

Sacred Heart - St. Patrick
Religious Education
Handbook



“I Am With You Always”

Matthew 28:20

2011 – 2012

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Pastor:

Fr. Bill Dhein

DRE/Youth Minister for Preschool -12th Grade

Michelle Bowe

Secretary:

Judy Martin

Contact Information:

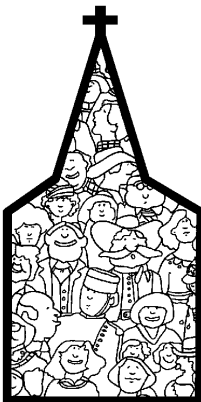
322 Fulton Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Phone:

Parish Office 715.832.0925

Michelle's Office 715.835.2693

Email: mmbowe@sacredheartsaintpatrick.org



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM POLICIES

- **No One Will Be Denied a Catholic Education or Youth Ministry Events**

Faith Formation is very important. No child or family will be denied participation in Religious Education or Youth Ministry events because of financial need. Tuition Waivers and fundraising opportunities are available. Contact Michelle Bowe for more information.

- **Attendance**

The presence of each student at class is vital to their faith formation. We understand that situations arise where it becomes necessary for your child(ren) to miss class. If this should happen we ask that you notify us by calling 715. 835-2693.

- **Cancellations**

If it becomes necessary to cancel classes or scheduled programs, please check with the following radio stations for announcements of cancellations: WAXX, WBIZ, Z100, WEAQ and B-95. If schools close for the day, religious education class will be canceled as well.

If you do not hear the announcement, please contact the Religious Education / Youth Ministry Office at 715.835.2693.



- **Pick Up / Drop Off Times**

All Youth in Grades 1-8: Class sessions will begin promptly at 6:15pm in the Sacred Heart ~ St. Patrick's Parish Center, located at St. Patrick's School. Class will conclude by 7:30pm.

Parents of Preschoolers, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Graders: Please pick your children up at their classroom.

Please Use Caution When Entering Or Exiting The Parking Lot! Our Youth Are Precious And Their Safety Is Our First Concern!

- **Discipline**

We expect all those involved with Religious Education to be responsible, show kindness and respect to one another and their position within the Religious Ed program.

We also ask that respect and care be shown to parish property, parish buildings and everything they contain.

In regards to expectations of catechists for their students, we expect the SLANT;

Sit Up Straight, **L**ean In, **A**ctive Listening, **N**od, **T**rack the talker

The following will be the consequences of inappropriate behavior:

First Occurrence: A verbal warning from the Catechist.

Second Occurrence: Guardian Angel contacted.

Third Occurrence: Fr. Dhein and Michelle Bowe become involved and parents are called.

Religious Education Schedule 2011-12

Sept 2	Youth Rally ~ Grades 6-12 @Action City
Sept 7	Opening Night Parent/ Student Orientation
Sept 14	Class 1 - Intro Sacramental Meeting -Confirmation -8 th gr. /Safe Environment training
Sept 21	Class 2 - Intro Sacramental Meeting 1 st Reconciliation/ Communion- 2 nd gr./ Sponsor selection due for 8 th gr.
Sept 28	Class 3 – Prayer Assessment Night
Oct 5	Parish Faith Night
Oct 11~ Tues	Catechist In-service
Oct 12	Class 4 - Candidate Sponsor Meeting
Oct. 19	Class 5 -
Oct. 26	Class 6 – Diocesan Assessment – 4 th & 8 th gr. Prayer Assessment
Nov 2	Parish Faith Night
Nov 9	Class 7
Nov. 16	Class 8- Candidate Sponsor Meeting Letter to Bishop Due-8 th gr. / We Celebrate Reconciliation Due -2 nd gr.
Nov. 23	No Class Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30	Class 9
Dec 7	Parish Faith Night
Dec 14	Class 10 Reconciliation Retreat -2gr. Prayer Assessment Night
Dec 21	Class 11
Dec 28	Christmas Break
Jan 4	Parish Faith Night
Jan 11	Class 12
Jan 18	No Class: City Wide Catechist In-service
Jan 25	Class 13 Prayer Assessment
Feb 1	Parish Faith Night
Feb 8	Class 14 Confirmation Interviews-8th gr.
Feb 15	Class 15 Prayer Assessment
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday Attend Mass @6:30pm St Pats Church
Feb 29	Class 16 Candidate Sponsor Workshop
March 7	Parish Faith Night
March 14	Class 17 First Communion Interviews
March 21	No Class~ Spring Break
March 28	Class 18 Prayer Assessment
April 4	Parish Faith Night
April 11	Class 19
April 18	Class 20 - First Communion Retreat/ Rehearsal 2 nd gr.
April 22- Sun	First Holy Communion
April 25	Closing Celebration/ Ice Cream Social
April 27 - Fri	Parish Night Action City
May 4	Evening of Reflection / Confirmation
May 12 - Sat	Sacrament of Confirmation / 8th gr. only / St. Patrick Church

PARENTS: THE PRIMARY EDUCATORS

The success of our Religious Education Program depends heavily upon spiritual life in your home.

Parents are the first image of God that their child experiences. The following are the **duties** of Children and Parents as directed by the teachings of The Catholic Church:

What are the duties of children toward their parents?

Children owe respect, gratitude, docility and obedience to their parents. In paying them respect, and in fostering good relationships with their brothers and sisters, children contribute to the growth in harmony and holiness of family life in general. Adult children should give their parents material and moral support whenever they find themselves in situations of distress, sickness, loneliness or old age. (ccc 2214-2220, 225)

What are the duties of parents toward their children?

Parents in virtue of the participation in the fatherhood of God, have the first responsibility for the education of their children and they are the first heralds of faith for them. They have the duty to love and respect their children as persons and as children of God and to provide, as far as is possible, for their physical and spiritual needs. They should select for them a suitable school and help them with prudent counsel in the choice of their profession and their state in life. In particular they have a mission of educating their children in the Christian Faith. (ccc 2221-2231)

How are parents to educate their children in the Christian Faith?

Parents do this mainly by example, prayer, family catechesis and participation in the life of the Church. (ccc 2252-2253)

- **Example:** Please insure that you yourselves never stop learning. Our Faith is an endless treasure of wealth. Please see page 11 for resources to help you continued to grow in your faith.
- **Prayer:** We want our youth to become great pray-ers. Therefore we are encouraging them to practice prayers at home and memorizing them. We anticipate your support by encouraging that you **pray as a family together daily!**

- **Family catechesis:** Any Religious Education Program can only supplement what is begun and sustained in the home. This is why we ask and expect all our families to take an active interest in the religious formation of their children and attend ***Parish Faith Night***. For more information see **Parish Faith Nights on Page 5**.
- **Participation in the life of the Church:** Attend Weekend mass. Get involved. Make Christ and His church a priority in your life!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Sacraments

To register your child for Sacraments, contact the Religious Education Office or the Parish Office.

- **Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Penance or Confession) is the primary means by which God forgives us for our sins and reconciles us with Himself and His Church. Through this glorious sacrament, we receive God's mercy and forgiveness, plus the grace to grow in holiness.

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion is a special time for families. Our second graders with their parents' assistance prepare to receive Jesus for the first time!



(For guidelines see next page)

Reconciliation Guidelines

Youth in 2nd Grade are required to do the following:

- Attend Wednesday night classes as scheduled. (This is not required of Catholic School Students but they are welcome!)
- Take part in two retreats. *
- Take part in a First Communion interview. *

Parents are required to do the following:

- Attend two parent meetings.*
- Attend Teaching the Way of Love seminar. Date TBA*
- Complete the home study program.*
- Take part in the two retreats with your child.*
- Take part in the First Holy Communion interview with your child.*

Confirmation Guidelines

This year the age of Confirmation is 8th grade. **The following are the requirements for grades 7-8th for the 2011-12 school year:**

Youth in Grade 7:

- Select Sponsor by end of 2011-12 year *
- Attend classes as scheduled. (This is not required of Catholic School Students but they are welcome!)

Youth in Grade 8:

- Appointed service hours to their Church and Community.*
- Attend a Confirmation Retreat.*
- Select a sponsor and take part in the sponsor program.*
- Write a letter of intent to the Bishop.*
- Take part in Confirmation interview.*
- Attend classes as scheduled. (This is not required of Catholic School Students but they are welcome!)

*** Required of Catholic School Youth**

Parish Faith Night

5:30 – 7:30pm

Program Information

Who Is Welcome?

Parish Faith Nights are an open invitation to everyone. Catholic School youth and their families, especially those preparing for the Sacraments, are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Attendance

These nights are an integral part of the whole religious education program; therefore, children and their **Parents** partaking in the religious education program are **required** to attend these evenings. The other evening classes, parents are not expected to be present.

Dinner Provided

Our evening will start with dinner in St. Patrick's Cafeteria which will be provided for you and your family. Families will be asked on certain nights to help prepare, set up and clean up.

Evening Program

Once dinner is complete, leaders will escort youth in grades 1-8 from St Patrick's cafeteria to their appropriate location for their session.

Adults will take part in the adult session with Fr. Dhein and other guest speakers.

Once our learning/discussion session concludes everyone will meet together again in the cafeteria to end the evening with a family activity and/or prayer!

The next page has the schedule and times for the various sessions of our Parish Faith Nights:

Parish Faith Nights

Dates

Oct. 5th
Nov. 2nd
Dec. 7th
January 4th
February 1st
March 7th
April 4th

Schedule

5:30 - 6:10 pm

Dinner/ St Patrick's Cafeteria / Everyone

6:15 – 7:15 pm Break Out Groups

Parents, Adults

Preschool / nursery

Elementary Grades 1-3

Elementary Grades 4-6

Youth Group / Grade 7-12

7:15- 7:30pm

Family Activity and/or Family Prayer



HELP WANTED

**Volunteers are needed to facilitate these evenings,
i.e. set up, dinner prep, clean up, etc.
Please call Michelle to find out more.**

Youth Ministry

NEW THIS YEAR

Sacred Heart ~ Saint Patrick Youth Nights

Religious education does not end with Confirmation.

It is **ESSENTIAL** that our teenagers are given an opportunity and strongly encouraged to continue to grow in knowledge and grace of their Catholic faith.

Therefore, we are pleased to offer to all our youth in grades 9-12 an evening once a month; to come together for prayer, fellowship and support. The goal of these nights is to bring our teens to a deeper level of their faith with opportunity for genuine growth and understanding of their Catholic identity. We invite all youth in grades 9 through 12 to join us every Wednesday for an evening of faith and fellowship.

Parents, grandparents and friends please encourage the youth to attend

Youth Ministry Events

Numerous youths events will be offered throughout the year and summer. Look to the bulletin for upcoming events or contact Michelle. All youth events are open to youth in grades 6-12 who attend either Catholic or public schools!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: A LIFETIME PROCESS

Religious education does not end when the class is over, nor does it end when we are teenagers. We are all called to grow in holiness, so that we may one day, through the grace and mercy of God, enter heaven.

God calls everyone. Will you answer "yes"?

Please consider these Catholic Websites for help in your journey:

CatholicAnswers.com

Relevant Radio 1050 AM

Catholic.com

Catholic.org

EWTN.org

SalvationHistory.com

Lifeteen.com

RealLove.com

SaintJoe.com

Adult Bible Study



Contact DRE for more information

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Patron Saint of Families

***Gracious St. Joseph,
protect me and my family
from all evil as you did
the Holy Family.
Kindly keep us ever united
in the love of Christ,
ever fervent in imitation
of the virtue of our
Blessed Lady,
your sinless spouse,
and always faithful
in devotion to you.
Amen.***

