

ST. PATRICK – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – PARENT HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT The Religious Education program aids parents in fulfilling their responsibility to inform their child of truths of our faith as well as to form the child as a follower of Jesus and as a responsible member of the community of the People of God.

LITURGY The Mass is our public worship of God and the focus of our parish worshipping community. We expect families to regularly attend Sunday Mass.

PRAYERS & PRACTICES LESSONS It is recommended that these be said or reviewed each week in class and at home. Kindergarten: Our Father; 1st Grade: Hail Mary, Glory Be; 2nd Grade: Act of Contrition (in textbook), Grace Before Meals; 3rd Grade: The Apostles' & Nicene Creeds; 4th Grade: Examination of Conscience & Corporal Works of Mercy; 5th Grade: How to say the Rosary & its Mysteries; 6th Grade: Spontaneous Prayer & 10 Commandments; 7th Grade: Praying with Scripture, 7 Sacraments, & Beatitudes; 8th Grade: Types of Prayer & 7 Gifts of the Spirit.

CIRCLE OF GRACE This is a program required of all RE programs and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. Its age appropriate lessons include things such as good/bad relationships, safe/unsafe situations, boundaries, etc. For more information, please contact the RE office or visit <http://archomaha.org/ministries/safe-environment/circle-of-grace/>

PARISH REGISTRATION Generally, all RE families should be registered with St. Patrick's.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS Students are primarily placed in classes randomly. After classes begin, students will only be allowed to switch class times/teachers if there is enough room in the other class, and for the following reasons: family scheduling & behavior issues.

COMMUNICATION/HOME PAGES/HOMEWORK Monthly newsletter and special reminders are sent out by the RE office. Other notes, home pages, book pages, worksheets, etc. will be sent home regularly by the catechist. Students may be asked to bring something back as homework. Please help your children with this. Please make sure your children are bringing something home or sharing what they've learned.

ABSENCE AND TARDINESS For absences a phone call from the parent is requested to the office. When a child is absent, a note may come from the teacher by email or that week's lesson (and worksheets, homework, etc) will be sent home the next time they are in class.

DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP Generally, students should not arrive more than 5 minutes before class starts. At the 4:00 class no supervision is available before 3:30. On Wednesday, parents may line up to drop off and pick up students along the curb closest to the building. On Sunday morning, if your family is not attending 10am Mass, you should park in the parking lot and meet your children at the curb or pick them up in another area of the parking lot so as not to cause congestion at the church doors for those attending Mass. Kindergarten and 1st grade teachers will dismiss at the classroom to older siblings and adults. No student may leave classes or activities early without parents notifying the office or their teachers. Chronic absence and tardiness will be addressed with a call/email to parents from the office.

DISCIPLINE Failure to adhere to the rules/expectations that the Catechist has set has four steps: 1) Verbal warning, 2) In class consequence (e.g. moving seat), 3) Being sent to the office (not as punishment, but to help solve the behavior problem), 4) Parents will be called.

FOOD No food or drink should be brought to the classroom. Snacks can be eaten before class in the Commons.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS St. Patrick's Religious Education Program observes the school closing policies of the Gretna School district. We may also have to cancel ourselves in evenings and Sundays. Closing information will also be sent by email/text.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION Students receive special, intense preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is in the best interest of the student that sacramental preparation be done through the RE program.

CONTACT Shane Fagan, Director of Religious Education, 402-332-3454, smfagan@archomaha.org