

St. Augustín Catholic Church



Religious Education Parent/Student Handbook 2021- 2022

**Office of Religious Education
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Mission Statement

The Religious Education Program exists to ensure that the children/youth of St. Augustin Parish who do not attend the Catholic School are provided:

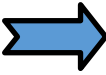
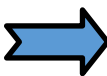
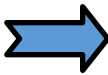
- A. A prayerful environment in which to encounter Christ,
- B. The space and time to develop a deeper relationship with God,
- C. Group opportunities to experience the life of a Christian faith community,
- D. Positive adult role models through instructors, parish staff, and clergy

By providing this growth in spiritual life, we are committed to preparing our children and youth for life in the Catholic faith.

Procedures

All faith formation classes meet in the church building

Class times:

Wednesday 9:15-11:15am		CGS Toddler Level (1-3 years old) CGS Level I (3-6 years old) CGS Level II (6-9 years old)
Wednesday 4-5:30pm		CGS Level I (3-6 years old) CGS Level II (6-9 years old) CGS Level III (9-12 years old)
Wednesday 6-7:30pm		CGS Level I (3-6 years old) CGS Level II (6-9 years old) CGS Level III (9-12 years old) Middle School 7 th -8 th grade

Tuition: The registration fee for the Faith Formation Program covers the cost of training, supplies, and special events. Sacramental years (2nd and 10th grades) also include a materials fee to cover extra expenses. **No family will be turned away for monetary reasons.**

For financial assistance, contact the Pastor or Director of Religious Education (DRE).

Generous discounts are offered to catechists and full-time assistants. All faith formation personnel must be compliant with safety protocols set by the Catholic Church and Diocese of Des Moines.

Active Parish Member Tuition

1 child	\$140.00
2 children	\$215.00
3 or more	\$265.00

All Other Families

1 child	\$200.00
2 children	\$275.00
3 or more	\$325.00

Our pastor considers “active member” status based in part on the following criteria: registered member of St. Augustin Parish; regular attendance and participation in liturgy; volunteers at parish events; and support of parish through regular tithing.

Sacramental materials fees: \$20.00 - First Reconciliation (grade 2)
\$25.00 - First Communion (grade 2)
\$80.00 – Confirmation (grade 10—covers both years’ tuition and parish retreats)

All fees are due at registration unless arrangements have been made with DRE.

Attendance: Please notify the teacher or DRE if you are planning to be out of town or if your child is sick.

Perfect attendance awards are given at the end of the school year to children who attend every class. We try to take emergencies into account when determining who receives this award.

Note: All Catholic religious education relates directly to life in the Church as it is lived in the home and in regular attendance to Holy Eucharist. In the absence of this, faith formation classes can do little to bring a child to know and love God.

Sickness Policy

We ask that sick children stay home until they are not contagious. This is typically about 24 hours after symptoms begin to improve. These symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or sore throat, especially a sore throat accompanied by a persistent cough.

A fever of 100.4 degrees or above means that the body is fighting off infection, so it needs rest and fluids and is likely contagious. Wait at least 24 hours after the fever has come down and stabilized without medication. Lethargy, earaches, stomachaches, headaches, and body aches often indicate that your child is still fighting the flu, and likely still contagious. Thank you for your help keeping our children and catechists healthy.

Religious Education Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

DROPPING OFF:

Middle school students enter and exit through main entrance on east side of building (large steps). Walk small children (1st grade and under) in through basement doors. Discharging passengers will be safest if cars pull up with passenger side to the entrance (heading south) and then proceed south to exit. **The doors will be locked from twenty minutes after class start until 15 minutes before classes end. Parents may knock on basement doors to enter.**

PICKING UP:

All parents should park their vehicles and come into the building to get their children at the end of class to avoid the danger of children running in the parking lot after dark. Thank you.

CAR POOLING IS ENCOURAGED! The fewer vehicles involved in this process, the better.

RE Cancellations

If St. Augustin Catholic School cancels or releases early because of inclement weather, Faith Formation classes will automatically be cancelled that night. St. Augustin School usually follows the example of Des Moines public schools. If bad weather develops later, or if classes are canceled for any other reason, parents will be notified by the email or phone number you provided on our registration form.

Sacramental Preparation

Students who are preparing to receive sacraments must adhere to the following:

- A. Students with three or more unexcused absences may not be considered for receiving any sacrament.
- B. At least one parent must attend parent meetings for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- C. Sacramental materials fees are expected be paid prior to the sacrament date.
- D. A student must be enrolled in religious education or in a Catholic school for at least one year before their sacramental preparation year.
- E. The Diocese of Des Moines requires that children receive these sacraments at their regular family parish.

Discipline Policy

Discipline is defined as the training that develops self-control, character, and orderly conduct, as well as acceptance of or submission to authority. We must strive to help children learn to conduct their personal lives in the sanctity of the truth of Christ, and to develop the capacity to promote Christian transformation of the world.

The students of St. Augustin are entitled to learn in a setting that promotes respect for self, others, and property. The classroom environment should encourage academic and social maturation and promote the dignity and worth of each student in preparation for the responsibilities of adulthood.

Breach of Discipline is any conduct of students that interferes with the maintenance of discipline. Behaviors which conflict with the educational program or which are antagonistic to the welfare of other students cannot be tolerated. Insubordination and gross misbehavior are incompatible with good citizenship and good government. Examples of breaches of discipline include, but are not limited to:

- A. Behaviors which disrupt class.
- B. Bullying.
- C. Open defiance, such as refusal to obey rules, profane language, obscene gestures, loud and boisterous conduct which disturbs the atmosphere; refusal to comply with requests or directions of catechists and/or staff.
- D. Repeated breaking of rules.
- E. Physical violence, or threats of violence.
- F. The use, possession, purchase, or sale of controlled substances or paraphernalia.
- G. Possession of weapons such as guns, knives, fireworks or other dangerous objects.
- H. Personal misbehavior such as extortion or intimidation.
- I. Deliberate unkindness.
- J. Violation of the Criminal Code of Iowa.
- K. Documented cases of incorrigible conduct on the premises.
- L. Willful destruction of parish/school property, or personal property of others.
- M. Setting fires or false alarms.
- N. Possession of and/or use of tobacco products.
- O. Stealing.
- P. Excessive public displays of affection.
- Q. Any type of sexual harassment involving students or teachers (verbal or physical).

Process of Discipline: Disciplinary jurisdiction includes anywhere on parish or school property, or an off-premise site of faith formation activities before and after classes. The following possible actions are authorized to be taken in cases of breach of discipline regulation:

1. The first infraction of classroom rules will bring on a separation from the rest of the class (i.e. a separate table or room). The teacher will inform the DRE. If the infraction was of a serious nature, the DRE will inform parents of the situation.
2. Upon the second incident, the student will be asked to leave the classroom, and parents will be notified. A conference with the teacher, DRE, and parents will be required before the student can return to class.
3. Upon the third incident, the student will be asked to leave the classroom and will be referred to the DRE for dismissal from the program. The student may return to the program the following year, but if he/she did not finish the previous year in another program, or at home, then he/she will not be allowed to progress to the next grade level.

By registering your child in this program, you are agreeing to the discipline actions explained above.

Non-Authorized Persons: A non-authorized person is someone who is on the premises, school or church, without the authorization of the administration or staff. Any intruder who interferes with class procedure will be asked to leave the premises, and if their activities or actions disrupt the discipline and/or scholarly atmosphere, they may be subject to prosecution.

Non-Authorized Persons Are:

1. Non-custodial parent.
2. Student not in the Faith Formation Program.
3. Any person suspected of being on the school/parish premises for an unauthorized purpose.

Students are not allowed to bring a friend to class unless with prior permission of the teacher and DRE.

This calendar is a projection for the academic year and may be changed.

ST. AUGUSTIN PARISH 2021-22 FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location	Event
SEPTEMBER			
Wed., Sept. 8th		Church & PH	Family Mass and Orientation
Wed., Sept. 15 th & on		LL & church	CGS/RE sessions begin
OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER			
Wed., Nov. 24			No Classes, Happy Thanksgiving
DECEMBER			
TBA			Advent Penance Service
Dec. 22- 29			No Classes, Christmas break
JANUARY			
Wed., Jan. 5			Classes resume. Epiphany Celebration!
FEBRUARY			
Wed., Feb. 23	½ hour from class end	LL	First Reconciliation & Com. Parent Mtg.
MARCH			
Wed., March 2		Church	No Classes, Ash Wednesday Mass
Wed., March 9	5-7pm	Church	2 nd grade Tour of the Church
March 14- March. 18			No Classes, Spring Break
Wed. March 23	4:15pm	Church	Student Reconciliation
Wed., March 23	6:30-8pm	Church	Lenten Penance Service
Tues., March 22	6pm	LL	True Vine Meditation I
Tues., March 29	6pm	LL	True Vine Meditation II
APRIL			
Sun., April 3	1:30-4:30pm	LL	1 st Reconciliation Retreat
Tues., April 5	6:30pm	Church	1 st Reconciliation Service
Wed., April 13	7pm	Church	Stations of the Cross, student led
Wed., April 20		LL	Liturgy of Light
Wed. April 27		LL & church	Last day of classes
MAY			
Wed., May 4	6-7:30pm	Church & PH	May Crowning/Ice Cream Social
Fri., May 6	6:30pm	Church	1 st Communion rehearsal
Sat., May 7	9am-4pm	LL	First Communion retreat
Sun., May 8	12pm	Church & PH	First Holy Communion Mass & reception
Sun., May 22	10am	Church & PH	Senior Mass and reception

RE Curriculum

Toddler– 6th grades: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

6th grade may opt in

CGS is a multi-age, hands-on approach to religious formation which addresses the natural learning tendencies of children. Children gather in a specially prepared space called an “atrium.” Presentations are anchored in scripture and liturgy, and always include a demonstration of how to use an associated material. For example, a presentation of the Annunciation includes a small diorama of Mary’s house and figures of Mary and Gabriel. Children may work with materials during work time. In the atrium the children have three freedoms: to choose (appropriately), to speak (quietly), and to move (carefully). It is not uncommon for an atrium to be silent for extended periods while the children are working. Unlike a traditional RE classroom, in which children sit and listen to information given by a teacher, a CGS atrium satisfies a child’s natural desire to be active. It is a place of peace, contentment, prayer and concentration. The CGS catechist is a co-learner with the children, contemplating the great mysteries of our faith, and falling in love with God.

Fifth graders at St. Augustin are trained as Altar Servers as part of their Faith Formation curriculum. Students are not required to volunteer for service, although service is hoped for and encouraged. Our aim for this in-depth, close-up experience is to enhance the students’ understanding and appreciation of the Holy Mass.

Curriculum Grades 7 - 8

In an effort to encourage community in Christ, our 7th & 8th grades are combined into one classroom. We use the *Catholic Connections* Middle School edition by St. Mary’s Press. In addition, these grades focus on the Paschal Mystery, the Liturgy of the Hours, Vices and Virtues, Holy Days of Obligation, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Vocations, the Rosary and the Four Marks of the Church.