

**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**PARENT | STUDENT HANDBOOK
2019-2020**

A Year of Hope



St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Office of Religious Education
6720B Union Mill Road • Clifton, VA 20124-1115 • 703-817-1773 • FAX 703-817-1721
Patty Laing, DRE, plaing@st-andrew.org • www.standrewsreligioused.org

Religious Education Calendar of Classes 2019-2020

Month	Mon.	Tue.	HOLIDAYS ~ NO RE CLASSES October 14 & 15 - Columbus Day November 4 & 5 – FCPS & PWCS Holiday/Election Day December 23- January 1 - Christmas Break January 20 & 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr February 17& 18 - President’s Day April 6 & 7 - Holy Week April 13 & 14 - Easter Week IMPORTANT DATES Friday, September 13 – Parent’s Meet & Greet, 7 pm – plan to attend Sunday, September 15 – Catechetical Sunday & Parish Picnic Monday & Tuesday, September 16 & 17 – Religious Education Classes Begin Sunday, October 6 – Bake Sale after all the masses Tuesday, October 15– Parish Holy Hour & Rosary, 7 pm Saturday, October 19 – 7 th Grade Retreat, 9:30 am Saturday, October 26 – All Saint’s Party, 3-5 pm Friday, November 1 – All Saints Day – Holy Day of Obligation Sunday, December 1 – Advent begins Sunday, December 8 – Bake Sale & Gingerbread Manger Making after Mass Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day – Holy Day of Obligation Saturday, January 25 – First Penance Retreat 8:30 am & Candle Making 1 pm Saturday, February 1 – First Penance 10 am Wednesday, February 26 – Ash Wednesday, Lent begins Saturday, March 28 – 8 th Grade Retreat to Basilica, 7:30 am – 3 pm Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday Saturday, April 25 – First Holy Communion Retreat/Rehearsal, 8:30 am – 1 pm Saturday, May 2 – First Holy Communion & Reception, Mass 11 am Monday, May 18 – Awards Ceremony for all RE students, 5:30 pm Tuesday, May 19 – Confirmation Rehearsal, 6:45 pm Wednesday, May 20 – Confirmation & Reception, 7 pm (Confirmandi 5:30 pm) Sunday, June 14 – Corpus Christi Procession & Reception after 12:30 pm Mass
September	16	17	
	23	24	
October	30	1	
	7	8	
	21	22	
	28	29	
November	11	12	
	18	19	
	25	26	
December	2	3	
	9	10	
	16	17	
January	6	7	
	13	14	
	27	28	
February	3	4	
	10	11	
	24	25	
March	2	3	
	9	10	
	16	17	
	23	24	
	30	31	
April	20	21	
	27	28	
May	4	5	
	11	12	
	18		

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Religious Education: 703-817-1773

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 11:30-7:30 | TUESDAY 1-7:30 | THURSDAY 11:30-5:30 | CLOSED FRIDAY

Patty Laing, Director of Religious Education, plaing@st-andrew.org

Fatima Turbulencia, Administrative Assistant, fturbulencia@st-andrew.org

Parish Office: 703-817-1770

Youth Group: 703-817-1770

Bethany Rogers, cym.standrew@gmail.com

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass: Saturday 5:30 pm | Sunday 7:30, 8:45, 10:30 (Latin) am, and 12:30 pm

Daily Masses: Monday-Friday 6:30 and 8:45 am (no 6:30 on Federal Holidays); Saturday 8:45 am; Thursday 7 pm (1st and 3rd Thursday Traditional Latin Mass), all other Thursdays Novus Ordo Latin Mass Preceded by Novena/Benediction at 6:30 pm; First Fridays 7 pm

Confession Times: Thursday 5:30-6:30 pm; Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm

Adoration Times: Thursday 8-9 pm; Friday 9:30-5 pm; 1st Friday 9:30-7 pm (sign up roseofsharon325@gmail.com)

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Dear Parents and Students,

Our Divine Teacher is Jesus himself. In all things, we must learn to *sit at his feet and listen to him speak* (Luke 10:39)

- When Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph found him *in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers* (Luke 2:46-47).
- When Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), *the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes* (Matthew 7:28-29).
- He taught the crowds with parables, *but to his own disciples he explained everything in private* (Mark 4:34).
- When Jesus saw the crowds, *his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things* (Mark 6:34).
- At the Last Supper, after a long discourse, Jesus told his Apostles, *I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now* (John 16:12). But Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit, *and when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth* (John 16:13).
- When Jesus rose from the dead, Mary Magdalene recognized him and called out, in Hebrew, *Rabbouni*, which means *Teacher* (John 20:16).
- He told his disciples, *Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these* (Matthew 19:14).

Please take some time to read these Guidelines carefully, as a means of coming to know Jesus, who told us, *Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart* (Matthew 11:29)

In Christ,
Rev. Christopher J. Mould
Pastor

A Parents' Prayer

O God the Father of mankind, who hast given unto me these my children, and committed them to my charge to bring them up for Thee, and to prepare them for eternal life: help me with Thy heavenly grace, that I may be able to fulfill this most sacred duty and stewardship. Teach me both what to give and what to withhold; when to reprove and when to forbear; make me to be gentle, yet firm; considerate and watchful; and deliver me equally from the weakness of indulgence, and the excess of severity; and grant that, both by word and example, I may be careful to lead them in the ways of wisdom and true piety, so that at last I may, with them, be admitted to the unspeakable joys of our true home in heaven, in the company of the blessed Angels and Saints. Amen.

O Heavenly Father, I commend my children to Thy care. Be Thou their God and Father; and mercifully supply whatever is lacking in me through frailty or negligence. Strengthen them to overcome the corruptions of the world, whether from within or without; and deliver them from the secret snares of the enemy. Pour thy grace into their hearts, and strengthen and multiply in them the gifts of Thy Holy Spirit, that they may daily grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and so, faithfully serving Thee here, may come to rejoice in Thy presence hereafter. Amen.

Welcome to St. Andrew the Apostle Religious Education Program.

We are here to help parents fulfill the promise made at Baptism to educate their children in the practice of their faith. Our mission is to ignite in your child a spark that will lead them to fall in love with Christ and His Church. We work towards this goal by teaching the truths of the Catholic faith so that our students understand the purpose of human existence and dedicate themselves to living out a life focused on Sainthood. The more we grow in love with Christ through a life of prayer, virtue and service the more our desires become one with the will of God.

We are fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers who generously give of their time to make the students' experience meaningful. This journey toward Sainthood cannot be done alone – we need the support of those around us and so I ask that you please pray for all the catechists and staff. Be assured we will pray for you and your families. Since parents are the primary educators of their children, the strength of our efforts are more than doubled when reinforced at home. We hope you will spend time praying with your children, reviewing the virtues and lessons learned in class and their homework assignments and especially attending Mass each week a priority.

Please take a moment to read this handbook with your child(ren) and return the acknowledgement portion, with signatures, on the first day of class. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me.

In Christ,

Patty Laing

Director of Religious Education

plaing@st-andrew.org | 703-817-1773

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

We cannot love what we do not know, and we cannot give what we do not have. The Apostle Peter tells us to always be prepared to defend and explain the Faith to those who ask (1 Peter 3:15). Christian adults have a special calling and mission to be the salt and light of the world. Please consider learning more about the Faith.

CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players is a multi-part film series that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church, but changed the course of civilization. Discover the places where St. Thomas Aquinas (1/13) lived, learned, and wrote. Visit the countryside where St. Francis (10/28) gathered a group of friars and revived the Church. See the places where St. Catherine of Siena (4/27) ministered and prayed. Trek through England to where Bl. John Henry Newman (2/10) and G.K. Chesterton (11/18) left their mark and sparked an English Catholic revival. Marvel at the extraordinary art of Michelangelo (12/16), from his David statue in Florence, to the Pietà at St. Peter's, to the Sistine Chapel. Experience how St. Augustine's (9/23) famous "restless heart has become the paradigm for spiritual seekers across the ages. Journey with Bishop Barron as he uncovers the incredible life of St. Benedict (3/16), a 'cave dwelling kid' who changed the course of western civilization. One MONDAY a month, 5:30-7 pm, in the Padre Pio Room – don't miss this amazing series!

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE BOOK CLUB meets once a month on Tuesday morning from 10 am – noon in the JP II room. The book club selections focus on the lives of the saints. Lively discussion, refreshments, and insight into those who already wear the crown of sainthood, help to inspire us to fulfill our calling! Cost: \$10/book. This year we will focus on the saints whose statues are above St. Andrew's altar.

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS: LUNCH, LAUGHTER & LEARNING (formerly MSOT) is held once a month on Sunday afternoons at St. Andrews. This year the topic is *Defending the Faith*. The group gathers for lunch at 1:30 pm and a priest gives the talk beginning at 2 pm, followed by Q & A, then the rosary. Cost: \$135/year (covers cost of lunch.) Topics this year include 9/29 The Existence of God, 10/20 The Authenticity of Scripture, 11/17 Grace, Merit, & Justification, 12/15 The Church & the Papacy, 1/26 Purgatory, 2/23 The Church's Teachings on Marriage, 3/22 The Church & Science, 4/26 The Eucharist, 5/17 Mary & Marian Doctrines.

ST. ANDREW'S BIBLE STUDY will focus on studying the Bible Timeline for 2019-20. Beginning in September they meet in Msgr. Hannan Hall every Wednesday night from 7:15 – 9:00 pm. (The bulletin will have more details on Bible Study registration information.)

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Andrew's Religious Education Program, which is rooted in and derived from the Roman Canon of the Mass, *is simply and always to hold and teach the Catholic Faith that comes to us from the Apostles*. We acknowledge the one Teacher, Jesus Christ, and remain steadfastly united to the Catholic Church He founded on the rock of St. Peter. Therefore, we expect unwavering fidelity to the Successor of Peter from all catechists and assistant catechists who volunteer in this program.

At St. Andrew's Parish, each child is seen as created in the image and likeness of God and as a reflection of His goodness. Realizing that God has created all things for His glory and our benefit, the challenge of being a living witness to the Gospel is central to the development of each student. Therefore, at St. Andrew's, an understanding of Jesus and His message is essential to knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him always.

The core elements listed below form the foundation and strength of St. Andrew's Religious Education Program. With these elements we seek to cultivate the hearts, minds, and souls of our students to their fullest potential.

- † The Parents are recognized and respected as the primary educators of their children
- † The dignity of the individual, as a unique child of God, is nurtured and developed
- † The doctrine of the Catholic faith is presented in its fullness and entirety as both knowledge to be learned and a life to be *lived*
- † The Sacramental life is central to developing and sustaining the Catholic Faith
- † The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our Faith
- † The promotion of frequent reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist
- † The Gospel values which teach moral life as expressed in the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are professed, cultivated and practiced
- † The Word of God is revered
- † Our Blessed Lady's example, as the first disciple of Jesus, is our model
- † The virtues are fostered and practiced in everyday life
- † Reading and studying the lives of the saints as an example for our lives
- † The importance of prayer is stressed as a source for growth in the spiritual life. Holy Hours, Rosaries, Novenas, personal prayers, and Mass attendance are stressed and encouraged.



VOLUNTEERS

Our program cannot be run without your help. We need Catechists, Assistant Catechists, Hall and Parking Monitors. All Volunteers must complete the mandatory diocesan paperwork, including a background check and attend a Virtus seminar. Volunteers receive reduced tuition. Contact the Religious Education Office to apply. If you do not have time for a full time volunteer position, but would like to help there are several times during the year we would be grateful for your assistance including the Bake Sales, our book sale, among others. Please contact the office to volunteer.

PARENTS' ROLE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

“Parents are the first and foremost catechist of their children. They catechize informally, but powerfully by example and instructions. They communicate values and attitudes by showing love for Christ and his Church and for each other, by reverently receiving the Eucharist and living in its spirit, by fostering justice and love in all their relationships. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others and their practice of frequent prayer, all make meaningful their profession of belief. Parents nurture faith in their children by showing them the richness and beauty of lived faith.” (*Sharing the Light of Faith – National Catechetical Directory for the United States*)

You must be your child’s primary example in matters of faith. Church authorities have helped us by developing positive laws called Precepts of the church (listed below) to ensure our growth in our love of God and neighbor. We are obliged as Catholics to meet these minimum requirements of our faith (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2041-2043). As parents, we need to pass these precepts on to our children. They can make a big difference in their spiritual journey.

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from those works and activities that would prevent us from attending Mass.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.
6. Obey the laws of the Church concerning marriage.

Prayer is also a tremendous gift from God that will aid our children’s spiritual journey. God hears and answers our prayers. When we are faced with difficult decisions we often recite the prayers we memorized as children. Included in the Curriculum section is a list of prayers that students should know at each grade level. Parents are responsible for helping their children memorize these prayers. Catechists will periodically test the children on their prayers.

It is strongly encouraged that parents register their children for religious education beginning in Kindergarten and continue on through Grade 8. Each grade builds upon the previous grade’s curriculum to it is vital they attend religious education every year. Confirmation is a two year program beginning in the seventh grade.

LEARNING DISABILITIES/HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

If your child has a learning disability or health related problems that would necessitate special consideration while attending religious education classes, please notify the Religious Education Office. All information will remain confidential, but may be passed on to the catechist or assistant catechist to assist them in teaching your child. A Monday afternoon class has been established to assist our students with special needs. If you have children who may fall into this category, please contact the Religious Education Office for more information.

EASTERN RITE FAMILIES

Eastern Rite Catholics wishing to register their children in the St. Andrew the Apostle Religious Education program are more than welcome to join! Before class placements can be made, however, please provide a copy of each child’s Baptism and Chrismation certificate.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Monday: 5:30-7 pm (Kindergarten - 8th grade + Special Needs)

Tuesday: 6-7:30 pm (Kindergarten - 8th grade + RCIC/Sacramental Prep 1 and 2)

Classes are filled on a first-come basis.

REGISTRATION FEES

	One Child	Two Children	Three or more Children
Registration Rate	\$100	\$150	\$175
Registration after August 15, 2019	\$125	\$175	\$200
First Holy Communion Fee (Grade 2, RCIC Sacramental Prep for FHC)	\$50	\$100	\$150 (\$50/child)
Confirmation Fee (Confirmation is a two-year program. The fee applies for students in the 2 nd year – traditionally 8 th grade or Sacramental Prep 2.)	\$75	\$150	\$225 (\$75/child)
Out of Parish Fee	\$25	\$50	\$75

HOMESCHOOL STUDENT BOOK FEE: \$25/book

No one will be denied Religious Education for financial hardship reasons. Payment arrangements can be made through the Religious Education Office. Late notices will be sent to families with outstanding tuition fees. Any family receiving two or more notices of “past due tuition,” that has not applied for financial assistance, will be listed as delinquent in their tuition status. Delinquent tuition will roll to the next year if not paid in the current year. Past due tuition must be paid in full before registering a child for the next Religious Education school year.

Tuition is NON-REFUNDABLE unless the family relocates outside the parish at which time a refund will be mailed to the new address. For relocations after January 1st, no refunds will be made. Families not registered at St. Andrew’s parish are not eligible to participate in the Tuition Assistance Program. Catechists who have children enrolled in the Religious Education Program pay only sacramental supplement and book fees. All other volunteers pay half of the fee as well as the book and sacramental supplement fees. If you are unable to volunteer the full eight months, a prorated family instructional fee will be assessed.

ARRIVAL AND PICK UP

Please make every effort to have your child in class at least five (5) minutes before class begins. Students should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of class. Weekly adoration is part of our curriculum so it is extremely important to arrive on time so your child can be in his/her seat and ready to begin class on time. When arriving, students in grades K through 3 MUST be escorted from the cars by a parent, guardian, or older sibling.

No child will be dismissed early from class unless a parent comes to the Religious Education Office and obtains an Early Release Form. Someone from the Religious Education Office (or a parking or hall monitor) will come to the classroom to get the student for the waiting parent. All students in grades K through 8 (including the Sacramental Preparation class) must be picked up by a parent, guardian, or designated carpool person. No student will be released from the classroom without adult supervision. There will be no carpool line after classes.

ATTENDANCE

You have asked us to help you with the religious education of your child(ren). Faithful attendance to class is vital for a well-grounded understanding of the Catholic Faith. While understandable for illness, absenteeism for other reasons harm the individual student as well as the morale of the class as a whole. When a student is going to miss a class the parent should notify the Religious Education Office, 703-817-1773 or plaing@st-andrew.org. Letting us know that the child will be absent helps us to keep them up to date with the rest of their class. Students who miss six or more of the scheduled classes must retake the course work for that year in the following year’s program. This policy also applies to students enrolled in our sacramental programs.

TARDINESS

Tardiness can be a serious disruption to the class and is harmful to the individual student as well. There is limited time allotted each week for classes, so please help us to help you by getting your child(ren) to class ON TIME. If a student arrives after opening prayers have begun, please have them wait outside the classroom until prayer is concluded, then they may enter. If a student arrives after the class has left the classroom for Adoration in the

church, have the student report to the Religious Education Office until their class returns. Please do not take the student directly to the church as this will only interrupt the meditation time of the students who are already seated. *Three tardies and/or three early dismissals equal one absence.*

CANCELLATIONS

St. Andrews Religious Education Classes are cancelled for the day if Fairfax County Public Schools

- are cancelled due to inclement weather
- have early dismissal due to inclement weather
- cancel afternoon activities

If Fairfax County Public Schools has early dismissal for any reason, but continues with afternoon and evening activities, there WILL be Religious Education Classes. If Fairfax County Public Schools are not in session for other reasons at the time of an inclement weather announcement, we will follow the Prince William County Schools cancellation policy. Every effort will be made to send an email notification to the RE families as well as update the RE website www.standrewsreligioused.org

TEXTBOOKS

Kindergarten students will use the book, *Spirit of Truth – The Blessed Trinity and the Holy Family* by Sophia Press. Grade one through six will use the *Faith and Life* series, published by Ignatius Press. Grade seven and eight will also use the *Spirit of Truth* series by Sophia Press. Students will also be using the Basic Catholic Questions booklets for Grades K-6, and Confirmation Study Guide for Grades 7-8, along with *Virtues in Practice*.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be assigned homework on a regular basis. Memorizing prayers and the BCQs should be worked on weekly. The assigned homework should be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the teacher each week. This will be reflected on the student's report card under "*completes homework.*"

TESTING

Midterm and final exams are given to all students in grades K through 8 in a multiple-choice and fill in the blank or short answer format. The tests are given to students who attend Religious Education and attend public school. The midterm exams cover the first half of the Basic Catholic Questions booklet while the final covers the second half of the booklet. The Confirmation Exams questions are taken from the Confirmation Study Guide. Students receive the study guide in the 7th grade.

REPORT CARDS

Catechists will provide a standard written evaluation of a student's progress twice during the school year (January and May). These will include the student's understanding of the material covered as reflected by test scores, the child's completion of homework assignments, prayers mastered, class participation, and behavior. It is well understood that the report card marks may not adequately reflect the degree to which a student is maturing in his/her Catholic life, but they do reflect how well the student is able to comprehend the material being presented. Report card evaluation levels will be: Exceeds Requirements, Meets Requirements, and Needs Improvement. The catechist will include a comment if a ranking of "Exceeds Requirements" or "Needs Improvement" is listed on the report card.

STUDENT ILLNESS OR INJURY

If a student becomes sick or injured during class, they will be brought to the office and the parents will be notified. The RE Office will not dispense medication to the child, but we will offer basic first aid. Some of the teachers and DRE, Patty Laing, are certified in First Aid and CPR (August 2018).

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Bake Sales – Sunday October 6 and Sunday, December 8 (Gingerbread Manager)
Parish Craft Fair – Saturday, November 9

AWARDS

Students who earn a 95% or better on the mid-term and final exams will be put on the Honor Roll. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards are awarded at the End of the Year Assembly where all family members are invited to attend. Please note: **Due to the date given to St. Andrews for Confirmation, the 2019-20 awards ceremony for BOTH Monday and Tuesday classes will be held on Monday, May 18.**

- The Gold Award is earned by students who have earned 95% or better on both the midterm and final exams.
- The Silver Award is earned by students who have earned 90% or better on both the midterm and final exams.
- The Bronze Award is earned by students who have earned 85% or better on both the midterm and final exams.

STUDENTS' ROLE

Students are expected to be punctual and prepared for class. Please make every effort to arrive five minutes before class begins. *Each week, students should bring their textbooks, writing utensils, and completed homework assignments.* Students should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a classroom environment.

Student Decorum

- † Students are reminded that all property and possessions found in the classrooms are to be left untouched.
- † Do not bring ELECTRONIC GADGETS to class. Cell phones MAY NEVER be used during class for texting or calls.
- † Gum is not permitted in the building! No food or drink should be brought to class by the students unless requested by the catechist.
- † Items that could in anyway cause injury to a student or others (including dangerous toys) are not permitted in the building.
- † ALL STUDENTS must enter and exit the building through the blue doors at the lower level of the school. Msgr. Hannan Hall may NEVER be used as a passageway to or from class since other activities usually occur during Religious Education class times. Only students requiring handicap access to the second floor should use Msgr. Hannan Hall as an entrance or exit.
- † All students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3 must have a parent, guardian, or older sibling escort them to the classroom at the beginning of class.
- † All students (grades K-8) must be picked up from the classrooms at the end of class by the parent/guardian or designated carpool adult. No student will be released from the classroom without adult supervision. There will be no carpool line after classes.
- † Every student has the right and privilege to learn in a classroom where students are well behaved. Similarly, every catechist and assistant catechist has the right to teach in such an environment. In the event that a student finds it difficult to exhibit proper behavior, the catechist will call upon the Religious Education Office for assistance. Every attempt will be made to integrate the child into the classroom prior to contacting his/her parents. If this is unsuccessful, the Religious Education Office will enlist the support of the parents to rectify the situation.

DRESS CODE

- † Shorts are not to be worn to Religious Education classes by any student. This policy applies to boys and girls alike. Students will always go to the church for a visit with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Articles of clothing which depict drugs, alcohol, profanity, weapons, and/or sexual innuendo are forbidden. No student is permitted to wear excessively baggy pants or pants with rips. All pants must be worn at the waist. Hats, for gentlemen, must be removed upon entering the building.
- † Tight-fitting clothing (i.e. leggings), halter tops, tank tops, midriff shirts, spaghetti straps, or clothing that may be considered immodest dress is not to be worn. Leggings may only be worn under skirts of appropriate length (as if they are tights). Boys are not permitted to wear tank tops, shorts, or articles of immodest dress. Dress code violators will be warned and will be sent home on the second offense.

FIRE DRILL PROCEDURE

A plan for an emergency exit is posted in your classroom. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the specifics. A fire drill will be conducted on the first day of class.

- Stay calm
- Quietly and quickly walk to the designated exit with your teacher and class
- If you are the last one out, close the door
- Once outside, line up so you can be counted
- Students should be quiet at all times so you can hear any instructions
- Return to the classroom after the clear signal has been given

RESPECT FOR SCHOOL PROPERTY

The materials in the classroom belong to the school and **MUST** remain where they are. Never go inside of a student's desk. If a student damages any school or parish property, parents will be notified and will be expected to compensate the school or parish for the damaged item(s). Please do not touch classroom artwork.

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE IN THE CLASSROOM | BEHAVIOR ISSUES

Be mindful, no child has the right to disrupt a class or prevent others from learning or the catechist from teaching. Students will be spoken to about their behavior and, if necessary, brought to the RE office and the DRE or Assistant will speak to the student and return him/her to class when appropriate. If this is not successful, the parents will be contacted and asked to work with the student and catechist to have the behavior corrected.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

The assigned homework should be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the teacher every week. This will be reflected on the student's report card under "*completes homework.*" Just as you memorize the multiplication tables to become competent in higher math classes, you must learn basic Catholic prayers by heart in order to participate in the liturgies of the Church. The basic Catholic prayers teach the dogmas of the Catholic Faith. Prayer is also a tremendous gift from God that will aid you on your spiritual journey. God hears and answers our prayers. When we are faced with difficult decisions we often recite the prayers we memorized as children. Please be faithful in your efforts to not only memorize the prayers you are learning, but pray them faithfully so that you strengthen your relationship with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

TESTS

All students will take midterm and final examinations each year. These exams are administered in multiple choice format for Grades K-2 and a fill in the blank or short answer format for Grades 3-8.

VIRTUES IN PRACTICE

Virtues in Practice is a program for children to grow in virtues and see the virtues as concrete expressions of their Catholic faith. It is designed so the same virtue is studied each month. The program covers 27 virtues over a three-year cycle. These three years emphasize and are named for the three theological virtues. Each month students learn about the same virtue, but primary, intermediate, and middle school students learn about different saints. In this way, students who are in the program throughout their elementary years have a basic introduction to a virtue at the primary level with one saint, cover the same virtue again in more detail at the intermediate level with a different saint, and delve into a deeper meaning of the virtue at the middle school level with a third saint.

A virtue is a good habit. Human/moral virtues are acquired by education, deliberate acts, and persevering effort. The saints led lives filled with virtue. They give us good example of how to get to heaven. To say “I believe” or “I am a Catholic” means that God has given me an entirely different perspective on daily experiences and on the purpose of life. If I am a Catholic

- ✚ I know that in my daily routine I am surrounded by powerful angels helping to guide people and nations.
- ✚ I know the Mother of God and the saints – including those in my own family who have reached heaven – are constantly with me, intimately involved in my life and supporting me by the power of their prayers.
- ✚ I know that physical things have deep meaning and that God works through them: that the grace needed to transform the world is available in the whispered words of the confessional box, in a drop of holy water: that God Himself is awaiting us in tabernacles around the world, hidden under the appearance of bread so that we can be physically close to Him.
- ✚ I love the Holy Father as Christ’s vicar on earth, and the Church because it is my family and my source of life because He works through it. And most importantly, if I have faith I know that every human person is also a spiritual being and that the purpose of life is to gain heaven, to reach life with God in eternal joy and to avoid the danger of eternal misery without Him.

If we see the world this way, it changes how we act, and it allows God to act in our lives. Good works follow on faith and prove the authenticity of faith. True faith compels us to evangelize, that is to share and proclaim the love and truth we have found in Jesus Christ so that His good news reaches to the ends of the earth. Because we know the eternal destiny of each person, we care for them as priceless. We must not only say “I believe” we must live it.

Since we are introducing this study of virtues and corresponding saints, the first year’s program has been condensed to not overwhelm the students. This is meant to enhance the Religious Education program that is already in place and not to replace it. The hope is to help our students grow in virtue using the example of the saints.

VIRTUES IN PRACTICE: YEAR TWO: HOPE

MONTH	VIRTUE	K – 2 ND GRADE	3 RD – 5 TH GRADE	6 TH – 8 TH GRADE
SEPTEMBER	HOPE	ST. JOSEPH	ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON	STS. LOUIS & ZELIE MARTIN
OCTOBER	STUDIOUSNESS	ST. ALBERT THE GREAT	ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	ST. EDITH STEIN
NOVEMBER	HUMILITY	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA	ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX
DECEMBER	PATIENCE	ST. MONICA	ST. ISAAC JOGUES	ST. RITA OF CASCIA
JANUARY	FIDELITY	ST. CECILIA	BLS. LUIGI & MARIA BELTRAME QUATTROCCHI	ST. GIANNA MOLLA
FEBRUARY	CHEERFULNESS	ST. JOHN BOSCO	ST. PHILIP NERI	BL. MIGUEL PRO
MARCH	TEMPERANCE	ST. TERESA OF AVILA	ST. CAMILLUS DE LELLIS	VEN. MATT TALBOT
APRIL	OBEDIENCE	OUR LADY	ST. JUAN DIEGO	ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
MAY	DILIGENCE	ST. ANDRE BESSETTE	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CURRICULUM

The Religious Education Program Curriculum centers on the four pillars of the Catholic Tradition:

- The Creed
- The Liturgy and the Seven Sacraments
- Faith and Morals
- Christian Prayer

A breakdown of the Prayers, Virtues, Saints, and key points to be covered for each grade level follows.

Please be sure that you bow your head at the holy names of Jesus, Mary, the saint for the day and teach your children to do the same.

Please teach the children how to genuflect and make the sign of the cross and, as a sign of respect, to stand when a Priest enters the room.

The following is a brief outline of the essential elements of each grade level curriculum.

KINDERGARTEN

Goal: To provide students with a basic introduction to God, the life of Jesus Christ, the Church and prayer.

Themes: The Story of Creation; Life of Christ and God's plan for Salvation

- ✠ The Liturgical Year
- ✠ Old and New Testament Stories | Heroes of the Bible
- ✠ Virtues and Stories of the Saints – examples of God's friends (Virtues in Practice)
- ✠ BCQ's
- ✠ Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer

GRADE ONE

Goal: To give the child a basic introduction to God, the life of Christ, and prayer. To begin preparing for the reception of First Penance and First Holy Communion.

Themes: Introduction to the Trinity (emphasis upon Jesus)

The plan of salvation and how the child fits into that plan - knowing, loving and trusting God; Our Blessed Mother, angels, and saints

- ✠ Life of Jesus
- ✠ Virtues and Stories of the Saints
- ✠ BCQ's
- ✠ Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer + Glory Be to the Father

GRADE TWO

Goal: To prepare second grade students for First Penance and First Holy Communion and to help them appreciate God's love for them as manifested in these two sacraments.

Themes: Preparation for first reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion

- ✠ Divine law and salvation history; God's mercy and love
- ✠ Ten Commandments, Creation and Redemption
- ✠ Order of Mass
- ✠ Virtues and Stories of the Saints
- ✠ BCQ's
- ✠ Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father + Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience

GRADE THREE

Goal: To show the students' membership among God's chosen people and the role of the family as an important segment of God's entire family - the Church.

Themes: God's plan of salvation from Creation to the Incarnation

- † Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church
- † Importance of Confession, Holy Communion and Mass
- † Importance of prayer and love of God's law
- † Introduction of Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
- † Virtues and Stories of the Saints
- † BCQ's
- † Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience + Stations of the Cross

GRADE FOUR

Goal: To help students understand their purpose in life and to come to an awareness of God's plan in history and society in order to lead all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

Themes: God's plan of salvation from sin (salvation history)

- † Our participation in God's plan and how God assists us through His word, His law, and the Church
- † Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
- † Virtues and Stories of the Saints
- † BCQ's
- † Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience, Stations of the Cross + Memorare

GRADE FIVE

Goal: To acquire a solid and specific knowledge of God and His Church through knowledge of the Creed and by making theological distinctions in order to avoid errors that lead to a loss of love of God.

Themes: Thorough study of the Creed and the basic tenets of Catholicism

- † Emphasis on an understanding of theological definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church
- † Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
- † Virtues and Stories of the Saints
- † BCQ's
- † Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience, Stations of the Cross, Memorare + Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love, Mysteries of the Rosary, The Angelus, Prayer to St. Michael

GRADE SIX

Goal: To nurture a love for God's law and a love for the Holy Mass as our most perfect prayer to God. To develop a deep appreciation, deep reverence and love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Themes: God's law (especially the Ten Commandments) as the blueprint for a life of love

- † Emphasis upon the doctrine of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, especially in the Mass
- † The interaction between God's law and His gifts of grace given to the faithful to fulfill His law
- † Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
- † Virtues and Stories of the Saints

- † BCQ's
- † Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience, Stations of the Cross, Memorare, Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love, Mysteries of the Rosary, The Angelus, and Prayer to St. Michael

GRADE SEVEN

Goal: To assist the students in learning to treasure the seven sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To help the students understand the nature of grace in the soul and its relationship to the life of virtue, reason, and faith. To begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Themes: Grace as our link with God and His gifts to bring us to eternal life with Him

- † Grace through the seven sacraments
- † Grace through revelation (prophets, the Incarnation, the Church)
- † Grace and the life of virtue
- † Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
- † Begin preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmations
- † Virtues and Stories of the Saints
- † BCQ's
- † Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience, Stations of the Cross, Memorare, Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love, Mysteries of the Rosary, The Angelus, and Prayer to St. Michael + Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

GRADE EIGHT

Goal: To have the student understand the meaning of the Church, its mission in the world, and their responsibility to participate in that mission. Form the student to trust and be strengthened by the Church in order to face the confusion of secularism in modern day society with greater confidence. Prepare for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Themes: Church history - from its founding by Christ and its birth in the Holy Spirit

- † Salvation History
- † The Person and Mission of Christ
- † The Four Last Things
- † The Purpose and Power of the Sacraments
- † The Beatitudes
- † Vocations to the single, married and religious life
- † Building Virtue and Stories of the Saints
- † Preparing for Confirmation
- † Holy Days of Obligation in the United States
- † BCQ's
- † Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel Prayer, Glory Be to the Father, Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, and Examination of Conscience, Stations of the Cross, Memorare, Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love, Mysteries of the Rosary, The Angelus, and Prayer to St. Michael , Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary + Prayer for the Pope

A life of prayer begins in the home. We strongly urge you to reinforce a life of prayer at home by praying the grade appropriate prayers listed above with your child. While certain families develop customs of spontaneous prayer, it is crucial for students to learn fixed prayers in order to more fully participate in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.

WHY COMMIT PRAYERS TO MEMORY?

What is prayer? Simply put, prayer is talking and listening to God. When we pray, we lift our hearts and minds to God. Prayer should consist of four things (ACTS):

Adoration (*telling God you love Him; He is all-good and deserves our love*)

Contrition (*true sorrow for sin because it offends God*)

Thanksgiving (*thanking God for our blessings and crosses*)

Supplication (*petitions-asking for favors from God, prayers for others*)

Just as a student memorizes the multiplication tables to become competent in higher math classes, children must learn their basic Catholic prayers by heart in order to participate in the liturgies of the Church. The basic Catholic prayers teach the dogmas of the Catholic Faith. If a child commits these prayers to memory, he will not be lead astray by heretics. Start praying every day with your children. If the prayers are not committed to memory as of yet, read them from the prayer sheet every day. In a few days, many of these prayers will be locked into your memory forever.

Frequently, children explain that they “don’t have enough time to pray.” Think about how much time they spend doing the following:

- watching television
- playing video games
- playing sports
- talking to friends
- playing with friends
- listening to music

Then explain to them that we could not enjoy anything of this world without God, because He created this world out of nothing for us! Praying the basic prayers of the Church is the least we can do for our Creator, especially when it only takes about 7 minutes out of the day.

How Much Time Does It Take to Pray?

10 seconds	20 seconds	30 seconds	other
Sign of the Cross	Hail Mary	Act of Contrition	Apostles’ Creed (40 seconds)
Guardian Angel Prayer	Our Father	Memorare	Hail Holy Queen (35 seconds)
Glory Be	Act of Hope	Act of Faith	The Angelus (90 seconds)
Morning Offering	Act of Love	St. Michael	The Rosary (20 minutes)

*If you read each of the prayers on the list including the Long Form of the Morning Offering and excluding the Rosary; you have prayed for seven minutes.

“All who have been saved were saved through prayer.

All who have been lost were lost through their neglect of prayer.” ~ St. Alphonsus Liguori

**“Prayer transforms hearts of flesh into spiritual hearts; tepid hearts into zealous hearts;
human hearts into Divine hearts.” ~ St. John Chrysostom**

“Prayer is the groundwork of all virtues, the ladder by which we mount to God.” ~ St. Augustine

Diocese of Arlington
Protecting God's Children Program



No student is to sexually harass another member of the Religious Education school community. Any student who engages in sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

“Unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” includes, but is not limited to, “the deliberate, repeated making of unsolicited gestures or comments, or the deliberate, repeated display of offensive, sexually graphic materials which is not necessary for school purposes.”

ANY student who believes that he or she is being sexually harassed shall immediately report such information to the supervising Catechist or Assistant Catechist and to the Director of Religious Education. A student who is uncomfortable for any reason in reporting such alleged harassment to the catechists and/or Religious Education Director, or is not satisfied in doing so, may report the matter directly to the Director of Child Abuse and Safety at the Diocese of Arlington. (703-841-3847)

All allegations will be reported to the Director who will conduct an investigation. No student will be subject to retaliation or disciplinary action on the part of the Parish or Religious Education Office for reports of sexual harassment made in good faith.

To ensure that the children in the Diocese of Arlington are protected against abuse, it has been mandated by the Diocese of Arlington that ALL volunteers who have substantial contact with children MUST attend a safe environment seminar and complete appropriate background paperwork. This includes those volunteers who were compliant under the previous program, “Prevention of Sexual Misconduct.”

All members of the parish, 18 years and older are encouraged to attend a Safe Child Seminar. In the event you are needed at the last moment to assist in a classroom, go on a field trip, assist at a function held for children, etc., you can only step forward to assist if you have previously completed the diocese background check and attended a Safe Child Seminar. Plan ahead, be proactive – complete a background and take this seminar as soon as possible. You must register on-line. (Virtus.org)



PARENTS: Article 12 of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops requires that safe environment training be provided for our children every year. The Diocese of Arlington uses the “Formation in Christian Chastity Program”. The program will be presented during the week of October 7 for grades 5 and 6; and the week of October 21 for grades 1, 7, 8 with make-up classes being held the week of October 28.

Please go to the “*Formation in Christian Chastity*” link on the Diocesan website (http://arlingtondiocese.org/childprotection/opcyp_training.aspx) to review information pertaining to all grade levels. If you wish to opt your child out of this program, please print off the official Opt-Out Form found on the Diocesan website (link provided above – click on ‘Opt-Out Form for Training Programs’ on the right hand column) and return to the Religious Education Office no later than **October 2, 2019**.

To ensure that the integrity of your child’s innocence is not compromised, I personally teach all Formation in Christian Chastity classes and the concentration is on the virtues. Please feel free to sit in on any of the classes at any time.

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

DUE September 25, 2019

After reading the Religious Education Parent-Student Handbook, we understand our responsibilities and will comply with all that is stated in the handbook.

Family Name

Student(s) Signature(s)

Student

Grade

Date

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parents/Guardian Signature(s)

Date

_____	_____
_____	_____

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please print your email address legibly.

Please return this form to the Religious Education Office.