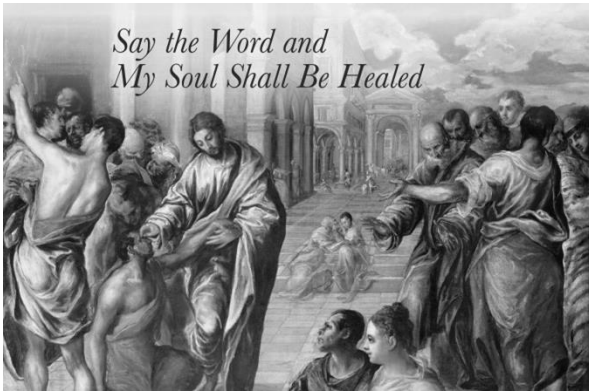


Ss. Anthony & Philip
Community of Faith

Religious Education Program



Parent/Student Handbook
2021-2022

www.ssanthonyphilip.com

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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.

As we plan for our Religious Ed school year, our guidelines regarding COVID 19 protocols have changed from last year. Our guidelines are included in the family packet and in this handbook.

This year we will offer IN-PERSON lessons for our students.

Our afternoon, grades 1-5 sessions will meet each week. Our evening grades 6-10 will meet for 1 ½ hours on the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays, with a few exceptions when needed. A calendar of dates is included in this handbook and on a separate sheet included in the family packet.

Our Youth Ministry group will meet as organized by the students. Our plan is to have the students plan activities which include Prayer, Service, and Social events.

Communication to our families is done weekly in the bulletin, the quarterly newsletter or our parish website. 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- office; 574-8661- cell), drop in at the Parish Office, or send an e-mail deggers@centurylink.net

Blessings,
Delores Eggers, Religious Ed Coordinator

Day & Time of Religious Education Classes

Kindergarten – Once a month

Oct 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 15, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 6
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. – 4:00 p.m., Transport, Recess & Snack

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m., Class Time

Grade 1-5 Class Dates for 2021 – 2022

September 22	January 12
Family Mass - 7:30 pm	January 19
September 29	January 26
October 6	February 2
October 13	February 9
October 20	February 16
October 27	Feb. 23
November 3	March 2 - Ash Wednesday
November 10	March 9
November 17	March 16- NO CLASS
Nov. 24-NO CLASS	March 23 - NO CLASS
December 1	6 th Gr. Seder meal
December 8	March 30
December 15	April 6
	April 13 - NO CLASS
	April 20
	April 27

Grades 6-10 – Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Class Time

Grade 6-10 Class Dates for 2021 – 2022

September 22	January 12
Family Mass - 7:30 pm	January 19
September 29	February 2
October 6	February 16
October 20	March 2- Ash Wednesday
November 3	March 9
November 17	March 30
December 1	April 6
December 8 – Holy Day Mass	April 20
December 15	April 27

Youth Group

Meetings/activities as scheduled by the students.

All grade 11 & 12 students are encouraged to attend:

September 22 - Family Mass - 7:30 pm

December 8 – Holy Day Mass – 4:15 pm or 7:30 pm

March 2– Ash Wednesday Mass – 4:15 pm or 7:30 pm

Program Fee for 2021-2022

The Religious Education Program is funded by the Pasty Sale, a parish subsidy, donations, and this program fee. Each family with students in Grades 1-10 *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. 22, 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.

<u>Program Fee</u>	<u>Child in Program</u>
\$40.00	1 st child in your family (Grade 1-10)
\$40.00	2 nd child in your family (Grade 1-10)
\$20.00	3 rd child in your family (Grade 1-10)
\$100.00	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.

2nd Grade Sacramental Prep year: \$20 per student
Confirmation Retreat: \$60

Bus Transportation & Written Permission

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. The Highland School needs to have written permission for children to ride a bus to Religious Ed class. **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.

We are committed to keeping our students safe. 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 1-5) will be bused or dropped off by parents at Ss. Anthony & Philip Church right after school on Wednesdays. Students from other schools will join the program in progress. Dismissal is 5:15 p.m. Parents, please be prompt in picking up your child.

Students in Grades 6-10 are to arrive in their classroom by 6:55 p.m. in order for class to begin promptly at 7:00 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.

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

No Electronic Devices During Class Time

Electronic devices can be a distraction during class. If electronic devices (cell phones or music players of any type) become a distraction during class, they will be collected by teacher 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 Diocese 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 other school districts, 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. You can have the choice of a call or e-mail sent to you.

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 6:00 p.m. at the latest. The Parish Office will contact the Middle & High School Religion Teachers and support staff. 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 and support staff 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 **2nd graders** focus and prepare for two Sacraments: Reconciliation and Eucharist.

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

The **6th grade** students and families participate in a Passover Seder Meal. It is a time to remember the first Passover and the freeing of the slaves from Egypt.

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

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

The **Freshmen** use *One Faith, One Lord* from Sadlier to review our faith.

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 6, 2022** 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 Religion classes. These events are at various days and locations in our diocese. The students will receive information packets when they become available.

Youth Ministry Group

Youth Group will meet occasionally as planned by the students. Through social, prayer, and service activities students will have opportunities to embrace their Catholic faith and live it out as disciples of Christ.

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 2nd 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 **1st Reconciliation Prep Meeting in December**. 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.

The date for First Reconciliation will be in late January.

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

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 **1st Communion Prep Meeting in March**. The families receive a textbook to complete with their child. 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 in **late April or early May**.

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 9th grade year or fall of their 10th 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 a Sunday in November.
- Participate in the Confirmation Retreat scheduled for early January.

- Complete service for our parish amounting to ten (10) hours. After participating in service activities, students will need to record activity, date and hours on their Confirmation Prep folder.
- Experience ministries during weekend liturgies at least 5 times. After each ministry is completed, students will need to record Ministry and date on their Confirmation Prep folder.

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.

Covid 19 Protocols for the 2021-22 Religious Ed year

- Social distancing will be 3 feet when practical.
- Regular sanitizing and hand washing is encouraged for students and staff.
- High touch/high traffic areas (desks, doors, etc.) will be sanitized between sessions.
- Masks are optional for students and staff during class time. The decision to wear masks is made at the discretion of the parents/guardian of each child.
- Masks are required while riding the bus from school to church.
- Parents must keep home any child who has symptoms of illness. Staying home if sick is an effective practice in stopping the spread of illness.
- We will follow Highland Community School's protocols for quarantining.

Please note that protocols are subject to change depending on circumstances in our area.

Religious Education Teachers 2021-22

At the time of this printing we have only three volunteers to fill these areas. Please consider helping out.

Kindergarten (tentative 4 students) – class once a month

Grade 1 (tentative 8 students)

Grade 2 (6 students)

Grade 3 (11 students)

Grades 4 & 5 (3 students)

Grade 6 (5 students)

Grade 7 (9 students)

Grade 8 (11 students)

Freshmen (17 students – 2 groups)

Confirmation Prep – Grade 10 (7 students) - Delores Eggers

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

Parish Staff

Pastor

Fr. Jim Murphy jimmurphy@centurylink.net 929-7490

Pastoral Assistant

Mark Hebgen mhebgen@centurylink.net 929-7490

Coordinator of Religious Education

Delores Eggers deggers@centurylink.net (office) 929-7701
(cell) 574-8661

2021-2022 Religious Education Commission

Contact Delores if you would like to be on this committee.

Renee Bergeron (Pastoral Council Rep.)

Debbie Korb (Pastoral Council Rep.)

Fr. Jim Murphy

Priscilla Esser

Delores Eggers

Katie Glanville

Laura Anderson

Theresa Michek

Lori Dreischmeier

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