing your comments or concerns with your child's catechist or the DRE, you may contact Father Anthony Stubeda at 320-864-5162 or via e-mail [pastor@stpiusxglencoe.org](mailto:pastor@stpiusxglencoe.org).

### **Registration and Tuition:**

A new Registration Form must be filled out each year that your child(ren) attend Religious Education classes. We are required to have this information on hand so that we know who is attending class. This form also helps us to make sure that we have the most current contact information on file should we need to reach parents or the emergency contact. We encourage you to include your e-mail address to ensure that you receive all communication in a timely manner. All e-mails are sent via blind copy so that your e-mail address is never shared.

By registering your child(ren), you agree to pay tuition and offer your volunteer services. Each student should be registered prior to attending Religious Education classes. Registration forms are available from the parish office and on the Religious Education web page at [www.holyfamilysilverlake.org](http://www.holyfamilysilverlake.org). Tuition should be paid prior to the first class. The cost of tuition is as follows:

- ❖ **Grades 1, 3-10** = \$65.00 per child
- ❖ **Grade 2** = \$85.00 (Includes Sacramental Prep fees of \$10.00 per sacrament)
- ❖ **Grade 11** = \$75.00 (Includes Sacramental Prep fee of \$10.00)

Although we do not offer Kindergarten RE class, parents may purchase a Kindergarten textbook and teach their children at home to help prepare them for First Grade. Please contact the DRE for additional information.

**Note:** In order to make tuition financially feasible for large families, there will be a three child tuition maximum. For example: If a family is registering five children, tuition will be paid for the oldest three and the remaining two children will attend Religious Education classes free of charge. This cap, however, does not include the fees for Sacramental Prep; these fees must still be paid.

We will not exclude any student from Religious Education because of inability to pay. If you are unable to pay the full price of tuition, please contact the DRE or Father Anthony Stubeda to arrange for a reduction of tuition or to make alternate arrangements. Please know that this information is strictly confidential and is not shared.

Students entering Grade 2 or 11 (Sacramental Prep years) must have attended religion classes for the years prior to receiving the sacraments. Students who have not attended religion class on a continual yearly basis may be placed in the grade according to the last religion year attended.

**Tuition Reduction Opportunity:** The Winstock Music Festival depends on several volunteers to help make the event a success. In an effort to attract volunteers, the Winstock Committee offers our Religious Ed programs an opportunity for parents to work a specific shift and in return, the parent receives \$40.00 that is used to help reduce the upcoming year tuition. Additional information will be given to parents as the event nears. Please keep this opportunity in mind.

## **Materials:**

Workbooks and/or text books, prayer books and a folder will be provided for each student. The folders will include a syllabus, RE calendar and an area for students to write down their homework assignments. The titles and a brief explanation of each textbook are listed under the **Curriculum** section of this handbook.

Students are expected to come to class with homework complete and prepared to participate and learn. Students who are absent from class are responsible for contacting their catechist for their assignment and making up all missed work.

Each student will be required to bring the following to each class:

- ❖ **Grades 1-5:** Please bring a sharpened pencil, folder, textbook and prayer book.
- ❖ **Grade 6:** Please bring a sharpened pencil, folder, textbook prayer book and Bible.
- ❖ **Grades 7-11:** Please bring a pencil, folder, textbook, prayer book, YOUCAT and Bible.

Sixth grade students will receive a Bible the first night of class and it is theirs to keep. Those in grades 7-11 that do not have a Bible may purchase one for \$12.00 from the office. Students in Grade 7 will receive a YOUCAT Youth Catechism the first night of class and it is theirs to keep. Students in grades 8-11 that do not have a YOUCAT may purchase one from the office for \$20.00. There is a YOUCAT cross reference sheet in the student folder for grades 7-11.

**Prayer Booklets:** Over the years we have instituted a program of providing students the opportunity to be formed in the rich tradition of Catholic prayer through the introduction of a K-12 process of learning prayers that have supported and nourished countless generations of the Catholic faithful. Each student will receive a book of prayers, and each grade level has a series of prayers to commit to memory. **Please help your children learn their prayers.** These prayers are reviewed periodically by volunteers dedicated to listening to the prayers the children are learning. If a student loses their booklet, replacements will be available for \$1.00.



**Please do not bring candy, gum, food, beverages, i-pads, i-pods, ear buds, toys, etc. into the classroom. If students bring anything other than what is required, the catechist or DRE will keep it until after class. Students bringing cell phones to class must turn them off until class has ended. Hats must be removed during class.**

## **Homework:**

Homework **will** be assigned weekly. We strongly encourage parents to help their children with their homework assignments. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time together, learn together, and an opportunity to help students memorize prayers and prepare for the sacraments. Helping children do their homework also helps to ensure that the class stays on task each week.

## **Fundraising:**

Our biggest parish fundraiser by far is our Fall Bazaar, which is held the first Sunday of October. Each parishioner and student (grades 7-12) is assigned to work a shift at the Bazaar. If everyone works their shift, everything runs much smoother. Information regarding other fundraisers for the parish will be sent home as needed.

## Religious Education Curriculum

Our Religious Education program uses the “*Christ our Life New Evangelization*” textbook series for grades 1 through 8. Grades 9 through 11 will be studying the “*Didache*” Semester Series of textbooks focusing on the Church, Scriptures, and Moral Life. Below is a brief summary of each of the textbooks and curriculum requirements.

### **Grade One: God is Good**

The first-grade program is designed to provide a simple overview of the mysteries of our faith. Through learning of the goodness of God, who created and saved us, and the love of Jesus, the children are drawn to respond to God in friendship and prayer.

The textbook gives a basic human experience as a starting point. The readability is appropriate for the grade level; photos, illustrations, and art masterpieces are appealing; Prayer is taken from both Scripture and tradition. Other features of the textbook include important words in **boldface**, creative activities, Scripture-based presentations, questions that require critical thinking and imagination, and exercises and puzzles to reinforce lessons. Each lesson contains *study aids* that include a summary of concepts in Q & A form, a list of key words and what to know by heart, and a prayer or resolution that flows from the lesson.

Family activities are also included to help the children deepen their understanding of the message and live it. The end of each lesson provides a check box that children will mark so parents know what lesson was taught. Also provided is a line for parent’s signature to indicate that the section was read.

Children will review and/or learn these prayers:

- Sign of the Cross
- The Lord’s Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Grace Before Meals
- Grace After Meals

### **Grade Two: God Cares for Us**

The second-grade program is designed to prepare the children for their first celebration of the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist. In addition to the God Cares for Us textbook, children will also use the We Believe and Celebrate First Penance and We Believe and Celebrate First Eucharist textbooks.

God Cares for Us will introduce the children to Jesus’ willingness to forgive them and to bring them peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They learn about the wonderful gift of the Eucharist, through which Jesus comes to us as food to strengthen us and unite us with himself and one another.

Children will study the meaning of the Mass, its different parts, and how to participate in it. Through their study of these great gifts, the children will come to appreciate better God’s great goodness and love for them.

The textbook provides a summary of the message being studied. It also includes creating a “family bridge”, a list of words to know, is rich in Scripture, and provides opportunities for prayer and response and celebration.

“Family Corner” at the end of each lesson provides reading suggestions from the Bible, and opportunities for unit discussion and prayer. Also provided is a line for parent’s signature to indicate that the section was read.

Children will review and/or learn all of the above prayers plus:

- Act of Contrition (Prayer of Sorrow)
- Morning Offering
- Mass Prayers and Responses



- Stations of the Cross (Way of the Cross)

### **Grade Three: We Believe**

The third-grade program presents the main truths Catholics believe and express in the Creed. The children are led to realize that they are called to belong to a faith community, the Church. They are helped to develop a clearer, deeper faith in their study of God as revealed in creation, his dealings with the chosen people, and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Children will learn how God reveals Himself to us and calls us to faith – belief and trust in God. The textbook provides a summary of the message being studied. It also includes creating a “family bridge”, a list of words to know, is rich in Scripture, and provides opportunities for prayer and response and celebration.

“Family Corner” at the end of each lesson provides reading suggestions from the Bible, and opportunities for unit discussion and prayer. Also provided is a line for parent’s signature to indicate that the section was read.

Children will review and/or learn all of the above prayers plus:

- The Apostles Creed
- Rosary
- Mysteries of the Rosary

### **Grade Four: God Guides Us**

The fourth-grade program focuses on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides for living. The program is designed to help children see these codes as guidelines given us by our loving God, who intends for us to be happy in this life and the next. The children are motivated to respond to God with faith and love and to show their faith and love by observing his commandments.

The textbook provides a summary of the message being studied. It also includes creating a “family bridge”, a list of words to know, is rich in Scripture, and provides opportunities for prayer and response and celebration.

“Family Corner” at the end of each lesson provides reading suggestions from the Bible, and opportunities for unit discussion and prayer. Also provided is a line for parent’s signature to indicate that the section was read.

Children will review and/or learn all of the above prayers plus:

- Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes

### **Grade Five: We Worship**

The fifth-grade program focuses on the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the center of Christian life. **We Worship** is designed to help the children realize the wonderful gift God has given us in sharing divine life. They are shown how to celebrate this life and deepen it through the liturgy. They are encouraged to foster it by following the commandments that guide us in loving our neighbor.

The textbook provides a summary of the message being studied. It also includes creating a “family bridge”, a list of words to know, is rich in Scripture, and provides opportunities for prayer and response and celebration.

“Family Corner” at the end of each lesson provides reading suggestions from the Bible, and opportunities for unit discussion and prayer. Also provided is a line for parent’s signature to indicate that the section was read.

Children will review and/or learn all of the above prayers plus:

- Corporal Works of Mercy
- Seven Sacraments
- Holy Days of Obligation

### **Grade Six: God Calls a People**

The sixth-grade program is devoted to the study of God's saving love as it is revealed in the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. ***God Calls a People*** is designed to help the students increase their knowledge of salvation history so that they may respond to God with ever-deepening love and gratitude.

As the children learn the stories of their ancestors in the faith and read God's Word, they are constantly reminded of their own faith life today. The children come to appreciate their ties to the Jewish people. Most important, they deepen their understanding of Jesus, the one that God promised repeatedly to send to his people. Consequently, they come to love Jesus more ardently and serve him more generously. Sixth-graders will also begin studying the bible.

The textbook provides a summary of the message being studied. It also includes creating a "family bridge", a list of words to know, is rich in Scripture, and provides opportunities for prayer and response and celebration.

"Family Corner" at the end of each lesson provides reading suggestions from the Bible, and opportunities for unit discussion and prayer. Also provided is a line for parent's signature to indicate that the section was read.

Children will review and/or learn all of the above prayers plus:

- Memorare
- Precepts of the Church

### **Grade Seven: Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life**

The seventh-grade program will invite students to reflect on the person of Jesus and on their own baptismal call to walk with him along the WAY to the Father. They will listen to the TRUTH of his teaching, and they will meditate on the gift of new LIFE that is theirs through the sacraments because of his dying and rising.

Each student will be challenged to respond to Jesus by walking his WAY and encouraging others to follow him, by living according to the TRUTH he taught, and by sharing his LIFE and love with all whom they meet.

### **Grade Eight: The Church Then and Now**

The eighth-grade program is devoted to the study of God's faithful love as it is revealed in the Church founded by Jesus Christ. ***The Church Then and Now*** is designed to help young adolescents grow in their knowledge and love of the church.

The program is broken into three units. In Unit 1, students will be introduced to the Church as a mystery of God's love. They will become acquainted with images and models of the Church and learn of Mary's preeminence as Mother of the church, which describe her and identify her mission. Students will examine the four marks of the Church and appreciate their catholic beliefs. In Unit 2 the students will study the Church history, the story of Christ's redeeming love continuing through the ages. This unit relates to the developments in the Church over twenty centuries. The students' attention is constantly drawn to the ever-abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church. They will also be introduced to some of the saints of each era and are urged to try and follow their example.

Lastly, Unit 3 is designed to help the student broaden their knowledge of the church's witness to Jesus Christ and respond more readily to God's personal love for them. The students will be encouraged to apply the Ten Commandments to the situations they meet, to foster a life of virtue, to make wise decisions, and to become involved in the Church's mission through service. The importance of prayer as a response of love and a source of strength is continual. Students will learn how to deepen their spiritual lives by celebrating the sacraments, reading scripture, and participating in the Eucharistic liturgy.

### **Grade 9: The Church: Sacrament of Salvation (Semester Series)**

The Church fundamentally is the assembly of people called together by Christ. It is predated and made possible by God's gathering of his people throughout salvation history, in which they were slowly prepared for the coming of his Son our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**The Church: Sacrament of Salvation** presents the Church--One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic--as the continuation of Christ's Redemption. Examining the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, it studies the foundation of the Church, her mission, and her attributes. It examines the Communion of Saints and the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### **Grade 10: Understanding the Scriptures (Semester Series)**

***You need to understand the Old Testament before you can understand the New Testament***

The Bible is a huge and compelling book, full of smaller and no less moving books. In the Bible – like no other book – generations of our ancestors have found the meaning of life. In the Bible – as in no other book – we find the meaning of our own lives.

The Scriptures can be difficult. They don't spell out their meaning in an easy, question-and-answer format. That is why when we read the Bible, we need a guide. Students will find that the textbook, ***Understanding the Scriptures: Semester Series***, is that guide and will help them to decipher and understand the word of God.

By the end of the year, students will be very well acquainted with the word "covenant" and know how important it is in their lives. Students will learn God's covenant with humanity defines the "story line" that holds all of Scripture together, from beginning to end.

Because we are Catholic, we need to become biblically literate. We need to know the Bible well because we hunger for abundant life – because we want to know Jesus, which is the same thing.

### **Grade Eleven: Our Moral Life in Christ (Semester Series)**

***Our Moral Life in Christ*** will present students with the more complex theological concepts of Roman Catholicism. With its particular emphasis on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, students will expand upon the Sacred Scripture, the Fathers of the Church and Precepts of the Church, the Old Testament, the Sacraments, and the teachings of Vatican II. Students will learn about the lives of the saints by preparing presentations, and will also discuss ethical issues facing our world today. Students will be preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Children in grades 7-11 will review and/or learn all of the above prayers plus:

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Liturgical Seasons
- Prayer for the Dead
- Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Please refer to the Student Prayer Book for memorizing prayers, steps for reconciliation, and other information all Catholics should know.

## **Religious Education Safety**

Attending Religious Education classes should be a safe and holy experience for your children, and as a parent, you should be comfortable sending your child to class. You can be assured that each catechist and volunteer has been trained through the VIRTUS program, that background checks on every employee and volunteer have been reviewed by the pastor, and that all diocesan policies in regard to your child's safety are strictly enforced. In addition, the Church of the Holy Family stands firm on the following policies:

### **Building Security:**

To ensure student safety, all students will enter and exit through the red doors on the northeast side of the Education Center. A member of our Religious Ed staff will welcome all students as they enter, and all doors of the Education Center will be locked five minutes after class begins. If you arrive more than five minutes late, please use the South (Main Street) office entrance of the school and report to the DRE or Office Aide.

### **Weather:**

Mother Nature is unpredictable, as we have all experienced. Our main concern is that everyone remains safe on those occasions that the weather turns inclement. All weather related class cancellations will be called into **KDUZ (AM 1260)** and **KARP (FM 106.9)** radio stations at least one hour prior to class start times. Cancellation notices will also be sent to parents via School Messenger, via e-mail and will be posted on the Religious Education web page.

### **Latex-Free Facility:**

The Church of the Holy Family and Education Center campus is a latex-free facility. Please refrain from bringing any type of latex items into either of the campus buildings.

### **Smoke/Tobacco Free Environment:**

The Church of the Holy Family and Education Center campus is a smoke and tobacco free facility. Any student in possession of a tobacco product will be disciplined accordingly.

### **Drugs and Alcohol:**

No person is to use, sell, dispense or possess controlled substances or alcohol and must not be under the influence of controlled substances or alcohol while in the Church of the Holy Family parish buildings or on the grounds. Any student found to be in possession or under the influence of either drugs or alcohol will be disciplined accordingly.

### **Weapons:**

Possession of a weapon of any kind by a student is prohibited within the Church of the Holy Family parish buildings or on the grounds. Any student found to be in possession of weapons will be disciplined accordingly.

### **Safe Environment Compliance:**

We are committed to providing a safe and holy place for your children to learn about their faith. In order to accomplish this goal, we strictly follow and enforce the Diocese of New Ulm's Sexual Abuse Policies. For further information or for details of disciplinary procedures and policies, you may request a copy of these policies from the DRE. Every employee and volunteer of the Church of the Holy Family has read and agreed to follow these guidelines.

### **Child Abuse:**

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

### **Emergency Plan:**

All buildings on the parish campus have in place plans for the evacuation of the buildings should the need arise, getting the children to a designated area in case of fire, tornado, etc. The Church of the Holy Family Emergency plan is as follows:

- ❖ Fire – Evacuate the building(s).

- ❖ Severe Weather – Take shelter in the designated areas of education center and/or church.
- ❖ Bomb Threat – Evacuate the building(s).
- ❖ Poisonous Gas – Evacuate the building(s).
- ❖ Power Outage – All classrooms are equipped with LED flashlights so that catechists and students may exit the building safely.

## **Parish & AFC Participation Opportunities for Adults and Children**

We invite you to participate in these parish and AFC ministries:

- Altar Server – Grades 5 – 12
- Adult Choir – Grade 7 through adult
- Junior Choir – Grades 3 - 12
- High School Youth Group – Grades 7 – 12
- Vacation Bible School – Grades K – 6 (at Holy Trinity)
- Fall Parish Bazaar – Grade 7 through adult
- Liturgical Minister
  - Eucharistic Minister – must be age 18 or older and Confirmed
  - Lector – Grade 9 through adult
  - Usher – Grade 7 through adult
- Bible Studies
- Religious Education
  - Catechist – must be age 18 & VIRTUS trained
  - Substitute Catechist – must be age 18 & VIRTUS trained
  - Classroom Aide – Grade 9 through adult
  - Prayer Listener – must be age 18 & VIRTUS trained
  - Office Aide – must be age 18 & VIRTUS trained
- Winstock Country Music Festival
- Parish Organizations and Committees
  - Area Word Committee
  - Fall Bazaar Committee
  - Worship Committee
  - Council of Catholic Women (all women of the parish age 18 & older are automatically members of this organization)
  - Knights of Columbus (men age 18 & older are encouraged to join)
  - Rosary Society

# Holy Family Religious Education Calendar



**Grades 1 – 6: 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.**

**Grades 7 – 11: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.**

(All students will enter and exit through the lower level red doors  
on the northeast corner of the Education Center)

Month/Date	Event
<b>August 2017</b>	
9	7:00 p.m. AFC Catechist Training for grades 1 – 11 at SPX in Glencoe
16	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent/Sponsor meeting at SPX
<b>September 2017</b>	
6	Grade 1 – 11 First Night of Class
13	5:30 p.m. Regular RE classes & Grade 1 – 6 Parent Meeting (parents meet in Church)
13	7:00 p.m. Regular RE classes & Grade 7 – 11 Parent Meeting (parents meet in Church)
13	7:00 p.m. High School Senior RE Class with Fr. Tony at SPX
16 & 17	Catechetical Sunday ~ Blessing at all weekend Masses
20	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
20	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meeting #1 at Holy Family
27	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
27	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meeting #2 at Holy Family
<b>October 2017</b>	
4	RE Classes – Safe Environment
4	7:00 p.m. High School Senior RE Class with Fr. Tony at SPX
11	RE Classes
18	No RE Classes ~ EMA
25	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
25	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meeting #3 at Holy Family
31	6:00 p.m. Mass ~ Anticipatory for All Saints Day
<b>November 2017</b>	
1	7:15 p.m. Mass ~ All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation – Students meet in classrooms at 7:00p.m. and then attend Mass as a class)
2	7:00 p.m. All Souls Day Memorial Mass
5	2:30 p.m. AFC First Reconciliation Parent Meeting at HF (no children please)
8	RE Classes
15	RE Classes
22	No RE Classes ~ Thanksgiving Break
29	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
29	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meeting #4 at Holy Family
<b>December 2017</b>	
6	RE Classes
7	6:00 p.m. Mass ~ Anticipatory for Immaculate Conception
8	8:00 a.m. Mass ~ Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
13	RE Classes
20	RE Classes
24	4:00 p.m or 8:00 p.m. Mass - Christmas Eve
25	8:00 a.m. Mass – Christmas Day Nativity of the Lord
27	No RE Classes ~ Christmas Break
<b>January 2018</b>	
1	9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Mass ~ Mary Mother of God
3	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
3	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meeting #5 at Holy Family

10	RE Classes
17	RE Classes
24	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
24	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Parent Meeting #6 at Holy Family
31	RE Classes Gr. 1, 3-11
31	5:30 p.m. First Reconciliation – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade parents & students meet in Church
<b>February 2018</b>	
7	RE Classes
11	2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat for Candidates and Parents at St. Pius X
14	7:15 p.m. Mass ~ Ash Wednesday Mass (Students meet in classrooms at 7:00 p.m. and then attend Mass as a class)
18	2:30 p.m. AFC First Communion Parent Meeting at Holy Family (no children please)
21	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
21	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Exam at St. Pius X
28	RE Classes
<b>March 2018</b>	
7	RE Classes
14	RE Classes Gr. 1-10
14	7:00 p.m. Confirmation Practice for Candidates and Sponsors at Holy Trinity
17	6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass at Holy Trinity – Winsted
21	RE Classes & Stations of the Cross
28	No RE Classes ~ Easter Break
29	6:00 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at HF or 8:15 p.m. Bi-Lingual Mass at SPX
30	6:00 p.m. Good Friday Service ~ The Passion of the Lord
31	8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass
<b>April 2018</b>	
1	8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass ~ The Resurrection of the Lord
4	RE Classes
4	7:00 p.m. High School Senior RE Class with Fr. Tony at SPX
8	2:00 p.m. Diocesan Divine Mercy Celebration at HF (Chaplet at 3:00 p.m.)
11	RE Classes
11	7:00 p.m. High School Senior RE Class with Fr. Tony at SPX
18	RE Classes
25	RE Classes Gr. 1, 3-11
28	9:00 a.m. First Communion Practice for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Graders & Parents – Meet in Church
28	4:00 p.m. First Communion Mass
<b>May 2018</b>	
2	Last night of RE ~ 6:30 p.m. Mass, May Crowning, Ice Cream Social (Students meet in classroom at 6:15 p.m. and then attend Mass as a class)
9	7:00 p.m. High School Senior RE Class with Fr. Tony at SPX (Pizza Night)
12-13	2018-19 Spring RE Registration before & after all weekend Masses
13	8:00 a.m. Mass ~ HS Senior Recognition Sunday
16	5:30 p.m. Mass followed by AFC Potluck Supper for Graduating Seniors at SPX
19	8:00 a.m. Altar Server Training

# Holy Family Religious Education Catechists & Staff

Catechist/Staff Name	Grade
Margie Rognli	1
Heather Stockman	2
Cheryl Gnerer	3
Jill Graczyk	4
Lindsay Popelka	5
Chris Lacy	6
Janelle Webb	7
Lisa Blazinski	8 & Lead Catechist
<b>OPEN</b>	9
Dan Mahon	10
Gerald Kucera	11
Father Anthony Stubeda	12 (4-5 Classes over the RE year)
Father Anthony Stubeda	Confirmation Classes (6 plus retreat)
Chris Brecht	Office Aide (Early)
Donna Fehrenbach	Office Aide (Late)
Helen Lester	Prayer Listener & Sub (Early)
Kellie Oestrich	Prayer Listener (Early)
Margaret Schermann	Prayer Listener (Late)
<b>OPEN</b>	Prayer Listener (Early)
<b>OPEN</b>	Prayer Listener (Late)
<b>OPEN</b>	Prayer Listener (Late)
Lori Smith	Classroom Aide/Sub (Early)
Stephanie Schultz	Sub (Grades 1-6)
<b>OPEN</b>	Sub (Grades 1-6)
<b>OPEN</b>	Sub (Grades 1-6)
Perry Vacek	Sub (Grades 7-11)
<b>OPEN</b>	Sub (Grades 7-11)
<b>OPEN</b>	Sub (Grades 7-11)