

*Ss. Anthony & Philip*  
*Community of Faith*

Religious Education Program



Parent/Student Handbook  
2018-2019

[www.ssanthonyphilip.com](http://www.ssanthonyphilip.com)

*“Let the children come to me,  
and do not prevent them;  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

*Jesus Christ*  
(Matthew 19:14)

Parents & Students,  
Please read this handbook.  
Thank you.

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Dear Families,

Welcome to a new year of opportunities for our parish Religious Education program. We look forward to sharing our faith with your child and family.

Catechesis is a life long journey that begins in the home with your personal faith sharing, grows into the parish family with regular Mass attendance and religious education, and then to the world beyond with opportunities to serve our fellow man. Asking your child what they talked about in class is a good way to let them know you are interested in this aspect of their development as Catholic Christians.

Most of the communication to you as parents, as well as the parish, are done weekly through a special insert in the bulletin. PLEASE BE SURE YOUR FAMILY PICKS UP A BULLETIN EACH WEEK-END. We also send out a parish quarterly newsletter. Another form of communication is our website [www.ssanthonyphilip.com](http://www.ssanthonyphilip.com). It has both the bulletin and newsletter posted on it. We also send home notes with the students from class. Please ask them if they have anything to share.

Please consider getting involved in our program, if you aren't already. We need teachers, teacher assistants, substitute teachers, afternoon play area monitors, prayer listeners, and *much more*. Your gift would really be appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please give me a call (929-7701), drop in at the Parish Office (located off the gathering space), or send an e-mail [deggers@centurylink.net](mailto:deggers@centurylink.net)

Blessings,

Delores Eggers,  
Religious Ed Coordinator

## Day & Time of Religious Education Classes

### **Kindergarten – Once a month**

Oct. 17, Nov. 7, Dec.5, Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20, April 24

Please write these dates on your calendar. Reminder letters are also sent to families the week prior to class.

### **Grades 1-5 – Wednesdays**

3:30 p.m. – 3:55 p.m., Transport, Recess & Snack

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m., Class Time

### **Grades 6-11 – Wednesdays**

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Class Time

**All RE Classes are held at Ss. Anthony & Philip Church**

### Class Dates for 2018 – 2019

September 19	January 16
Family Mass - 7:30 pm	January 23
September 26	January 30
October 3	February 6
October 10	February 13
October 17	February 20
October 24	February 27– NO CLASS
Oct. 31- Holy Day Masses	6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Seder meal
November 7	March 6 – Ash Wednesday
November 14	March 13
November 21–NO CLASS	March 20
November 28	March 27– NO CLASS
December 5	April 3
December 12	April 10
December 19	April 17 – NO CLASS
	April 24
	May 1

### Other Important Dates to note:

Nov. 4– Confirmation: A Journey with your Sponsor Day 9:00 am

January 24, 2019 – First Reconciliation 7:00 pm – Grade 2

Feb 2 & 3, 2019 - Confirmation Retreat

April 27, 2019 – First Communion during 4:30 pm Mass – Grade 2

May 5, 2019 – Graduation Mass 9:00 a.m.

April/May 2019 - Confirmation

## Program Fee for 2018-2019

The Religious Education Program is funded by the Pasty Sale, a parish subsidy, donations, and this program fee. Each family with students in Grades 1-11 *only* are assessed an annual fee.

The program fee is not meant to be a financial burden for anyone. Families unable to afford the program fee are asked to contact Delores Eggers. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend our program whether they can afford to pay this fee or not!

Registration and fee form is included in this packet. It can be brought to the Rel Ed Family Mass on Sept. 19, mailed, dropped in the collection basket, or sent to class with your student. The form and an envelope are enclosed.

An acknowledgement of program fees received from each family will be included in the financial statement sent to all registered families.

### Program Fee

**\$40.00**

**\$40.00**

**\$20.00**

**\$100.00**

### Child in Program

1<sup>st</sup> child in your family (Grade 1-11)

2<sup>nd</sup> child in your family (Grade 1-11)

3<sup>rd</sup> child in your family (Grade 1-11)

**Max per family**

In addition to this program fee, there will be separate fees for certain sacramental preparation programs & youth ministry events (First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation Retreat, Diocesan Youth Rallies, etc.) to help offset additional costs of these programs and special opportunities.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sacramental Prep year: \$20 per student

Confirmation Retreat: \$60

## **Written Permission Needed**

Highland students in Grades K-5 need to bring a written note from their parents to the Highland School District. This note is a legal document that is kept on file at the public school. The School system needs to know that it is OK with parents that their child will not be going directly home from school on Wednesdays and that they are riding the bus to Religious Ed Classes. **Parents, PLEASE be sure to do this before the first Religion Class.** Be sure to let the school know, in written instructions, how your child should go home on Wednesdays in the event that Religious Ed. classes are canceled or school is called off early or if there is no scheduled Religion classes.

## **Bus Transportation**

WARCO Transportation has generously agreed to bus our Highland Elementary Students (Grade K-5) to Ss. Anthony & Philip Church on Wednesdays when classes are scheduled with the understanding that this service may be discontinued at any time. We are committed to keeping our students safe and we are very grateful for this service. All students must adhere to the Highland School District Bus Transportation guidelines. We have assured the Bus Company that our students will be on their best behavior. In the unlikely event that our students misbehave, this bus service will be discontinued.

## **Promptness is Essential**

For the afternoon program, the Highland students (Grades K-5) will be bused to Ss. Anthony & Philip Church right after school on Wednesdays. For safety reasons, all of our students are asked to ride the bus rather than walk or ride their bike to the Church. Iowa-Grant & Riverdale students will join the program in progress. Dismissal is 5:15 p.m. Parents, please be prompt in picking up your child.

Students in Grades 6-12 are to arrive in their classroom by 7:25 p.m. in order for class to begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Dismissal is 8:30 p.m.

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance is the key element to your child's successful religious education. The total time given to this important part of their development in most instances is around 24 hours per year – one day out of 365!

**Parents are asked to contact the Religious Ed. Office (929-7701) when their child will not be in class.** It is important that parents know where their child is at all times and we want to assist you in this effort. We will expect your child on each Wednesday unless you inform us otherwise. For the evening classes we will have a caller contact families of students that have not shown up for class – if we haven't heard from the parents.

### **Behavior Expectations**

The most important rule we expect to have observed at all times and by all people attending classes is **respect for themselves, their teachers and support staff, their classmates, and their meeting space.** This includes: 1) following directions; 2) keeping hands, feet, objects, smart remarks and put-downs to themselves; 3) listening to others when it is not their turn to be speaking; and 4) staying in their own space. It is very important that each student understands that good behavior is a must during our time together.

Parents are asked to help our program by instilling in their child the need for good behavior. Parents will be contacted for their assistance in the event that their child's behavior becomes a problem. Parents may also be contacted on occasion to sit in on classes to help assure good behavior for a healthy, productive learning environment. Parents are always welcome to join their child's class at any time.

### **After School Treat Program**

The students in Grades K-5 come to Ss. Anthony & Philip Church right after school on Wednesdays. They play and have a nutritious snack before going to their classrooms at 3:55 p.m.

**PARENTS: If your child is allergic to certain foods or is asked not to eat certain foods, please be sure to let the parish office know immediately!**

### **Communication**

Often your child will bring home letters pertaining to an upcoming lesson/event or other important information. Please read any and all notes brought home to you. Asking your child about what they talked about in class is a good way to keep informed. The weekly bulletin also has announcements about religious education activities. Bulletins can be found in the gathering space or on the parish web site: [www.ssanthonyphilip.com](http://www.ssanthonyphilip.com)

## **No Electronic Devices During Class Time**

**Electronic devices can be a distraction during class. All electronic devices (cell phones or music players of any type) will be collected in the classroom at the start of class and returned when class is finished.**

## **No Gum in the Church**

We ask that no gum be chewed or brought into the church. We also request that students leave chore boots or muddy shoes at home.

## **Safety Issue- Creating a Safe Environment for our Children**

The Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino, Bishop of Madison, has implemented a “Safe Environment Program” for all parishes. The purpose of this program is to provide education and training about measures necessary to create and maintain safe environments for children and vulnerable adults. The staff and volunteers in our Religious Ed Program follow certain guidelines implemented by the Diocese of Madison. Contact the Religious Ed Office (929-7701) for complete information on this program.

In following the above guidelines, our parish will offer the following:

1. The children in Grades 1-10 will participate in a lesson from the “Circle of Grace” program. A letter regarding these lessons is enclosed in family packet.
2. Protecting God’s Children Online Awareness session for Adults is required by our catechists.

We believe by following these guidelines, our children will continue to be in a safe environment here at Ss. Anthony & Philip.

## **Cancellation of Class**

In the event of bad weather or threatening weather conditions, Religion classes may be canceled. The Parish Office will make a decision by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Office will contact Highland School, families from Iowa-Grant & Riverdale Schools, families that have requested to be contacted, Religion Teachers and support staff, and D99.3.

If you would like to be contacted personally in the event of a cancellation, please contact Delores at 929-7701 or [deggers@centurylink.net](mailto:deggers@centurylink.net). You can have the choice of a call or e-mail sent to you.

### **Parents of Highland students in Grades K-5:**

PLEASE leave written instructions with the SCHOOL DISTRICT on how your child should go home in the event of cancellation or early release on Wednesdays. The school expects the students to be going to RE classes on Wednesdays so when school is called off early and Religion classes are canceled, it tends to be quite confusing at school. If the school system does NOT have written instructions regarding this particular situation from parents, they sometimes contact the Parish Office for directions. Your written instructions are needed at SCHOOL.

In the event that bad or threatening weather conditions develop after the afternoon Religious Education Classes have been released, a decision will be made to cancel class by 7:00 p.m. at the latest. The Parish Office will contact the Middle & High School Religion Teachers and support staff, D99.3 and WGLR. The teachers will be asked to contact their students.

If the Highland School District cancels classes or releases early due to bad weather, both afternoon and evening Religion classes will be canceled as well. The religion teachers, support staff, and Highland Schools will be contacted. There will be no further announcements, unless families request to be contacted by phone or e-mail.

## Sequence in Learning

There is a progression in how we present the religious study program to the students. Starting in First Grade, the students learn more about their faith, scripture, and Catholic Church each year. The focus, knowledge, and challenges progress as they get older.

Our **Kindergarten** friends are introduced to the fact that God loves them and Jesus is our friend!

**Grades 1 – 6** use *We Believe* textbooks from Sadlier. This program incorporates the Six Tasks of Catechesis – Learn, Celebrate, Choose, Pray, Share, and Live. It also encompasses the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* – Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. It uses a spiral curriculum that nurtures the faith-filled hearts of students, nourishing their Catholic Identity through knowledge and Scripture. In addition to the *We Believe* series, the following grades prepare for sacraments and take a deeper look at parts of our faith.

Our **2<sup>nd</sup> graders** focus and prepare for two Sacraments: Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Our **5<sup>th</sup> graders** take a special look at our Mass and have an opportunity to organize and celebrate their own Mass with our pastor.

The **6<sup>th</sup> grade** students study the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). The Seder Meal is a tradition found in scripture that our students and families experience.

Our **7<sup>th</sup> graders** use the *We Believe – We live our Faith as Disciples of Jesus* from Sadlier.

The **8<sup>th</sup> graders** use the *We Believe – We Live our Faith as Members of the Church* from Sadlier.

The **Freshmen** review our faith using the “Know, Love & Live our Catholic Faith” program.

Confirmation preparations take place in the **Sophomore** year.

## Memorized Prayer

Prayer is a very important ingredient in everyone's life. Our Catholic faith is blessed with rich traditions of prayer forms. Each student in grades 1-8 is introduced to many prayers. In addition to the Religious studies done in the classroom, the students are asked to memorize prayers at home with their family. Copies of the prayers to memorize are sent home with each student and included with the family packet mailing.

The Religious Education program supports the family efforts in memorizing prayers by reciting them during class. Prayer listeners visit each class on **April 10, 2019** to listen to each student recite the prayer(s) and encourage them in their efforts.

- Grade 1: Sign of the Cross & Hail Mary
- Grade 2: Act of Contrition, Our Father, Glory Be
- Grade 3: Morning Offering, Angel of God, Grace Before Meals
- Grade 4: Ten Commandments
- Grade 5: Apostles' Creed, Rosary

## College Scholarships

Our parish offers two \$300 college scholarships to High School Seniors in our area schools. High School seniors who plan to attend a college or technical school are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Information and application forms will be available in the Highland School guidance office and sent to our parish members who attend another area school. The Religious Education Commission chooses the scholarship winners. Scholarships are awarded at the High School Graduation Ceremony or Awards Ceremony.

## Youth Ministry

*“Youth Ministry is the church’s mission of reaching into the daily lives of modern young people and showing them the presence of God . . . It is a return to the way Jesus taught”*

(Quote from Archbishop John Quinn)

In our attempt to minister to our youth in Middle and High School, we offer a variety of events in addition to weekly Religion classes. These events are at various days and locations in our diocese. The students will receive information packets when they become available.

### Youth Group

Youth Group (Grades 9-12) will meet once a month during our regular Religious Ed class time. Through social, prayer, and service activities students will have opportunities to embrace their Catholic faith and live it out as disciples of Christ. This experience is part of our Religious Ed program and all high school students are expected to attend.

### Mission Trip

Each year our high school students will be invited to participate in a Mission Trip during the summer. This trip is more than just a week of doing service. It is about exploring the call to work for justice while engaging in meaningful service opportunities. This week-long service experience provides the students with a mix of direct service, opportunities for learning and dialogue, cross-culture sharing, community building, prayer, and fun. Students will decide the Mission Trip destination and how to raise funds to attend. Contact Delores with any questions.

## Sacramental Preparation Baptism

In the life of Christians, the Sacraments of Initiation have a traditional first place. Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are the means by which the community welcomes and progressively initiates a member into full communion.

*Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."*

(CCC 1213)

We invite parents of unbaptized children to have their child baptized before they begin Religious Education in Grade 1. Having a child baptized before this time provides a natural unhurried separation between the receptions of sacraments. In our parish program, the students in grade 2 prepare to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. The sacrament of Baptism is required before a child (or adult) can receive any of the other sacraments.

### **Special note regarding Baptisms in other parishes:**

If a child/adult is baptized outside of our parish, we request a photocopy of the baptismal certificate before other sacraments are provided. This is a normal practice in our diocese and in many other dioceses. As a courtesy, we notify Catholic parishes (that hold the baptismal records) of all sacraments received in our parish. We also record the new sacrament received in our own sacramental records.

## Sacramental Preparation First Reconciliation

Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of the forgiveness of sins, but Baptism cannot be the church's only means of using the keys of the kingdom of Heaven. The church must be able to forgive all penitents their offenses, even if they should sin until the last moment of their lives. The Sacrament of Reconciliation provides the means to receive forgiveness of both mortal and venial sins committed after Baptism.

Ideally all children should have already received Baptism *before* they begin Grade 1. The Sacrament of First Reconciliation cannot be received until a person is baptized. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders prepare for this Sacrament during the first Semester and receive the sacrament in January.

Parents have a right and responsibility to be involved in their child's preparation. We will have a **1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Prep Meeting on Dec. 12, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.** Parents and the students preparing for this Sacrament will be asked to attend this informational meeting. They will examine the importance of Reconciliation, importance of family involvement, and the use of the textbooks at home. **Textbooks are due January 23, 2019.**

**The date for First Reconciliation is Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m. in Ss. Anthony & Philip Church.**

In our Religious Education Program, we celebrate Penance Services with our students in Grades 2-12 each year. Students are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation when it is offered.

*The principle of individual readiness is respected. This or any sacrament will not be forced or refused to those suitably prepared for it. If a parent or the pastor determines that a child is not ready, they will be invited again the following year to celebrate this sacrament, and suitable preparation will be provided.*

## Sacramental Preparation First Communion

*The Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. It is the sum and summary of our faith. The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. (CCC #1322, 1327, 1391)*

Baptized children are ready to receive First Communion when they have a desire to receive it, when they know that the Eucharist is the true presence of Jesus, and when they know something of the life of Jesus.

Children in Second Grade will receive First Communion preparation in regular class, but this is not enough. Parents have the right and responsibility to be involved in their child's preparation.

At least one parent and the child receiving First Communion are asked to attend the **1<sup>st</sup> Communion Prep Meeting on March 13, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.** The families receive a textbook to complete with their child. The completed **textbooks are due April 10, 2019.** The children will also need to complete an interview with Delores prior to First Communion. In this interview, it will be determined that the child has the desire to receive this sacrament, that they know that the bread & wine are consecrated and become Jesus, and that they know something about Jesus.

This year First Communion will be celebrated on **Saturday, April 27, 2019** during the 4:30 p.m. Mass. At least one parent will need to come to the rehearsal with their child on that Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

*The principle of individual readiness is respected. This or any sacrament will not be forced or refused to those suitably prepared for it. If a parent or the pastor determines that a child is not ready, they will be invited again the following year to celebrate this sacrament, and suitable preparation will be provided.*

## Sacramental Preparation Confirmation

*Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” whose unity must be safeguarded. The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Through Confirmation the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit. (CCC #1285)*

Confirmation may be administered to any baptized person who gives evidence of sufficient understanding of the meaning of the Sacrament, and a desire to receive it.

Directives from the Diocese of Madison are to have a uniform Confirmation age throughout the diocese – either spring of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year or fall of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. Working towards this directive we will confirm our students the spring of their Sophomore year. The date and location will be announced when it is finalized with the Diocese.

The Confirmation preparation program is designed for students who have participated in a Religious Education Studies program throughout their formative years. A young adult wishing to be confirmed without any Religious Education studies will be encouraged to participate in an R.C.I.A. program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or an appropriate program that would be developed to meet their needs.

Confirmation candidates in our parish fulfill many requirements before they receive this Sacrament:

- Personal desire to be Confirmed.
- Have knowledge of the Catholic faith and a desire to live it, displayed in weekly mass attendance, service to others, and everyday living.
- Participate in all Confirmation Prep Classes.
- Choose a sponsor who is a registered Confirmed practicing Catholic Christian, other than a parent, who is willing to journey in faith with the candidate. If a sponsor belongs to a parish other than ours, we will need to know the name of the Catholic parish where they are registered.

- Participate in A Journey with your Sponsor Day scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018 at Ss. Anthony & Philip, Highland beginning with the 9:00 am Mass. Program should be over by 12:30 p.m.
- Participate in the Confirmation Retreat scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 2 & 3, 2019 at Sinsinawa Retreat Center.
- Complete service for our parish amounting to ten (10) hours. After participating in service activities, students will need to submit a signed "Service Project Report" to the teacher or Coordinator of Religious Education.
- Experience ministries during weekend liturgies at least 5 times. After each ministry is completed, a signed "Ministry Report" needs to be submitted to the teacher or Coordinator of Religious Education.

Christ himself declared that he was marked with his Father's seal. Christians are also marked with a seal: *"It is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; he has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."* (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) *"This seal of the Holy Spirit [which is received through the Sacrament of Confirmation] marks our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in his service forever, as well as the promise of divine protection in the great eschatological trial."* (Catechism of Catholic Church #1296)

*The principle of individual readiness is respected. This or any sacrament will not be forced or refused to those suitably prepared for it. If a candidate or the pastor determines that they are not ready, the candidate will be encouraged to participate in the RCIA program when they feel ready.*

## Religious Education Teachers 2018-19

### Kindergarten

Laura Anderson

### Grade 1 (1 student)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Grade 2 (3 students)

Jenny Biba

### Grade 3 (7 students)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Grade 4 (11 students)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Grade 5 2 groups-

7 students in each group

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Grade 6 (2 groups-

9 students in each group)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Grade 7 (7 students)

Andie Benish

**Substitute needed once a month**

### Grade 8 (2 groups –

7 students in each group)

Jackie Benish

\_\_\_\_\_

### Freshmen 2 groups -

10 students in each group)

Maria Oleson

\_\_\_\_\_

### Confirmation Prep –

Grades 10 (11 students)

Delores Eggers

### HS Youth Group- once a month

Teacher and assistant needed

Thank You

We are grateful for all the people who have volunteered to help in our parish religious education program! Thank you!!

## **HELP WANTED**

At the time of this printing we did not have all of our teachers. If you can help by teaching, or assisting in any way, please call the Parish Office (929-7701). Thank you!

**NOTE: If we do not have a volunteer to teach your child's class, we may ask parents to each take a turn in teaching the class. Please consider volunteering – even if only part time!!**

## Staff

### **Pastor**

Fr. Jim Murphy ..... 929-7490  
[jimmurphy@centurylink.net](mailto:jimmurphy@centurylink.net)

### **Pastoral Assistant**

Mark Hebgen..... 929-7490 or 929-7701  
[mhebgen@centurylink.net](mailto:mhebgen@centurylink.net)

### **Coordinator of Religious Education**

Delores Eggers..... (office) 929-7701  
[deggers@centurylink.net](mailto:deggers@centurylink.net) (home) 929-7436  
(cell) 574-8661

### **2018-2019 Religious Education Commission**

Travis Halverson (Pastoral Council Rep.)

Fr. Jim Murphy

Delores Eggers

Cindy Drury

Priscilla Esser

Theresa Michek

Donna Thielorn

### **Ss. Anthony & Philip Parish**

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[www.ssanthonyphilip.com](http://www.ssanthonyphilip.com)