

St. Jude the Apostle Church

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

“Gathering in Faith”

Dear Parents,

In order that you have an understanding of the philosophy and requirements of our religious education program, it is important that you read this document. Please sign and return the slip that indicates that you have read and accept the rules and regulations of our program.

Sincerely,

Marsha Johnson
Coordinator Religious Education

OFFICE

The Religious Education office is located on the second floor of the St. Jude Church/Christ Our Savior School building. The Coordinator of Religious Education is Marsha Johnson. The Religious Education Office phone number is 708 225-1180.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our program of Religious Education presumes that the parent is the primary religious educator of youth. Therefore, the goal of our program is to assist parents in this role. It is the hope and expectation of the program that the student with his/her family regularly participates in the liturgical life of the Catholic community. Saturday evening or Sunday celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy is an essential element in the communal worship of the faithful people of all ages. The program also includes several activities where attendance by the family is required.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND PROGRAMS

Preparation for sacraments is a process of bringing the students to a new level of commitment to the Christian way of life, and therefore, to a new level of liturgical celebration of that commitment. Sacramental preparation programs require parent attendance at the preparation meetings as a condition of the student's participation in the program. A student should be receiving instruction in religion for two years or the equivalent before the reception of Communion or Reconciliation for the first time. Grade 2 is the usual grade in which children first receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion. In order to be Confirmed, children should have attended the full six years previous to the special two year preparation. Confirmation is usually celebrated in Grade 8 at St. Jude the Apostle Parish. No child who is in a sacramental class may have more than 3 absences. Exceptions to this would be a medical excuse or release by the Coordinator of Religious Education.

PARENT- TEACHER COOPERATION

The catechists teaching our children are dedicated individuals who give of their time to aid parents in the Religious Education of their children.

ATTENDANCE - It is important that students attend class regularly and be punctual. Please make every effort to have your child here on scheduled days on time as our time together is limited. In case of absence, please call the R.E. Office (708-225-1180)

HOMEWORK - At times during the year your child will be given homework assignments. We ask the parents to encourage and supervise this activity.

DISCIPLINE - Students are expected to be cooperative and courteous in class. If any student's behavior is so disruptive as to interfere with the learning atmosphere of the class, he/she will be warned. If misbehavior continues the parent will be notified.

EARLY DISMISSAL - If a child must be dismissed from class early, please send a note informing us of the time. You will meet your child in the Religious Education Office to sign them out.

FOLDERS - Folders are given to all students on the first day of class. Please check them each week after class for important notes.

CLASS HOURS

Classes are held on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PICK UP/DROP-OFF

The doors near the boiler room (off the WEST PARKING LOT) will be the only doors which will be open to our students for security reasons. Parents **are required** to sign out their children in the lobby after class. If parents are divorced or separated, it is presumed that both parents have access to the children unless one parent provides evidence that he/she has the sole right.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

Students participating in parish sports programs are required to attend classes regularly and to cooperate with the policies of the Religious Education Program. Eligibility to play is jeopardized with more than two absences from Religious Education classes.

FINANCES

Tuition payments help to cover only a portion of the operating cost of our program. The balance is paid out of general parish income.

Payment options are available. Tuition may be paid in full by the first day of class or installment payments will be accepted. Please advise your choice of payment options.

We do ask that all book fees be paid by the first day of class.

Rates are as follows:

One child	\$55.00 plus a \$20.00 book fee
Two children	\$65.00 plus a \$20.00 book fee per child
Three or more children	\$75.00 plus a \$20.00 book fee per child
Bible	\$15.00
1 st Communion Fee	\$20.00
Confirmation Fee	\$50.00

PLEASE NOTE: No child will be kept from the program because of financial need. In order for us to maintain accurate records, we do ask you to speak with Father Ignatius Anaele or Marsha Johnson. Such conversations are confidential and will be handled accordingly. Please do not hesitate to ask for a delay in payment until your circumstances change.

I have read and accept the rules and regulations of the religious education program.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Student Name _____