



St. Joseph Parish
Religious Education Handbook
2018

2018-2019 Religious Education K-6 Calendar

Sept. 5	FF classes begin, 2 nd grade Sacrament parent meeting 5:15
Sept. 12	Class, opening Mass
Sept. 16	Catechetical Sunday, Catechist Mass
Sept. 19	Class
Sept. 26	Class, 6 th grade Grotto field trip
Oct. 3	Class, 4 th grade altar server introduction
Oct. 10	Class
Oct. 14	Family Formation Mass
Oct. 17	Class
Oct. 24	Class
Oct. 31	NO CLASSES K-6 only
Nov. 7	Class, 2 nd grade First Reconciliation workshop, 6:00-7:30 pc
Nov. 14	Class, 3 rd Reconciliation-Fr. Tim
Nov. 18	FIRST RECONCILIATION in church 1:00pm. Reception in church basement by CDA
Nov. 28	Class 4 th Reconciliation- Fr. Tim
Dec. 5	Class, 5 th Reconciliation- Fr. Tim
Dec. 9	3 rd Grade Class Mass
Dec. 12	Class, 6 th Reconciliation-Fr. Tim
Dec. 16	Christmas pageant, 4:30 pm, pizza to follow
Dec. 19	Class, Christmas classroom activities
Jan. 9	Class
Jan. 16	Class
Jan. 23	Class
Jan 27	5 th grade class Mass
Jan 30	Class
Feb. 6	Class
Feb. 13	Class
Feb. 20	Class
Feb. 24	1 st grade class Mass
Feb. 27	Class
Mar. 6	Ash Wednesday, 6 th grade class Mass
Mar. 13	Class 2 nd grade reconciliation
Mar. 20	Class, 3 rd and 4 th Reconciliation
March 24	4 th grade Class Mass
Mar.27	Class 5 th and 6 th grade reconciliation
Apr. 3	Class, Lent activities
Apr 7	tentative Confirmation PM Mass
Apr. 10	Class First Communion workshop 6-7:30 pc
Apr. 17	Class
Apr. 21	Easter
Apr. 24	Class
Apr. 28	First Communion, 10 am Mass
May 1	Final Class, May Crown, Mass, Kindergarten class Mass

2018-2019 Religious Education 7-12 Calendar

Aug. 29	10 th Grade Confirmation meeting with parents, 7 pm, parish center
Sept. 5	FF classes begin, Fr. Tim in 10 th
Sept. 12	NO CLASS, 7-12, Homecoming activities
Sept. 16	Catechetical Sunday; Catechist Mass. 10 am Mass
Sept. 19	Class, opening Mass
Sept. 26	Class
Oct. 3	Class
Oct. 10	Class, Candlelight Rosary @ 7:30
Oct. 17	Class
Oct. 21	10 th Grade Mass and Retreat with sponsors
Oct. 24	Class
Oct. 31	Class with All Saints activities
Nov. 7	Class
Nov. 11	7 th /8 th class Mass
Nov. 14	Class
Nov. 28	Class
Dec. 5	Class, 7-12 Reconciliation in church
Dec. 12	Class,
Dec. 19	Christmas carols and party with gift exchange
Jan. 9	Class
Jan. 16	Class
Jan. 23	Class
Jan. 30	Class
Feb. 6	Class
Feb. 13	Class
Feb. 20	Class
Feb. 27	Mardi Gras dinner and activities
Mar. 6	Ash Wednesday, 9 th Grade class Mass
Mar. 13	Class
Mar. 20	Class, 7-12 Reconciliation in church
Mar. 27	Class,
Apr. 3	Class
Apr. 7	tentative Confirmation 10 am or 1 PM Mass
Apr. 10	Class
Apr. 17	Class
Apr. 21	Easter Sunday
Apr. 24	Class, Fr. Tim in 10 th
Apr. 27	Prom Mass
May 1	Closing Mass/BBQ
May 5	Junior/Senior class MASS and SENIOR BREAKFAST

Religious Education Program General Information

Pastor: Rev. Tim Johnson, Pastor

Director of K-12 Religious Education: Sharon Mayer

Director of Youth Ministry: Teresa Goehring

Director of Music: Jennifer Johnson

Office Phone Number: (712) 338-2274

Fees

The Faith Formation fee is \$35 per child with a maximum of \$85.00 per family. Early registration discount is available.

Class Schedules

Classes for grades K-6 are held on Wednesdays from 3:40 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Classes for middle and high students (grades 7-12) are Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m.

**It is requested that families make every effort to have children here on time.
Please be courteous and call the church if a student will be absent.**

Religious Education Board

The religious education board of St. Joseph Parish meets quarterly to discuss policies, curriculum and help in planning upcoming events. Some of them are Catechists or assist with the program in other ways. Board members are happy to visit with those who have a question or concern regarding the program.

Besides the pastor and director, the following people
volunteer on the religious education board:

Jeanette Baack
Chris Hinshaw
Jennifer Prentice
Larry Sattler
Abby Walleck
Molly Foss
Lynnette Cook

If you are interested on being on the faith formation board, please contact the director, parish pastor(s) or any current member of the board.

St. Joseph Religious Education Policy

ABSENCE

Attendance will be taken within the first 10 minutes of class time. **If your child is going to be absent or late, please call 338-2274 or email Sharon at this address smayer@milfordcable.net** Also, if you are picking up your child early, please inform us. If a student arrives after class time begins, please go with them until they find their class. Sometimes we are in church and not the classroom. We do recognize excellent attendance at the end of the religious ed year.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation of classes will be automatic if Okoboji schools are cancelled that day. If severe weather occurs after school dismisses, but before evening Faith Formation sessions start, tune in to the weather announcements on KICD and KUOO. The director will email parents and Catechists in either situation. We also follow the Okoboji Schools vacation schedule.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students will be expected to:

- Listen with eyes on their Catechist
- Keep voices off
- Sit up straight, hands on the table; feet on the floor.
- Follow directions
- Respect others, NO belittling. NO bullying.
- Work quietly, play safely.
- NOT talk in hallways.
- NOT run inside anywhere.
- Respect all church property at all times.

Disrespect of the Sacraments or expected church conduct, arguing with adults, back talking, cursing or fighting will have zero tolerance. Your child may be sent home immediately.

Minor infractions of other policies will be handled directly by the catechist in the classroom. If a student fails to correct disruptive behavior after 2 requests, the student will be escorted out of the room to the office to learn the lesson in a quieter environment. The student will be expected to apologize to the Catechist.

If it happens at a second class, the parents will be notified that a problem exists.

If problems continue, the Pastor will be notified as well as parents. Consistent disregard for policy will lead to removal from the program. Continued misbehavior and disruption of class is not acceptable during religious education at St. Joseph.

CHURCH CONDUCT

Reverence for the Blessed Sacrament will be expected any time we are in church. That means students blessing themselves upon entering, genuflecting, eyes forward and no talking to each other. Participation in the Mass prayers and following the missal is also expected.

PARISH PROPERTY

K – 12 students must stay on parish grounds at all times unless given permission to do otherwise. When students arrive or get off the bus, they are to go directly into the building and get their snack. Leaving church property is not be allowed unless accompanied by a parent and after notifying the director.

Students may be outside on the playground until class begins unless raining or too cold which will be determined by the parish personnel. At **NO** time will they be allowed to run in the building.

Actions such as throwing of any object, hitting another student or adult, use of foul language, etc. will result in the student sitting in the director's office. Students who play in the playground area will use appropriate playground behavior.

During the winter students may play on a snow hill, **ONLY IF** there is **NO pushing or shoving**. Should that occur, the offending students will not be allowed on the snow hill until a date the director determines.

Mary's Meditation Garden or the church proper is only available to students when part of their class study.

DRUGS/ALCOHOL, WEAPONS, and BULLYING STATEMENT

The parish recognizes the adverse effects of abuse. Therefore, the parish prohibits the use, passing, or selling of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or other narcotics in any form. Matches, cigarette lighters, any form of gun, knives or other sharp objects are prohibited. Bullying or intimidation in any way will not be tolerated.

This will include:

- * Verbal, physical or written forms of abuse.
- * Repeated remarks which are demeaning, including jokes and stories,
- * Activities involving any of the above
- * Threats to students or adults

If there is any violation of these rules, parents or guardians will be notified. The student will be suspended from the program until a satisfactory solution can be arranged with the parents,

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Any electronic game, music apparatus or cell phone must stay **off** and put away when classes are in session. Students are not allowed to send or view text messages or to make or receive calls during class time or field trips. If this policy is abused, the cell phone or electronic device will be removed during class. If it is a continuous problem, parents will be called.

FIELD TRIPS

No Catechist or aide in grades K-12 is allowed take students off of parish property, either by walking or car without a signed permission slip and approval from the director of religious education or the priest. Permission slips will be given to students and must be signed by a parent or guardian prior to the field trip and a copy given to the director. All adult drivers transporting students must be approved by the Diocese. The adults must have completed the VIRTUS child protection course as well as the safe driver video.

FOOD and DRINK

Food and drink are generally not allowed during class time unless it's part of the curriculum and under the authority of the Catechist and DRE.

KINDERGARTEN and FIRST grades

For their safety, Kindergarten and First grade students will not be allowed to leave the classroom after class without a parent or specified adult to accompany them.

DRESS CODE

Appropriate dress for our students will be expected at St. Joseph's. Therefore the following are **prohibited**:

bare midriff, bare shoulders
spaghetti straps,
halter tops,
very short shorts,
exposed undergarments,
any clothing that references drugs, alcohol, tobacco, death or the devil.
No bare feet.

CLASS MASSES

Once a year, on a Sunday, each K-12 class will be responsible for a class Mass. Duties will include greeting, ushering, lecturing, gifts and altar serving. It is important for our students to understand that many things and people go into having Mass. All of the duties can be lifelong ministries so exposure to them is part of their learning. Masses during the year on Wednesdays will also involve the youth in ministry positions.

SNACKS

On Wednesdays, students are expected to arrive **immediately** after school dismisses and a snack will be provided. We do have students with food allergies, so nothing with peanuts or processed around peanuts will be offered. meat/cheese/crackers, pretzels, fruit and cookies are usually offered. Should your child want a particular snack on Wednesday, feel free to send it along so he/she can have that after school. Snacks are not generally provided in the evening program, although that is left to the discretion of the Catechist. Sometimes food is a part of a lesson being taught. If a parent should want to provide a snack, we welcome that anytime but it must be 100% peanut free and prior knowledge given to the director of faith formation.

VISITORS

Parents or Grandparents may visit the classroom anytime and are especially encouraged to come during special events throughout the year. The best teaching moments for a parent are to lead by example; Showing your child that faith formation and Mass are important to you are part of those moments.

HEALTH and SAFETY ISSUES

Catechists will keep the health and safety of the children in mind at all times. Children should always be under adult supervision. Children should feel emotionally and physically safe while in the faith formation program. If there is anything of concern regarding the learning environment, parish facilities, or any other factors within our program regarding the well being of our children, please put it in writing and submit it to the pastor or director of the faith formation program.

K-6 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Students in the K-6 faith formation program will learn the basics of our Catholic faith through approved curriculum materials and through special events. They are also expected to attend Mass on Saturday or Sunday with the family and participate in their class Mass held once a year. Learning about our faith is a lifelong process. This is just the beginning.

K-6 students will meet in individual classrooms. Textbook materials cover the basic practices and seasons of our faith. Lessons prepared by the Catechists might include some games, booklets, written material and quizzes and crafts.

WOG (Word of God) logs are sent home with interested students to encourage reading Bible stories or our Diocese newspaper or any scriptural reference. The minutes read are logged, verified by parent signature and turned in monthly for a WOG log party at the end of each month.

In addition to this, specific prayer learning will be part of class time. Teaching children how to pray is essential to practicing their faith. We will follow the standards set out by the Diocese of Sioux City. Prayer reinforcement should be done at home.

Second grade students will study for their Sacraments primarily using the Family Formation material along with other textbook lessons. It is expected that parents of this group of students be particularly attentive to what these children need to do at home to prepare for their Sacraments. Workshops will be held for the student and parents before each Sacrament. **Attendance is required at both workshops.** Regular mass attendance is highly encouraged for all grades.

7th and 8th CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

When students reach these grade levels, attitudes change toward adults and each other. We will give them opportunities to understand themselves and each other from a Catholic point of view as well as study the Bible and history of the church, and social expectations of our faith. Textbook lessons and quizzes are a part of this curriculum.

NINTH GRADE

Ninth grade students begin preparation for Confirmation which will be completed in their tenth grade year. They start the year by examining where they are in their faith journey. They study Jesus' life- who He knew, how He taught and what others thought at the time. Bibles will be utilized more this year. They begin to study the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They learn the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

TENTH GRADE

Tenth grade is the year of Confirmation. A student must have been attending faith formation classes prior to this year to be Confirmed. During the year, the Bible will be used extensively as well as a program called Decision Point .Other sources used will include YOUCAT, a youth version of Catechism of the Catholic Church. This curriculum will incorporate scripture study, and small group discussion. Students will work with their sponsor to assist them through this Sacrament as well as research a Saint that they can identify with to select their Confirmation name. Attendance is critical during this year.

ELEVENTH and TWELFTH GRADES

Students in these grades made a choice to be Confirmed in their faith as tenth graders so we will build on that to expand their knowledge of our faith. Topics will be covered to help them be better disciples of Jesus through discussion of how Bible excerpts apply to us today, and the traditions or policies of our Church. As this age group approaches adulthood, so do the discussions. Topics such as marriage, finances, vocations, choices and their consequences, death, staying active in church, and independence will be discussed as well as more Catholic Doctrine. Field trips are a regular part of this class. They will be asked to take more of a leadership role during masses and events.

RCIA for Youth

Sometimes even though children are in a Catholic family, they have not attended religious education classes and may never have received some or all of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation. If you have or know of a child in this situation and would like them to receive their Sacraments, we can accomplish this through private lessons with parent and child. Contact either the pastor or director of faith formation for instruction in the faith.