



Religious Education Handbook

2015 – 2016

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Pastor

1. Mass Attendance

Students must attend Mass on every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. This is an obligation for all those who share in our Catholic faith. Students should be attending with their family. Mass attendance will **not** be tracked by “signing in” but rather on the honor system.

2. Religious Education Class Attendance

- a. 1st – 8th grade students will attend Religious Education classes each Wednesday.
 - Holy Family Youth Center (Stanley) 3:45-5:00 pm
 - St. Joseph School (Cadott) 6:00-7:15 pm
- b. High School students will attend Religious Education classes each Sunday.
 - St. Joseph Church basement (Boyd) 5:00-6:30 pm
- c. If a student is unable to attend, please contact Sara Rykal before class begins.
- d. A calendar is distributed at the beginning of the year and is available on the parish website.
- e. In the event of canceled school (snow day) Religious Education will also be canceled. Every effort will be made to notify parents of a cancelation due to poor weather conditions.

3. Classroom Expectations

- a. Students are to go directly to their classrooms upon arrival and be on time for class.
- b. Students will prepare for class by completing assignments before the start of class.
- c. Textbooks and writing instruments used in class should be brought to each session.
- d. Each student (1st -8th grade) will receive a textbook which **MUST BE RETURNED** at the end of the year. **Parents will be responsible for the cost of lost or damaged textbooks.**
- e. During Religious Education students will come to the Church for reflection and prayer. Students will show respect upon entry of the Church.
- f. Students are to dress appropriately and modestly at all times.
- g. Cell phones will be on silent during Religious Education class.
- h. Students are to respect the property of the church and school as well as that of fellow students.
- i. Misbehavior will not be tolerated. If misconduct or damage occurs, parents will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

4. Second Grade

- a. **First Reconciliation** will be held during Religious Education classes in December.
 - b. **First Holy Communion Retreat*** will be held on Friday, **April 29**, 2016 at St. Joseph Church in Boyd.
 - c. **First Holy Communion** will be held on Sunday, **May 1**, 2016 at St. Rose of Lima Church in Cadott.
- *All of our First Holy Communicants are required to attend a retreat in preparation for receiving Jesus in their First Holy Communion. It will be an all-day retreat on the Friday before First Holy Communion. Students will need to be released from school by their parent. More information about the retreat will be distributed in early April.

5. Eighth Grade

- a. Students will attend **Teen Life Nights**. These will be on Wednesday nights and will take the place of Religious Education class on that day. We will take a bus to McDonnell High School in Chippewa. Bus times and further instructions will be announced as the events draw near.
- b. Students are invited to attend DTS (Dead Theologians Society) to study the lives of the Saints on Sunday evenings with high school students.

6. Confirmation Preparation (High School)

- a. Students will attend **Teen Life Nights**. They will be on Wednesday nights. We will take a bus to McDonell High School in Chippewa Falls. Bus times and further instructions will be announced as the events draw near.
- b. Students will attend **one Retreat each year**. There will be one retreat offered at the Parish during the year. Additionally, other opportunities for retreats present themselves throughout the year in other locations and students are encouraged to attend these as well. The All Saints High School Retreat will be held on Saturday, **November 7, 2015**.
- c. Students will complete at least **ten hours of Service each year at the Parish**. This can include serving at Mass, singing in the choir, reading, ushering or sacristan. Outside the Mass there will be opportunities throughout the year to assist at Parish dinners and events such as the Christmas Bazaar, K of C Chicken Dinner, Fish Fry, etc. These events will be posted on the parish calendar on the website.
- d. Students will attend at least **ten Youth Ministry Events each year** such as Dead Theologian's Society (DTS), movie nights, game nights, etc.
- e. 10th grade students will write a two page paper. Due date and further information will be given during Religious Education.
- f. 10th grade students will meet individually with Father Felix in January or February. The meeting will be arranged through Sara Rykal at Religious Education meetings.

The requirements for the Sacrament of Confirmation are put in place to ensure that our young people understand the beauty and truth of our Catholic Faith. Failure to complete the above requirements will result in a continuation of the program beyond tenth grade.

7. Parent Expectations

- a. Parents are the primary educators of their children and should be concerned with their student's religious education as well as developing *their own* understanding of the Catholic faith.
- b. Parents are responsible for assisting their children with their Religious Education homework.
- c. Parents are highly encouraged to attend **Adult Faith Formation** events held at the parish. These events are critical in assisting parents to better prepare their children in the faith as well as helping them develop their own knowledge of the Catholic faith.
- d. In preparation for First Holy Communion, the students will be learning the parts of the Mass in class.
 - Parents of 2nd graders: Please help your child to recognize and learn the parts of the Holy Mass as you attend Sunday Mass together. It is most important that you, as parents, help your children realize that they must prepare well for the two very important Sacraments (First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) which they will receive.
- e. Parents are encouraged to be trained in Safe Environment each year.

It is of the utmost importance that parents encourage their children in the Catholic faith. This includes attending Mass as a family, praying together and educating them in the faith along with sending them to Religious Education. Don't forget....Parents are the PRIMARY educators of their children.

Religious Education Calendar

High School (Sundays)

September 2015

13
20
27

October 2015

4
11
18
25

November 2015

1
8
15
22 – No RE (Opening Weekend)
29

December 2015

6
13
20
27 – No RE (Christmas Break)

January 2016

3
10
17
24
31

February 2016

7
14
21
28

March 2016

6
13
20
27 – No RE (Easter)

April 2016

3
10
17 – No RE (Confirmation)
20 Pizza w/the Pastor

29 Classes

Grades 1-8 (Wednesdays)

September 2015

9
16
23
30

October 2015

7
14
21
28

November 2015

4
11
18
25 – No RE (Thanksgiving Break)

December 2015

2
9
16
23
30 – No RE (Christmas Break)

January 2016

6
13
20
27

February 2016

3
10 – No RE (Ash Wednesday)
17
24

March 2016

2
9
16
23 – No RE (Easter Break)
30

April 2016

6
13
20
27

30 Classes

Important Dates

September 2015

20 – Catechetical Sunday

October 2015

3 – St. John Bosco Youth Day

November 2015

1 – All Saints Day
7 – High School Retreat
29 – First Sunday of Advent

December 2015

6 – Second Sunday of Advent
13 – Third Sunday of Advent
20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

January 2016

February 2016

10 – Ash Wednesday

March 2016

27 – Easter Sunday

April 2016

17 – Confirmation (St. Joseph)
29 – First Communion Retreat

May 2016

1 – First Communion (St. Rose)