

PARENT HANDBOOK

2017 - 2018



St. Nicholas School of Religion

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Director: Gwen Wieser
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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The goal of the School of Religion is to provide a faith-filled environment for students and their families. We strive to “teach as Jesus taught by welcoming unconditionally all who walk through our doors and treating them with love and respect.”

I. General Information:

Liturgy of the Word for Children:

(Kindergarten to 6th grade) is the celebration of God's presence in Sacred Scripture. Children are dismissed from Mass with their teachers who help them understand and appreciate the scripture readings. Liturgy of the Word for Children occurs during the 10:45am Mass on most Sundays.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children): **(Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation)**

In accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese of Orange, this is a two-year program preparing young people (over the age of 7) to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil Mass. Parents are required to attend meetings as scheduled.

First Holy Communion:

In accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese of Orange, this is a two-year program that prepares the student to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist at the end of their second year. Specific details of this program are provided at parent meetings which are held twice a year.

Special Sacraments:

In accordance with the guidelines of the Diocese of Orange, this is a two-year program for students who are in 3rd grade or above and have been baptized but have received little or no formal catechesis. It is an entry-level program for young people and teens who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist.

Elementary Program:

After receiving their First Communion, this program continues to help guide the faith formation for the children in 3rd through 6th grade. The lesson plans are scripture-based and help the children understand the Sunday readings and apply the lessons to their lives. Other activities are also taught that assist the students in the understanding and practice of their Catholic faith.

7th & 8th Grade Program:

Our Junior High students meet on Tuesday evenings. The classes are designed for early adolescents and provide catechesis for the students, focusing on the following: Scripture, Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and the Person of Jesus. Opportunities for outreach and apostolic service for students and their families are provided and encouraged.

II. Policies and Miscellaneous Information

Eucharistic Celebration:

*The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.”
-#1324 Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Participation in Mass is an obligation and as a member of our Religious Education family, it is expected. Our classes stress the importance of being nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharist. Whether you attend Mass at St. Nicholas or somewhere else, you are encouraged to make this a priority in your family's life.

Class Attendance:

In order to maintain the integrity of our Religious Education Program, these are the minimum requirements for attendance:

Elementary (1st through 6th Grade)

Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. If a student **misses five classes**, he/she will be dropped from the class and will be required to repeat the class the following year.

Junior High (7th & 8th Grade)

Classes meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. If a student **misses four classes**, he/she will be dropped and will be required to repeat the class.

Behavior/Punctuality/Parish and SRE Participation:

Behavior: Students are expected to behave in a respectful and appropriate manner at all times; i.e. proper language, practicing common courtesy, showing respect for their teachers, priests and fellow students, and a willingness to contribute to the class to the best of their ability. If a student is consistently rude, disruptive or in any way causes distress for their classmates or teachers, students will be dismissed from the class and parents will be called. If a student is asked to leave because of behavioral problems, the parents and student must meet with the director in order to re-instate the student in class.

Punctuality: Students are expected to arrive on time for classes and parents are expected to promptly pick up students when class is over. Habitual lateness in either arrival or pick-up will result in parents being called.

Parish/SRE Participation: Parents are encouraged to participate in the SRE program in some way. Volunteering in classes, supporting SRE fundraisers or helping in the office by answering phones or helping with mailings. Parents are also required to attend parent meetings as scheduled. Students have the responsibility to fulfill their homework assignments as well as actively (to the best of their ability) participate in the classes and other SRE activities.

Important Registration Information:

Registration for Fall Classes will remain open until the fourth week of class, after which the student will have to wait until the following year to register. A new student may register if he/she is a transfer from another parish; however, a letter of attendance from the previous parish is required. A yearly tuition fee helps cover the expense of textbooks, supplies and other related articles.

SAFE ENVIROMENT EDUCATION
CIRCLE OF GRACE

Out of concern for all God's children and in response to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, St. Nicholas School of Religion has implemented a program for the Safe Environment of our children and young people. This program is called **Circle of Grace** and will be presented to all students. Each grade will have its own age-appropriate lesson that correlates with Catholic teachings.

The goal of the **Circle of Grace** program is designed to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. The objectives of the program are that children and young people will:

- Understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be able to describe the **Circle of Grace** which God gives each of us
- Be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
- Demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

Parents will receive information material on the program at the beginning of the school year.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE:

**BEFORE A STUDENT IS OFFICIALLY ENROLLED IN CLASS,
WE MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING ON HAND:**

Copy of Baptismal Certificate

Copy of First Holy Communion Certificate