

St. Anne Religious Education Handbook 2020-2021



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Class Scheduling

Sunday Mornings: Grades 1 & 2 (non-sacramental)
 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Grade 2+ *
 Grade 3
 Grade 4
 Grade 5

Sunday Evenings: Grades 6-7
 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Grade 8

 5:30 to 8:00pm
including 5:30 p.m. Mass Grade 9 & 10



*First Reconciliation and First Communion Sacramental Preparation) for eligible candidates Grade 2 and older.

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Program Expectations and Policies

Attendance:

Students enrolled in religious education classes are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If a student needs to be absent, please email dan@stannesouthborough.org or call the Religious Education Office at **508-485-0141** to leave a message for the catechist. Please leave the child's name, grade and the reason for the absence. Students with 3 excused absences will be given a take-home lesson with a hand-in assessment. Students with more than 3 absences (excused/unreported) will need to speak with Father Albert or the Director of Religious Education to make arrangements for lesson make-up based on number of classes missed and circumstances.

Communication/Weather Cancellations:

In the event that a scheduled class needs to be canceled due to weather, parish scheduling conflict, power outage, etc., families will be notified via **FlockNotes** (text message). Canceled classes will be rescheduled, if feasible. To sign up for **FlockNotes**, scroll to the FlockNotes signup located at the bottom of the home page of the St. Anne website, stannesouthborough.org.

Cell Phones and Digital Devices:

Cell phone use is not permitted during RE classes. Cell phones will be collected at the start of classes at the catechist's discretion. On the first class each RE class catechist will provide families with contact information for use in case of emergencies.

Dietary Restrictions/Allergies:

Any dietary restrictions or allergies should be recorded on RE registration forms. Snacks given during RE classes will adhere to the restrictions set for each class. Ingredient labels will be available upon request. Epi-pens should be checked in with catechists at the start of class.

Learning Differences:

All are welcome to share in learning about the Good News. If a student requires special accommodations, please record their learning needs and learning strategies on the RE registration form or speak with the Director of Religious Education.

Expected Behavior:

Sharing and true reflection requires a trusting environment. All RE class participants are expected to be respectful of themselves and others. Behavior that ridicules, mocks, or diminishes others will be promptly addressed.

Program Enhancements

Living one's faith is the other side of the coin of "knowing" one's faith. In order to better enhance this aspect of Religious Education and formation, the following will be added to the program:

1. **Mass:** Fr. Albert will offer a teaching mass once in each class for Grades 4 to 8. Grades 6 to 8 are encouraged to attend the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass on RE class dates. Grades 9 & 10 (Confirmation candidates) are required to attend the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass on RE class dates.
2. **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Grades 3 to 10 will have the opportunity to receive this sacrament in the church seasons of Advent and Lent during class. Confirmation candidates will be required to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Confirmation.
3. **Altar Server Training:** Grades 4 to 7 will receive altar server training as part of their religious education to better understand the Mass. Once trained, students who wish to be an altar server at Mass will be put on the master parish schedule.
4. **Lector Training:** Grades 9 to 10 will have the opportunity to practice reading scripture and leading their class in prayer. Students who would like to read, will be invited to do so at one of the 5:30 p.m. Sunday Masses.
5. **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:** All Confirmation candidates will receive training in this ministry so that following their Confirmation they will have the opportunity to serve at the weekend Masses.

Elementary Morning Religious Education Programming

“Not only are the attitudes of teachers crucial for the success of Catholic education, but also the attitudes of Catholic parents...They must also see to it that their homes are places in which these [Catholic] values are first fostered and lived. Parents’ own practice of the faith, their own love for Christ, is of course fundamental.”

-- St. Pope John Paul II

“Ad Lima” Address, May 30, 1998

We will strive to build a working teacher/parent partnership via communicating class topics in take home ‘Keeping Faith in the Family’ practice sheets.

This resource will provide parents with key concepts to share and nurture in conversation, along with simple suggestions on how to respond to these concepts as a family of faith.



Grade 1 & 2 RE class is intended for first graders and for second graders enrolling in their FIRST RE class.

Grade 2+ RE class is intended for second graders (and older students) who have completed one year of formal religious education and who wish to prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Communion in Spring 2020.

Grade 1 & 2 (Non-Sacramental)

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Catechists: Pat Battles & Jane Wood

Books/Materials Used: *The Beginner's Bible*

Brief Description of Program:

The Catechists this year have opted not to hold classes in person this year. Instead we will be creating take home packets for you to do with your child, to help foster the growth of their faith. The first packet will be available for pickup the weekend of October 3 & 4th.

Jesus Teaches about God's Love: God is Our Father, We Believe in the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Grew Up in a Family, Jesus Works Among the People, Jesus Teaches Us About Love

We Are Followers of Jesus: Jesus Had Many Followers, Jesus Died and Rose to New Life, Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit Helps the Church to Grow, The Church Serves

We Belong to the Church: We Belong to a Parish, We Celebrate the Sacraments, The Church Welcomes New Members, We Are Followers of Jesus, We Celebrate God's Forgiveness

We Celebrate and Live Our Faith: Jesus Gives Us the Eucharist, We Celebrate the Mass, We Share God's Love, We Honor Mary and the Saints, We Care for the Gifts of God's Creation

Class Dates:

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| • October 4 | March 21 |
| • November 1 | April 11 |
| • December 6 | May 2 |
| • January 10 | |
| • February 21 | |

Special Liturgy:

- Friday, April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.

Grade 2 and older (First Reconciliation and First Communion Sacramental Preparation)

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Catechists: Joanne Flathers & Pat Draper

Books/Materials Used: *We Celebrate the Eucharist*

Brief Description of Program:

Lessons are divided into 10 themes: Belonging, Celebrating, Listening, Caring, Making Peace, Giving Thanks for Creation, Giving Thanks for New Life, Sharing a Meal, the Mass, and Going Forth. Each lesson builds upon the last to guide children in their understanding of God's love and mercy and to prepare them to receive God's gift of forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to take part in our faith community's meal of thanksgiving, the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Class Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • October 4 & 18 | March 21 & 28 |
| • November 1 & 15 | April 11 & 25 |
| • December 6 & 13 | May 2 & 16 |
| • January 10 & 24 | |

February 21 & 28

Retreats/Special Masses/Sacramental Liturgy:

- November 15— Inscriptio Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- January 31 — Sacrament of Reconciliation at 2:00 p.m.
- April 2—Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
- April 11 — FC Retreat for students/parents at 9:30 a.m.
- May 2 — First Communion Mass at 1:30 p.m.
- May 16 — FC Going Forth Mass & May Crowning at 10:30 a.m. Mass

Parent Meeting Dates:

- THURSDAY, Sept 12 - Parent Info Session at 7:00 p.m.
- January 24 - First Reconciliation Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- April 11 - First Communion Meeting during Retreat

Grade 3

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Catechists: Laura Schroeder

Books/Materials Used: *We Believe: We Are the Church*

Brief Description of Program:

Lessons are divided into 4 Units:

Jesus Gives Us the Church: God Gives Us His Own Son, Jesus Teaches Us About God's Love, Christ Will Come Again, The Church Begins, We Learn About the Early Church

We Are Members of the Church: The Church Has Four Marks, The Church Teaches Us, The Church Prays, The Parish Is Our Home, God Calls Us to Holiness

The Church Leads Us in Worship: We Celebrate the Sacraments, Celebrating the Eucharist, We Worship at Mass, Celebrating Penance and Reconciliation, We Pray for Healing and Eternal Life

We Are Called to Discipleship: We Continue the Work of Jesus, The Church Respects All People, The Church is Worldwide, We Are God's Holy People, The Kingdom of God Continues to Grow

Class Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • October 4 & 18 | March 21 & 28 |
| • November 1 & 15 | April 11 & 25 |
| • December 6 & 13 | May 2 & 16 |
| • January 10 & 24 | |
| February 21 & 28 | |

Special Liturgy:

- *Friday, April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.*

Grade 4

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Catechists: Cecilia Lynch

Books/Materials Used: *We Believe: God's Law Guides Us*

Brief Description of Program:

Lessons are divided into 4 Units:

Growing in Jesus Christ: Jesus - the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Leads Us to Happiness, Sin in Our World, Our Conscience, Our Guide, Celebrating Penance and Reconciliation

The Commandments Help Us to Love God: Learning About God's Love, The First Commandment, The Second Commandment, Strengthened by the Eucharist

The Commandments Help Us to Love Others: The Fourth Commandment, The Fifth Commandment, The Sixth Commandment, The Seventh Commandment, The Eighth Commandment

We Are Called to Holiness: The Ninth Commandment, The Tenth Commandment, We Grow in Holiness, We Are the Church, We Are Called to Discipleship

Class Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • October 4 & 18 | March 21 & 28 |
| • November 1 & 15 | April 11 & 25 |
| • December 6 & 13 | May 2 & 16 |
| • January 10 & 24 | |
| February 21 & 28 | |

Special Liturgy:

- *Friday, April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.*

Grade 5

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Catechists: Jennifer Garden
Books/Materials Used: *We Believe: We Meet Jesus in the Sacraments*

Brief Description of Program:

Lessons are divided into 4 Units:

Jesus Christ Shares His Life with Us: Jesus Shares His Life with Us, Jesus Shares His Mission with the Church, The Church Celebrates Seven Sacraments, New Life in Christ, The Celebration of Baptism, The Liturgical Year, Ordinary Time

Confirmation and Eucharist Complete Our Initiation: The Coming of the Holy Spirit, The Celebration of Confirmation, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, The Celebration of the Eucharist, Living As Prayerful People, Advent, Christmas

The Sacraments of Healing: We Turn to God, The Celebration of Penance and Reconciliation, Jesus, the Healer, The Celebration of the Anointing of the Sick, Mary, Model of Discipleship, Lent, Triduum

We Love and Serve As Jesus Did: Faith, Hope, and Love, Called To Live As Jesus' Disciples, Matrimony: A Promise of Faithfulness and Love, Holy Orders: A Promise of Service for the People of God, One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, Easter

Class Dates:

- October 4 & 18 March 21 & 28
- November 1 & 15 April 11 & 25
- December 6 & 13 May 2 & 16
- January 10 & 24
- February 21 & 28

Special Liturgy:

- *Friday, April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.*

Middle School and High School Religious Education Evening Programming

“Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts; but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom.”

-- Pope John Paul II

“Ad Lima” Address, May 30, 1998

The placement of Grades 6 through 10 together on Sunday evenings is for the express purpose of building community among our students, parents and catechists.

All students will be brought together in community during the final 20 minutes of class for a PROCLAIM, GOING FORTH, AND SEND SESSION in the Parish Hall.

Each class will share a brief accounting (*Proclaim*) of what they learned in class, as well as what their response is going to be during the time in between classes (*Going Forth*). We will put it all together in a song of inspiration, and conclude with a collective prayer and blessing (*Send*).

Grade 6-7

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
(includes 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Catechists: Beth McGonagle

Books/Materials Used: *We Believe: We Are God's People*

Brief Description of Program:

Lessons are divided into 4 Units:

Forming the Covenant: God's Revelation, Creation, People Turn from God, God Promises to Help People, The Patriarchs: God Chooses a People.

Building the Covenant: An Enslaved People, A Free People, A Conquering People, A Royal People, A Prosperous People

Redefining the Covenant: A Divided People: Israel, the Northern Kingdom, A Divided People: Judah, the Southern Kingdom, The Exile and the Journey Home, A Strong People, God Fulfills His Promise

The Covenant Fulfilled in Jesus: Jesus, Teacher and Healer, Jesus, Redeemer and Savior, The Church Begins, The Bible and the Church Today, The Church in the World.

Class Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • October 4 & 18 | March 21 & 28 |
| • November 1 & 15 | April 11 & 25 |
| • December 6 & 13 | May 2 & 16 |
| • January 10 & 24 | |

February 21 & 28

Class Service Projects/Initiatives:

- *Service Project - Time: TBD*

Special Liturgy:

- *Friday, April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.*

Grade 8

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
(includes 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Catechists: Rich Flathers

Books/Materials Used: *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth Bible*
Total Catechesis: The Creed

Brief Description of Program:

The Creed, our beliefs as Catholics, is examined through guided lessons on:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Faith | Jesus' Death |
| • God Our Father | Jesus' Resurrection |
| • The Human Person | The Holy Spirit |
| • The Promise of the Messiah | The Mission of the Catholic Church |
| • Jesus Christ: True God and True Man | The Organization of the Catholic Church |
| • Jesus' Message and Mission | The Last Things |

Class Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • October 4 & 18 | March 21 & 28 |
| • November 1 & 15 | April 11 & 25 |
| • December 6 & 13 | May 2 & 16 |
| • January 10 & 24 | |
| | February 21 & 28 |

Class Service Projects/Initiatives:

- *Service Project - Time: TBD*

Special Liturgy:

- *April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.*

Grade 9-10

(2 year Confirmation Sacramental Preparation)

Meeting Day/Times: Sundays, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
(includes 5:30 p.m. Mass)

Catechists:
John Andries Dan Doyle

Books/Materials Used:
Catholic Faith Youth Handbook *The Catholic Youth Bible*
The Catechism of the Catholic Church LifeTeen Resources

Brief Description of Program:

Confirmation is the third sacrament of initiation where the Candidate reaffirms their Catholic Faith that began with their Baptism. By perpetuating the same “grace” received by the Apostles at Pentecost, each Candidate is “sealed and strengthened” by God through the indwelling of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Confirmation Program at St. Anne’s seeks to educate, nourish and guide each Candidate for this important step toward their adult life in the Church.

Confirmation Sacramental preparation is a two-year process divided into Year I and Year II sections. Candidates in Grades 10 to 12, who have completed the two-year (Year I & II) formation process will be eligible to receive the sacrament. Candidates older than 18 will be referred to a meeting with Fr. Albert for proper discernment regarding preparation.

We will follow the motto of our St. Mary’s Press curriculum: “STUDY IT! PRAY IT! LIVE IT!” within the format of “GATHER, PROCLAIM, BREAK, AND SEND” segments where students will not just receive a teaching on a particular topic, but will have the opportunity to put it together in guided peer-to-peer discussions, group activities, and projects. Regular Mass attendance is required, and the 5:30 pm Sunday Mass is part of the class, as our class work will include the Gospel readings, and themes from Fr. Albert’s homily. To assist students in their preparation for class and to develop ownership of their faith development and practice, students will be asked to sign up to serve as readers, ushers, gift bearers, and altar servers for the Mass throughout the year. Also reading assignments or video previews will be given prior to each class. Regular attendance and completion of homework assignments are necessary and essential for students to feel comfortable in their own knowledge and understanding in order to be active participants in class, to serve as mentors to our younger students, and to feel a part of our faith community.

Grade 9-10

(2 year Confirmation Sacramental Preparation)

Class Dates:

• October 4 & 18	March 21 & 28
• November 1 & 15	April 11 & 25
• December 6 & 13	May 2 & 16
• January 10 & 24	
February 21 & 28	

Retreats/Special Masses/Sacramental Liturgy:

- TBD - Parent/Candidate Info Meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall
- TBD - Confirmation Retreat - Exact date TBD
- Nov 15 — Confirmation Inscription Mass, 5:30 p.m.
- *April 2 — Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.*
- Mar/Apr/May 2020 - Confirmation Mass at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Worcester - Exact date TBD by Bishop
- Going Forth Mass - typically the Sunday following the Confirmation date.

Class Service Projects/Initiatives:

- *Service Project - Time: TBD*
- *Individual and class service initiatives for 2020 Confirmation candidates*
- *Interview and Robe Fitting Dates TBD upon confirmation of Confirmation Mass date*
- *Rehearsal for 2020 Confirmation candidates and sponsors will be the evening before the Confirmation Mass date in St. Anne Church, if feasible.*

Community Service

Our Father's Table (Monthly):

Founded in October of 1986 by local citizens dedicated to fighting hunger, Our Father's Table is a ministry that serves free dinners to the community on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Giving Tree (Advent):

Each year the parishioners of St. Anne Church help spread Christmas joy and happiness to many families by supporting local charities' gift-giving efforts. In past years, the three local organizations supported were Southborough United Parishes, Southborough Youth and Family Services and Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope in Worcester.

At the start of Advent, the organizations provide our parish with gift requests which are then displayed on a Giving Tree in the church. Parishioners are invited to fulfill as many gift requests as desired. Wrapped gifts are returned to the Giving Tree the first week of December to allow the organizations ample time to distribute the gifts to families.

Community Service

Southborough Food Pantry (Ongoing):

The Southborough Food Pantry (SFP) is an integral part of the United Parishes of Southborough which provides opportunities to be involved ecumenically with the other churches in Southborough. .

Service Projects:

Each class will select and decide on an individual age-appropriate class service project to complete at some point during the academic year.

