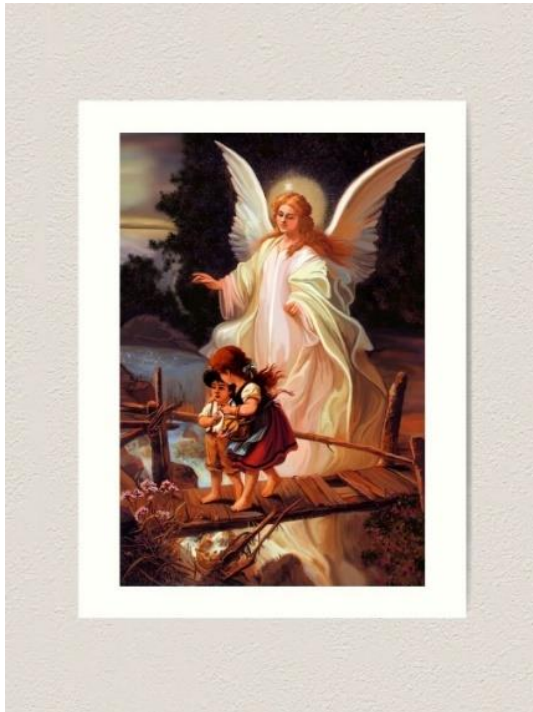


Religious Education

Parent Handbook



Saint Ann Parish

2023-2024

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Important Dates

September 17- Family Day Mass/Catechetical Day

October 8- Class Mass 10:30 @ St. Ann 3rd grade

November 6- 1st Penance Mtg. Parents/ Children
6:30pm

November 12- Class Mass 10:30 St. Ann 4th grade

November 13- 2nd Penance Mtg. Parents/Children 6:30
pm

December 10- Family Adoration

December 17- Jesse Tree Pageant Celebration

January 21- Class Mass 10:30 5th grade

January 27- 1st Penance 10:30 am. St. Ann

February 11- Class Mass 10:30 6th grade

March 2- 1st Communion Retreat Noon to 3:00pm

March 10- Class Mass 10:30 7th grade

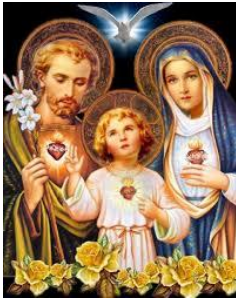
April 21- Class Mass 10:30 8th grade

April 28 Family Mass

May Confirmation TBD

May 5 1st Communion 2:00 pm St. Ann

Welcome



The Religious Education program at Saint Ann Parish is here to assist parents in their mission to nurture a faith filled child. We offer resources and support to parents and families who wish that their children will grow in faith and be a witness to God's presence in the world.

"Parents are the ones who must create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man, in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered." - *Vatican Council II*

In giving life to your child, you assume the obligation of raising him or her to be a virtuous person. In choosing to baptize your child in the Catholic faith, you accept the responsibility of being the fundamental source of your child's faith formation.

Raising your child in faith means he or she will become a person who demonstrates by word and deed what it means to be a Christian, a disciple of Christ.

A Disciple of Christ...

1. Lives a moral Christian life.
2. Meaningfully participates in liturgical & sacramental worship.
3. Prays on his or her own & in communion with the Church.
4. Provides service to the Church and to those in need.
5. Is knowledgeable about faith.
6. Shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with all people.



Our Program

The faith formation program at Saint Ann Parish is designed to give young people the opportunity to encounter Christ in their lives through **instruction, prayer, service, and participation in the Liturgy**. Each of these elements is essential to experiencing the joy and peace that comes from living a full Christian life.



Instruction

Christ's command to teach is called *catechesis*, which in Greek means "instruction by word of mouth." The instructional curriculum we use in our Religious Education Program is the *Finding God* series by Loyola Press. It incorporates Scripture, Church Tradition, Prayer, and Sacred Art in every lesson. The books in the series feature full color photographs and illustrations that present the Catholic faith in a manner that is appropriate for each grade level.

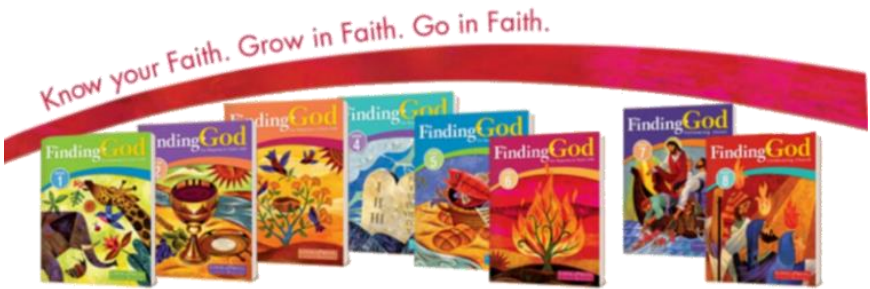
Classes are held on Sundays from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. in the Masterson Center.

Grades K through 6, follow a spiral curriculum, in which core concepts of faith are reintroduced and more fully elaborated at each grade level. The spiral structure allows catechists to focus on a single theme or topic and present it at varying levels of sophistication depending on the ages of their students. Revisiting familiar concepts reinforces knowledge and helps to deepen faith.



In **Grades 7 & 8**, the curriculum becomes more rigorous to prepare students for Confirmation. In **Grade 7**, students take an intensive look at the person, teachings, and mystery of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. In **Grade 8**, the focus is on Church History from the beginning of the Church community in the first century up to the present time.

Confirmation – Our Confirmation program is a two-year commitment, which begins in Grade 7. After students have completed their study of Church History, they will focus on the preparation of the Sacrament. The Confirmation program at Saint Ann Parish follows the curriculum guidelines established by the Diocese of Wilmington. All parish Confirmation programs in the diocese have the same requirements: weekly Mass attendance, faith development, service to the Parish and the greater community, and a faith focused retreat.



When absent from class, students are responsible to read the material that they missed in class and complete the session review. **Interactive Session Reviews** are found at: <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/finding-god/finding-god-2023/parents-and-students/>
To receive credit for completing the Session Review a perfect score must be obtained and once achieved email your results to DRE@STANNSBETHANY.ORG





- Prayer

“...the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him. This communion of life is always possible because, through Baptism, we have already been united with Christ.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

When Catholics pray the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* or *Glory Be* together in unison, we enter as a **people** into communion with the divine. It is a glorious thing!

These prayers **are essential for all Catholics to know**, but they are only a few of the many beautiful prayers in our Catholic tradition. In our program, we teach young people the *Act of Contrition* for First Reconciliation and to understand the meaning of the *Nicene Creed* in Grade 8.

Catholics believe Mary, as the Mother of God, has a special role in salvation and a unique relationship to the Trinity, and so we pray to the Blessed Virgin for her special power of intercession on our behalf. In **Grades 3, 4, & 5** the children in our program are introduced to three powerful Marian Devotions: The *Rosary*, the *Miraculous Medal*, and the *Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel*.

In **Grade 6**, students are introduced to the beauty of the ancient **Psalms of the Old Testament**. In **Grade 7**, they recreate the pathos of the **Stations of the Cross** through original artwork and dramatic presentation.



“If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also, faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” – *James 2:15-17*



Christian Service

At Saint Ann Parish, we believe that it is essential for even the youngest child in our program to experience the joy of helping others through Christian Service. This includes any **Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy** freely given to another person to meet a genuine need.

In the first of the **Beatitudes**, Jesus explains, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy*" (Mt. 5:7). Here “Blessed” can also be translated as “Happy,” which is what every parent wishes for his or her child. Each year every child in our program is expected to offer several hours of Christian Service by grade level as listed below. **All students are required to submit a Christian Service Form to document his or her service hours.**

Christian Service forms and instructions for documenting hours will be sent to parents.

- Grades K & 1 = 2 hours
- Grades 2 & 3 = 3 hours
- Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 = 5 hours
- Grades 8 & 9 = 10 hours



What counts as Christian Service?

Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts that help others with their material and physical needs. This includes providing food, shelter, and healthcare for the poor, sick or elderly.

Spiritual Works of Mercy are compassionate acts that help others with their emotional and spiritual needs. This includes teaching the young, assisting in Liturgical worship, and comforting the sad or lonely.

Paid service or community service offered to support **enrichment activities** (e.g., sports, drama, arts & music) are good things, but they do not count as *Christian Service*.

Christian Service Opportunities

The Religious Education Office and other parish ministries offer the following opportunities for your child to participate in Christian Service. If your child participates in Christian Service outside of Saint Ann Parish, his or her service hours must first be approved by the Religious Education Office, which will determine whether it conforms to the definition of a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy provided above.

All Grades:

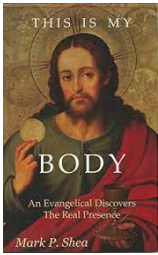
- Saint Vincent Friends of the Poor Walk = 1 hour for walking + 1 hour for each additional sponsor
- Souper Bowl of Caring = 2 hours per Mass
- Participation at grade level Mass = 2 hours
- Altar Server = 2 hours per Mass
- Writing cards to homebound parishioners = 1 hour

Confirmation Students Only:

- Vacation Bible Camp = 10+ hours
- Catechist Aide = 2 hours/class



Liturgy



“...the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me’” - *1 Cor 11:23-2*

Liturgy comes from the Greek word “liturgia,” which means “the work of the people.” Each time we celebrate the liturgy, we renew our connection to the sacred mystery of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the core of the Mass and the heart of Catholic belief. Here we receive Jesus’ astounding gift of his very body and blood in the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist fills us with grace, satisfies our spirit, and inspires us to share the joy of this experience with others.

“We should be mindful of the mystery of the communion of saints and remember that we live out that communion most especially at the Mass.”

- *Bishop Robert C. Molino*

Full, conscious, and active participation in the Mass unites us as one community, one family, and one body in Christ. The ancient rituals of the Mass extend this unity across space and time, to all who came before us and to all who will come after.



Regular attendance at Mass is essential to the development of a true sense of belonging to the eternal People of God. It is never too early or too late to begin this process. The alternative is to always feel like a tourist among God's People – welcomed, but not truly at home.

For these reasons, we encourage parents to bring their children to Mass regularly. Our program incorporates participation at the 10:30am Mass. Parents are encouraged to instruct their children, to answer questions, to model respectful behavior, and above all, to guide their children to actively participate in the actions and responses of the congregation. It is not a “be silent and still” celebration!

Class and Family Mass

Each year, the children in our Religious Education program are given the opportunity to participate in a Mass. Participating in a Mass includes assuming major roles such as being a lector, altar server, or bringing up the gifts during the offertory.

Parents are encouraged to help, if necessary, so he or she will feel comfortable and confident in his or her role. Every job, no matter how small, has dignity and worth and adds to the joy of the celebration.

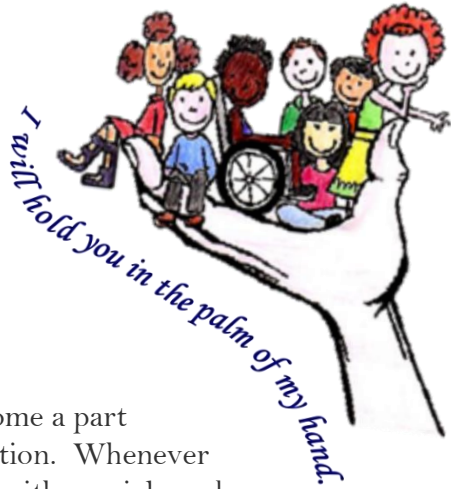


Children with Special Needs

Persons with special needs, especially children, are particularly beloved of the Lord and are integral members of the Church community.

“We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate Church for persons with disabilities.” ~

National Catechetical Directory



Children with special needs or disabilities are welcome to become a part of Saint Ann’s Religious Education. Whenever possible, we integrate children with special needs into our ordinary classes and adapt our curriculum according to their abilities. Because our program is based on the skills of typical learners, **it is essential** that parents inform us when enrolling a child with special needs or learning disabilities.

For students with more specific or in-depth needs, the Religious Education Office will seek to pair students with catechists who have experience in special education. The materials used for catechesis include, but are not limited to, *Adaptive Reconciliation and First Eucharist Preparation Kit* by Loyola Press, *Finding God Adaptive Grades 1-8*.

For further information or to set up a meeting with the religious education staff please contact the office. The Saint Ann Religious Education program will work with you and your child to ensure an educational and engaging learning environment.



Registration

Registration is open from May to August.

You can register online by going to <https://stannbb.org/> on the ribbon click on ministries and then click on Faith Formation. The late fee does not apply to families new to our program.

Please Note: If your child was not baptized at Saint Ann Parish, you must provide us with a copy of his or her Baptismal Certificate before he or she can register for the program. This applies to all **Grade K** and **new/transfer** students. Please mail or drop off a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to the Religious Education Office. Without a Baptismal Certificate, your child cannot receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation. If your child was not baptized, please contact us so arrangements can be made for him or her to receive the Sacrament.

Requirements

Grade 1 – Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is a **two-year** program, beginning in Grade 1.

Continuing Students – In order to register for the next grade, continuing students must have successfully completed all the requirements for the previous grade. If your child did not complete all session reviews from the previous year, you may still register for the program. However, your child cannot be placed in class until all work from the previous year is complete.

Returning/Transfer Students – If your child is returning to our program after attending religious education classes at a different parish, you must provide documentation from that parish stating



that your child successfully completed the requirements for the grades he or she did not attend at Saint Ann.

If your child is returning to Religious Education after having missed one or more years of instruction, please contact our office to make an appointment with the coordinator to discuss remediation.

Confirmation – Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a **two-year** program beginning in Grade 7. In Eight grade, students will be focusing on the Sacrament of confirmation. Confirmed in the Spirit by Loyola Press will be used.



Program Fee

The program fee is set annually by the Parish Finance Committee. Inability to pay does not prohibit a child from attending Religious Education. Please contact the office if you are experiencing financial hardship.

\$75 per
family



Policies & Procedures

Absences

Parents are asked to call the office if their child will be absent. The office may also call home to confirm an absence. Students are responsible for making up the material that was covered in class while they were away, by completing the **online session review**.

Accidents

In case of an accident, the office will first attempt to contact a parent/guardian at the phone numbers listed on the registration form. If we are unable to reach a parent, we will call the emergency contact person listed.

Allergies

Often children who attend Religious Education have life-threatening allergies. For their safety, parents are asked to list on their registration form any food or environmental allergens that might cause an acute allergic reaction in their child. If your child requires an EpiPen, we ask that one be made available, at all times, while he or she is under our care. Parents must be aware that many of the rooms we use for our program are multipurpose. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that they are food or peanut free. If this is a serious issue, parents should discuss their child's needs with us so that we may make appropriate accommodation.

Background Checks

A background check is required for all new catechists, aides, and volunteers who work with our children. Renewal of the Background Check is required every five years.

Books & Class Materials

All students are required to come to class **prepared** with their textbook, a pencil or pen. Parents will be notified if their child consistently comes to class unprepared.



Cell Phones

Cells phones must remain in your child's pocket or backpack for the entire time he or she is in class. A student caught using his or her cell phone to call or text message during class may have it confiscated by a Religious Education volunteer or staff member. Confiscated phones will be sent to the Religious Education Office and only be returned in person to a parent.

Class Cancellations

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be posted on the parish website: <https://stannbb.org/>. Announcements will be sent to WBOC-TV.

Custody

Consistent with the law, in the absence of a court order to the contrary, the Religious Education Office will provide the non-custodial parent access to sacramental information. If a court order specifies otherwise, the custodial parent must provide the Religious Education Office with a copy of the court order.

Discipline

Saint Ann Religious Education students are expected to **always** behave in a polite and respectful manner, whether they are on Parish property or not. Any behavior that is judged to be one of the four D's (i.e., Dangerous, Destructive, Disruptive or Disrespectful) by the Religious Education staff will not be tolerated. This includes bullying, fighting, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, vandalism and possession of illegal substances or weapons. It also includes any pattern of disruptive behavior in the class that undermines or derails the lesson or classroom order. Any student who engages in conduct that is detrimental to the safety and well-being of others will be removed from class for the day, and his or her parents will be notified. If the behavior persists, he or she will no longer be eligible to attend class and will complete their religious education at home.



Early Dismissal

Parents should send a written note with their child if the child is to be dismissed from class early. Parents are not allowed to directly enter the building and remove a child from the classroom. Please wait at the front door until greeted by the hall monitor and request dismissal. Hall monitor will release the child to the parent's custody.

Email

Email is our primary means of communicating with parents and students. All families are requested to provide the Religious Education Office with a current email address that is checked regularly. **Important!** If you do not have an email address or your email address is out of date, you will not receive many of the reminders or notices we send out electronically.

Homework

Homework is generally not given in kindergarten. However, children in Grades 1 – 8 must complete the *Finding God Interactive Session Reviews* for our program to comply with the Diocese of Wilmington curriculum.

Lapsed Students

Students who have missed one or more years of Religious Education are always welcome to return to the program. Those who wish to return at their appropriate grade level will be provided with remedial work to complete before they may join their peers. The materials & requirements for remedial instruction will be tailored to meet the individual needs of the student.

Pick-up and Drop-off

Students in Grades k – 8 should enter through the designated door. Eighth grade comes through the Main door. K-3 grade comes through the Rectory side; 4-7 comes through the Delaney Hall side. Older siblings can pick up their younger siblings and leave from their designated door.



Religious Education Parent Feedback

Today, many Catholic children attend public school and receive their religious education through parish programs such as ours. As we look to the future of our program, we believe that it is vital that our religious education parents and other adult members of our community play an active role in making our program better by providing input and feedback on current practices, identifying goals for the future, and advocating on behalf of the families in our program.

Catechists



Just as the pastor gathers the parish community to celebrate and share in the life of the Spirit, so the catechist gathers the children and creates opportunities for them to understand the importance of Jesus in their lives.

Catechists are people who facilitate the process of faith formation. This is done first by echoing the word of God in his or her own life, and second by helping others to do so. True to the past, open to the future, dedicated to forming future disciples for Christ – if this describes you, we hope you will consider becoming a catechist at Saint Ann Parish.

Catechists are practicing Roman Catholics who participate fully in the life of the Church and have a desire to share their faith with others and must be ready and able to make a time commitment of one full year to the program. Becoming a catechist is a great way to grow in your own spiritual life. Training is provided along with continued support and faith formation.



Catechist Aides

Helping as a catechist aide is a wonderful way to support the program for parents and guardians who are unable to make the larger commitment of being a catechist. Catechist aides help catechists by taking attendance, assisting children with special needs, distributing materials, and generally helping to facilitate the group experience. They may work with a particular catechist for the entire year or may act as a “floater” by scheduling to help for whatever days they have available and filling in where there is the greatest need. Please contact the religious education office if you would like to schedule one or more days to help as a catechist aide.

Hall Monitor

Hall monitors assist young children who may need to use the restrooms, monitor the hallways, fill in if a catechist aide is absent, retrieve children who have an early dismissal. Please contact the religious education office if you would like to help as a hall monitor.

“A catechist is an ordinary person who is extraordinary, because he or she teaches as Jesus did.”

– Msgr. John F. Murphy



Parish of Saint Ann
Religious Education Calendar
2023-2024

Sunday's 9 to 10:15 am at the Masterson Center
If your child will be absent call 302-539-5443
and leave a message. Thank you.

September 

17 First day of class/Family day Mass/catechetical Day
24 class

October 

1* Class *Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room*
8 Class *Class Mass 10:30 3rd Grade*
15 Class
Crop Walk/ St. Vincent de Paul
22 Class
29 Class



November

5* Class
Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room
6* 1st Penance Mtg. Parents/Children 6:30 pm Masterson
12* Class
Class Mass 10:30 4th Grade
13* 2nd Penance Mtg. Parents/Children 6:30 pm Masterson
19 Class
26 *no class Thanksgiving weekend*





December

3* Class

Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room

10 Class/Family Adoration

17 Jesse Tree Pageant Celebration
Delaney Hall

24 **no class** -- Christmas Break

31 **no class**

Christmas Break



January

7* Class

Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room

14 **NO CLASS**

Martin Luther King weekend

21 Class

Class Mass 10:30 5th grade

27 1st Penance 10:30am St. Ann

28 Class



February

4* Class

Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room

11 **No Class**

Class Mass 10:30 6th Grade/ Souper Bowl of Caring

14  **Ash Wednesday**

18 **NO CLASS** President's Weekend

25 Class





March

- 2 1st Communion Retreat Noon to 3PM
 3* Class Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room
 10 Class
 Class Mass 10:30 7th Grade
 17 Class
 24 Class
 31 Easter Sunday
 NO CLASS

April



- 7* Class
 Faculty meeting 8:15 Conference Room
 14 Class
 21 Class
 Mass 10:30 8th grade
 28 Family Mass



Sacramental Celebrations

January 27 1st Penance 10:30 St. Ann

May 5 1st Communion 2PM St. Ann

May Confirmation TBD

*FACULTY MTGS 1ST Sunday OF THE MONTH/ 8:15AM CONFERENCE ROOM



Catholic Guide to the Internet

America Magazine

www.americamagazine.org

America is a national Catholic weekly magazine published by Jesuits in the United States.

Busted Halo

www.bustedhalo.com

An online magazine that provides news, featured articles, radio and videos aimed at young adults.

Catholic Mom

www.catholicmom.com

Faith, family, and fun from a Catholic perspective are all discussed here in the form of podcasts and articles from various columnists and contributors.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

www.usccb.org

The official site of the U.S. Catholic bishops includes an online Bible, the Catechism, publications, movie reviews and more.

Word on Fire

www.wordonfire.org

Founded by acclaimed author and producer, Bishop Barron, *Word on Fire* is a media ministry that reaches out to millions of people across the globe. Home to the *Catholicism* series featured on PBS.

Loyola Press

www.loyolapress.com

Loyola Press embraces the Jesuit passion for helping people to find God in all things. They continue the Jesuit tradition of excellence and service through the content they create and by being people for others.



Catholic Guide to the Internet

Simply Catholic

<https://simplycatholic.com/>

Simply Catholic is a ministry of Our Sunday Visitor. The mission of Simply Catholic is simple: to help Catholics know and love the Lord and his Church so that they may be equipped to share their Catholic faith with others.

Franciscan Center for Action and Contemplation

<https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>

Need a little peace and quiet? Sign up to receive daily meditations from Franciscan Father Richard Rohr.

Daughters of St. Paul

<http://www.pauline.org>

Find the perfect book or gift for young and old with the Sisters.

Pauline Books and Media is a premier Catholic publisher and network of Catholic bookstores, producing and distributing books, e-books, smartphone apps, and much more.

EWTN

<https://www.ewtn.com/>

EWTN is a global, Catholic Television, Catholic Radio, and Catholic News Network that provides catholic programming and news coverage from around the world

FORMED

<https://formed.org/>

Presented by the Augustine Institute, FORMED is a free gift to all parishioners. Think of it as “Catholic Netflix.” It contains the best Catholic content in movies, books, and bible studies. Click on Sign Up, click on “I belong to a Parish Organization” enter our zip code 19930. Enter your email. That’s it!

