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## ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, a Roman Catholic Community under the patronage of St. Anthony of Padua, are a people centered in Word and Eucharist. We are striving to grow in God's love, to spread God's Word, to serve one another, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. By using our gifts, may we become a visible sign of Jesus Christ as we continue our spiritual journey.

### PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The primary purpose of St. Anthony of Padua School of Religion is to cooperate with parents in their commitment to nurture the faith formation of their children and to assist parents in preparing their children for their role as Christians who will live and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Parish School of Religion strives to develop responsible Christian attitudes, which will grow and develop as the children mature and assume their role in society. Through the powerful example of Catholic family life and the atmosphere of the PSR classes, the catechists and staff strive:

- to communicate the Gospel of Jesus.
- to provide students with opportunities of growth in prayer.
- to orient students to the responsibility and experience of service because of their membership in the Christian community.
- to foster growth in each student as:
  - a faith-filled disciple of Christ, a Christian leader, a centered well-rounded person, a loving person, a life-long learner, a healthy person.
- to develop the foundations and support for life in Christ.
- to nurture the development of virtues and values supportive of a lived faith.

#### A Student's Prayer (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

### NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**A child's spiritual development is primarily the responsibility of the parents/guardians. Therefore, it is important that you, "the first to communicate the faith to your children and to educate them," encourage and support them in all areas of faith formation.**

Children learn by example, by seeing faith lived out in the home as family. The catechesis given by parents with the family "precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis." (On Catechesis in our Time (Catechesi Tradendae). Parents accept the responsibility to bring up their children in the faith and to see to it that the divine life God gives them is kept safe from sin and to grow stronger in their hearts (Rite of Baptism of Children). Parents have the beautiful responsibility of creating within their home the atmosphere where children will grow and become active members of their Church community.

Keeping this in mind, we would expect that you:

- attend Mass weekly with your children
- pray as a family
- receive the Sacraments regularly
- grow in faith by participating in Parish spiritual opportunities
- be role models of faith for your child
- become involved in our Parish community by participating in and volunteering to assist in the various activities and events
- foster an attitude of Christian sharing and respect
- assist in the religious education of your child by:
  1. looking over the PSR textbook each week
  2. discussing the Religion class
  3. responding to communications that are sent home.

**ASPECTS OF THE PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION**



**Pre – School (ages 3, 4, and 5)**

SUNDAY MORNING 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the School building.  
Classes begin in October and run through April

**PSR Classes (Grades 1 – 8)**

MONDAY EVENING 6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. (Grades 1-8)

Parent meetings will be scheduled on PSR nights and we will meet in the Gym, at 6:50 p.m. Please check your calendar for scheduled meetings.

Students arrive 5 minutes before class.  
Classes begin promptly at the designated time.  
All classes are held in the School building.

**Confirmation Classes (High School)**

Confirmation at St. Anthony’s is conferred in the fall of the student’s **freshman year** in High School. The student’s **eighth grade PSR year** is a Confirmation prep year and an extremely important year of faith formation for our students. Attendance is a priority. **Students will be required to attend make-up sessions if too many PSR classes are missed.**

There is a parent orientation meeting in the spring of the Confirmation year. Confirmation students are required to attend classes for 7 weeks starting in September leading up to Confirmation in November. Students will also perform service hours for the church (carnival) and for the poor (hunger center) as part of their preparation for Confirmation. **Note: Home schooling is not permitted in the eighth grade.**

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### ABSENCE

**Regular attendance at PSR classes is expected of all.** Complete attendance records are kept in the Religion Office. If your child is ill and will not be attending class, please call the Director of Religious Education through the Office at (440) 845-4470. Excessive absences may not allow your child to advance to the next grade level. Students will be required to make up any work if four or more classes are missed. **A child cannot be admitted to a sacramental preparation class (Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) without previous instruction.**

### TARDINESS

Students are to arrive 5 minutes before class and go directly to the classroom. If a student is tardy – after the bell – he/she should stop by the Hall Monitor before going to the classroom. This will enable us to maintain accurate records and not record your child absent, thereby jeopardizing their chances of advancing to the next grade level.

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS

St. Anthony of Padua PSR will follow the public school decision for closing in case of a snowstorm and other weather related issues. If the Parma City Schools are closed, we will automatically close that evening.

If the snow or severe weather occurs during the day and the children are sent home early from public school, do not bring them to PSR Classes. We will post closings on the local TV stations and on the parish web-site, [www.stanthonypaduaparma.org](http://www.stanthonypaduaparma.org). Please do not call St. Anthony of Padua School or Parish Office regarding this matter.

## ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PRODECURE

### Arrival

Families are asked to use the Church entrance (North Side of School). Children are to be dropped off and picked up in the Church parking lot. The circular drive in front of the school is blocked off and to be used as a sidewalk.

Children are to arrive 5 minutes before class and go directly to the classrooms, which are opened and supervised at this time. No child is to be in the classroom before the catechist or aide. For safety reasons due to the large volume of traffic, students are never permitted to remain in the parking lot to visit with friends.

### Dismissal

Due to the large numbers of children attending PSR classes, it is suggested that each family have a definite pick up plan.

**The students in Grades 1 and 2 will be walking to the door of entry (front door near the flag pole) 5 minutes before dismissal time to be picked up by the parent.** The Staff will not permit any child to leave the building unless an adult is waiting for them. Remember, winter months are dark and children often cannot be seen if they dart out into the parking lot.

In the event that a child is not picked up, the PSR staff will call the parent and keep the child in the Religious Education Office until the parent/guardian arrives.

## EMERGENCIES

If a student becomes ill or is injured during PSR time, parents/guardians will be notified immediately by telephone and asked to come to pick up their child. **It is very important for the PSR Office to have the correct family telephone number and emergency contact number on file. In the event of a change of either number, please notify the Religious Education Office immediately.**

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH CATECHISTS

Communication with your child's catechist is important and encouraged. Please feel free to speak with your child's catechist concerning his/her performance or progress in the classroom. Please address any serious concerns to the Director of Religious Education by calling the Parish Rectory Office – (440) 842-2666.

## DIOCESAN POLICIES

St. Anthony of Padua PSR Program follows the Diocesan policies. These policies are available for review in the Religious Education Office.

## DISCIPLINE

Our staff is here because they respect and love your children. They also enjoy sharing their faith with them. Our hope is that all students will be given every opportunity to learn and grow in their faith. We do not ask anything of the students that isn't expected of them in their day school.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1. Go directly to your classroom upon arrival.**
- 2. Be courteous and respectful with others.**
- 3. Use respectful actions and language.**
- 4. Respect the personal property of others.**
- 5. Follow directions of catechists and staff.**
- 6. Respect our Parish property.**
- 7. Come to each class prepared for study with books, pencils and folders.**
- 8. Be responsible for the care and proper use of textbooks and materials.**
- 9. Leave gum, candy, cell phones and all electronic devices at home.**
- 10. Remove all caps when entering the building.**

## PROCEDURE FOR BEHAVIORAL REFERRAL

Students are expected, by their actions and in their speech, to contribute to our goal of a positive and safe learning environment. In addition, we reinforce politeness and courtesy first taught at home. When a student does not act in this way, the following steps will be taken:

- STEP 1:** A disruptive student (one, who constantly talks, mocks and generally disrupts class procedure) receives a verbal warning from the catechist and/or assistant to change their behavior.

- STEP 2:** Continued disruption will result in removal from class and sent to the Religious Education Office where the parents will be contacted by phone.
  
- STEP 3:** Serious or continued distractions in the classroom will result in a parent conference.
  
- STEP 4:** Any continued or severe offense is grounds for immediate dismissal and a Home – schooling program will be set up.

**Defacing of Religion texts will initiate an immediate parent conference.**

### DRESS CODE

Students are to dress appropriately for class. Clothing that is morally offensive or clothing with pictures or sayings that we feel do not represent religious beliefs are forbidden. Caps are not permitted to be worn inside the school or church at any time.

St. Anthony of Padua PSR will follow the Parma City School District Student Dress Code Policy. A copy of this policy is available for review in the Religion Office. In addition, each catechist has a copy in his or her Handbook.



## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The Religion Curriculum is a means to the fulfillment of the mandate of Christ, "Go make disciples of all nations...and teach them to observe all the commandments I have given you. And know that I am with you always even to the end of time".Mt. 28:19-20 It assists in maintaining, practicing and professing the faith. The curriculum supports "instruction which is authentic in doctrine and contemporary in presentation".

The Religion Curriculum links religious education and faith formation. Education in the faith is a process touching the heart as well as the mind. Religious education involves the relation between faith and life, knowledge and practice. Formation in the faith integrates religious truth and values with the rest of life.

The Religion Curriculum makes accessible in age-appropriate forms the teachings conveyed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It encompasses not only knowledge but also understanding and applications. The learning process must touch the mind, body, heart and soul –the whole being –. A reverent regard for each person includes openness to God's actions in the student. Faith is a free gift of God inspired and nurtured continually by the Spirit of God.

Grades first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth use Loyola Press, Christ Our Life curriculum. You can visit their web site at [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com).

Grades seventh and eighth use RCL Benziger's Be My Disciples Curriculum. Our second grade Sacramental Class use RCL Benziger's, Pardon and Peace for Reconciliation and, We Give Thanks and Praise for First Communion. You can visit their web site at [www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com) to learn more about these programs.

The **Praesidium Called to Protect** is a comprehensive sexual abuse prevention program. Three times a year throughout the school year, the Praesidium program teaches skills about boundary violation to grades 1 through 8.

## SUPPLIES

Students are supplied with a religion book and other supplemental materials that they need to use as part of the learning process in the classroom.

Students are provided a two pocket folder; the folder will be used to send home any communications, learning materials for home use or projects completed in class. **Please be sure to look at the work your children complete each week and review the material with them as preparation for the following week.**

If any student loses a textbook, a new one must be purchased for \$30.00. Students cannot fully participate in class without the proper materials.

## STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

A student progress report with an evaluation of a student's understanding of Catholic doctrine, text content, general attitude, and participation will be issued twice a year.

Parents/Guardians are asked to review the January *Progress Report* with your child. The final *Progress Report* will be mailed after the last class session in May.



## PRAYERS FOR CATHOLIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Prayer is an important part of every Catholic's daily life. We encourage families to pray together and for one another. Children are encouraged to begin and to end their day with prayer as well as praying throughout the day. We will support your efforts at home by using these prayers throughout the year in class.

<b>GRADE 1</b>	Sign of the Cross Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be
<b>GRADE 2</b>	All of the above Act of Contrition
<b>GRADE 3</b>	All of the above
<b>GRADE 4 TO 6</b>	All of the above Apostle's Creed
<b>GRADE 7 AND 8</b>	All of the above Nicene Creed



### The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### Our Father *(Lord's Prayer)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it  
is in heaven.

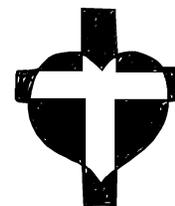
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. Amen.

### The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God.  
pray for us sinners, now  
and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### Glory Be (Doxology)

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning  
is now, and ever shall be  
world without end.  
Amen.



### Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry  
for having offended Thee,  
and I detest all my sins because  
of thy just punishments,  
but most of all because they offend Thee,  
my God, who art all good  
and deserving of all my love.  
I firmly resolve with the help of Thy  
grace to sin no more  
and to avoid the near occasion of sin.  
Amen.

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, Our Lord,

(At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary,  
all bow.)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born  
of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the  
right hand of God the Father almighty; from  
there he will come again to judge the  
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and life everlasting.

Amen.



### The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of  
heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only  
Begotten Son of God, Born of the Father, before all  
ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from  
true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with  
the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he came down  
from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including and including  
and became man, all bow.)

and by  
the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man. For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was  
buried, and rose again on the third day in  
accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into  
heaven and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father. He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead and his kingdom will have no  
end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic  
Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and  
these thy gifts,  
which we are about to receive  
from thy bounty,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts  
of your faithful and kindle in them  
the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit,  
and they shall be created;  
and you will renew the face of the earth.  
Amen.



### Grace After Meals

We give thee thanks  
for all thy benefits,  
Almighty God,  
Who live and reign for ever.  
Amen.

### Memorare

Remember, O most gracious  
Virgin Mary, that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help, or sought thy  
intercession, was left unaided.  
Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O  
Virgin of virgins, my Mother.  
To thee do I come; before thee I stand  
sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word Incarnate!  
Despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.  
Amen.



## SACRAMENTAL POLICY

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Sacramental Policy for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation states that candidates:

- are baptized Catholic
- are registered members of the Parish or otherwise with permission
- **have attended at least one year of formal religious instruction either in PSR or Catholic School**
- have understanding and knowledge of various aspects of our faith
- have actively participated in and faithfully attended religious instruction classes
- have studied and understand the sacraments.

**By Diocesan requirement, parents/guardians are required to attend all parent meetings and family celebrations planned for the preparation of the sacrament.**

Verification of each student's reception of the Sacrament of Baptism is required. A copy of your child's certificate, if baptized out of the Parish, should be on file in the Religion Office.



## ADMISSION AND STUDENT FEE POLICY

### ADMISSION POLICY

St. Anthony of Padua Parish School of Religion registers:

- **families who are registered in the Parish or otherwise with special permission**
- **families who are expected to participate in Mass every weekend**
- **families who are supportive of the PSR Program as evidenced in their adherence to the policies as found in this handbook.**

### STUDENT FEES

St. Anthony of Padua Parish School of Religion student fees are as follows:

Parishioner:	1 child	\$70.00
	2 children	\$100.00
	3 or more children	\$110.00
Non-Parishioner:	per child rate	\$90.00
First Reconciliation and Eucharist fee:		\$25.00
Confirmation Fee:		\$35.00

**Student fees are paid in full in March at the time of re-enrollment.**



## WEBSITES FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Internet can be an extensive tool for adult faith formation. Did you know that you could read the entire *Catechism* on the Internet? You just have to sit down for a few minutes at your computer and take the plunge into the on-line Catholic world.

As you surf the web be sure of the source on the page you are accessing. There are a lot of websites that claim to be Catholic, but when you start reading the information you find that some of it is inconsistent with church teaching. There is a wealth of Catholic resources for all types of faith formation right at your fingertips.

**St. Anthony of Padua – [www.stanthonypaduaparma.org](http://www.stanthonypaduaparma.org)**

PSR information, such as meeting dates, PSR closing, forms and documents.

**Catholic Pages.com – [www.catholic-pages.com/default.asp](http://www.catholic-pages.com/default.asp)**

The ultimate Catholic start directory, this is the first totally Catholic portal to the internet. This site has over 16,000 comprehensive links and a fantastic search engine. One of the best on-line Catholic resources.

**Catholic On-Line – [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)**

Another extensive site that provides information and links on Church teaching, saints, angels, and many other topics.

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – official website – [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)**

This is a great site that provides current information on the church in the United States and throughout the world.

**Official Vatican Web Site – [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)**

This site provides the universal church with an awesome communication tool. You can browse the Vatican Library collection, read the pope's daily message and view the most recent news.

**Word On Fire – [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)**

Fr. Robert Baron is the founder of this global media ministry, which reaches millions of people by utilizing new media to draw people into or back to the Catholic faith. Excellent site.

**Catholic Diocese of Cleveland – [www.dioceseofcleveland.org](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org)**