



Religious Education Handbook

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Mission Statement:

We, the family of St. Paul the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, the Body of Jesus Christ, are piously called to assertively provide opportunities for each person to use their time, talents, and treasure for the greater glory of God, and to live and grow in our faith in the presence of Jesus Christ.

We thereby bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our community through joyful proclamation of God's Word, prayerful worship, reverent celebration of the sacraments, and catechesis for everyone about the Universal Church and its place in the world and our local community.

Philosophy of Education:

The ministry of Religious Education flows from the mandate of Jesus to go into the whole world and teach the Good News. In participation with parents, the primary teachers of children's faith, the Religious Education Program of Saint Paul's Parish is dedicated to teaching children to know, love, and serve our merciful and loving God.

Goal:

As promised in a child's baptismal vows, parents are the primary educators for a child's faith. In coordination with the parents, the goal of the Religious Education Program is to help instill a solid foundation in the children's Catholic Faith, build a personal relationship with the Holy Trinity – God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and fill their hearts with the love of God and neighbor so that they can spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to others through service and example. The Religious Education Program is also dedicated to cultivating a true belonging to our Parish community within the children and guiding them to become active participants in the life and mission of the Church.

Youth Protection Program:

St. Paul the Apostle Religious Education Programs are in full compliance with the Diocesan Youth Protection Program which includes obtaining appropriate clearance

checks and taking the diocesan online training. The Diocesan Safe Environment Program is taught in Grades 1, 5, and 9. Parent letters and lesson plans can be found on the Diocesan website. <http://www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth/safe-environment-program>

Mass Attendance:

Religious Education Class is not a substitute for Mass. Regular Mass attendance is vital to our Catholic Faith formation. Each week when we gather for the Liturgy, we honor God and His sacrifice. When we participate in the Eucharist, we receive the Bread of Life. This special gift from God reunites us with Him and gives us the grace we need each week to go out into the world and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please remember to include Mass in your weekend plans, at the parish or virtually.

Online Class Expectations:

- Students will log in to class on time.
- Students will be dressed appropriately and will be in a common, but quiet space. Students should not be in their bedroom.
- Students will be respectful of others in the class. Students will wait their turn to speak and remain muted when the catechist is instructing.
- Students will have their cameras turned on, unless the catechist requests for the class to turn them off.
- The chat box will not be used unless the catechist gives permission to do so.
- If students do not comply with the expectations and consistent, interruptive, behavior issues arise, they will be asked to do their lessons with a parent instead of with the online class.

Online Class Attendance Expectations:

Attendance at all classes is important and is expected. However, illness, family emergencies, etc. are part of life, so when it is necessary for a student to be absent, please contact Anna Mattern through email: amattern@stpaulsinannville.org.

Homeschool/Family Catechesis Expectations:

Parents will ensure that their child(ren) are completing lessons in the Spirit of Truth book or Family of Faith book. Mrs. Mattern will check in with families monthly. If any questions or concerns arise, please contact Mrs. Mattern.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to be respectful of their Catechist and other students in their class. Students are required to be prepared for class each week by having their textbook and Bible with them for their online class. They are also expected to be active participants in class in order to gain the most out of the material being presented.

Parent Responsibilities:

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Faith formation should be a priority at home. This can be done by taking time to discuss what was taught in class, having conversations about the Catholic Faith, and making time for prayer each day. It is also done through regular attendance to Mass on weekends and Holy Days of Obligation. Parents are to ensure that their children attend class regularly and on time. Parents are urged to explain to their children that the time they spend in religion classes is just as important to their development as the time they spend in their other classes at school. Parents also have the responsibility to deepen their own Religious Education. One way to do so is to participate in the parish Adult Education Programs or in the Parent group offered during Religious Education.

Emergency Care of Students (for the optional Liturgy activity days offered):

All students must have a Medical Release Form completed and signed as a part of their registration to keep on file in the Religious Education office. If a student would become seriously injured or ill during class, the Medical Release form authorizes Catechists and

Mrs. Mattern to provide emergency care. Every attempt will be made to contact parents if there is an accident or illness. If a minor accident or injury occurs, basic first aid treatment will be administered.

Student Disciplinary Procedures:

Students who persist in disturbing the learning environment will be dealt with accordingly. As a general rule, the following actions will be taken to enforce discipline upon those students who insist on disrupting classes:

- At the first occurrence of a situation in which a student is disruptive to the point that he/she is interfering with the Catechists lesson, the child's parents will be notified.
- At the second occurrence of the situation described above, the parents of the child will be contacted by Mrs. Mattern a second time.
- If students do not comply with the expectations and consistent, interruptive behavior issues arise, they will be asked to do their lessons with a parent instead of with the online class.

Cancellations:

When there is severely inclement weather, Liturgy gatherings will be cancelled.

Announcements will be made in the following ways:

1. On the Remind app. Please sign up in order to receive any announcements.
2. An email will also be sent out notifying you of the cancellation.
3. Check the parish web site www.saintpaulsinannville.org

Online Class Times Offered:

Grade 1 & 2: Sunday - 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Grade 5: Sunday – 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Grade 4: Sunday - 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Grade 6: Sunday – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Grade 7: Sunday - 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Grade 8: Sunday – 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

*****Monthly Liturgy Activities: Sundays - 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Registration Fees:

Spirit of Truth - \$25 per child

Family of Faith - \$35

Catholic Doctrine to be Mastered:

The Diocesan Curriculum for Religious Education is followed. A description of it, can be found on the Diocesan Website. Directions to reach it follow:

www.hbgdiocese.org

- Education
- Religious Education – then scroll down
- Curricula

Sacramental Preparation

Baptismal Preparation:

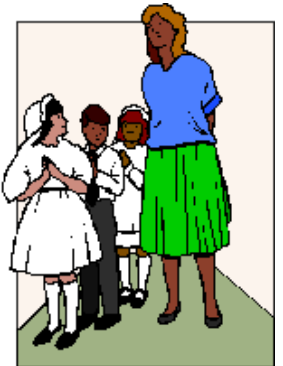
Sessions are held to prepare parents and sponsors for the baptism of their child.

Registration is required. Call Fr. Coyle at 717-867-1525.

First Reconciliation and First Communion:

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion begins in first grade and continues in second grade. The following are required in order to receive the sacrament:

- Regular and satisfactory participation in the religion classes in first and second grade at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, St. Joan of Arc, or through a homeschool program.
- Regular attendance at Mass.
- Attendance at the Reconciliation and First Communion Retreats.
- If a child did not receive the sacrament of Baptism at St. Paul's he/she will need to have a newly sealed Baptismal Certificate from the Parish in which he/she was baptized.



Confirmation:

The Diocese of Harrisburg requires a two year preparation which begins with 7th grade.

It is assumed that the child has been attending classes from kindergarten through 6th grade. The 7th and 8th grade requirements are:

- Regular and satisfactory participation in the religion classes at either St. Paul the Apostle Parish, St. Joan of Arc, or through a homeschool program.
- Regular attendance at Mass and the Sacraments.
- Attendance at special Confirmation Sessions and Rites.
- Attendance at the Confirmation Retreat
- Completion of the Service requirements and Saint report
- Interview



Adult Education

RCIA

The RCIA program is for adults who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith. The program is for both Catholics and non-Catholics. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings with Father Coyle and Anna Mattern from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Classes will begin in October. For information, call Anna Mattern at 717-867-1525, option 5.

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Anna Mattern.

Phone: 717-867-1525 option 5

Email: [amattern @stpaulsinannville.org](mailto:amattern@stpaulsinannville.org)