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MASS ATTENDANCE

Please know the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday (or 5PM Saturday Vigil Mass) and on Holy Days of Obligation is discussed throughout the program. While we realize that children can not attend Mass unless their parents take them, we also know fulfilling the Sunday Obligation is an important part of any practicing Catholic's spiritual life. We also feel what we teach your children in Religious Education class makes no sense if they are not attending Mass. For this reason we trust that you will make a conscientious effort to make sure your children attend Mass regularly. We also ask that you read the bulletin each week for necessary announcements and information.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact Diana Wake with any questions at 692-6613 or email her at dwake@st-anthony-of-padua.org.

Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

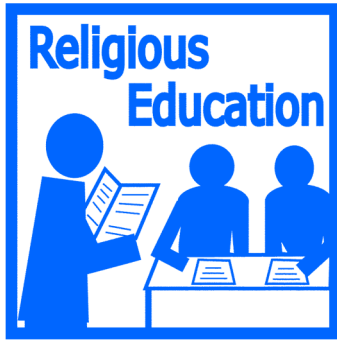
Southern Pines, NC 28387

Rev. Andrew McNair, Administrator



Religious Education Handbook

**For Families with Students
in K—6th Grade**



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Mission Statement

Our Goal is to present a quality all-inclusive program for the children of St. Anthony. We are here to assist the parents in forming their children in the faith. We teach the revealed teachings of Christ in accordance with the Church's Magisterium and encourage our children and families to make use of the sacraments on a regular basis.

KINDERGARTEN

Allelu! Growing and Celebrating with Jesus is a brand new early childhood program with innovations that make it easy to engage the children and build their faith. *Allelu!* Nurtures young children's natural tendency to seek a relationship with God, reinforcing a strong sense of community and love. The program teaches young children about our Catholic faith, familiarizes them with the Catholic sacraments, liturgical rituals, symbols, and seasons. It helps them form moral lives, standards and values. *Allelu!* Teaches children how to pray and gives them the words and tools they need to talk to God. The children are introduced to the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, The Hail Mary, and the Glory Be.

The Faith and Life Series

We use the *Faith and Life Series* published by Ignatius Press in both our parochial school and our Religious Education program. One of the strengths of this program is its consistency in teaching the truths of our Catholic Faith. Each year the basic tenets are presented at an age appropriate

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Parents are asked not to leave their children more than ten minutes before class starts unless their teacher is present. Children who arrive prior to their teacher need to wait in the hallway where supervision will be provided. Parents are asked to pick their child up from the classroom at dismissal. We will not release children into the hallway. Students who meet above the parish office should remain with their teacher until their parents arrive. We don't want any of the children to leave without their parents.

Accompanied students in the main building may exit through the main doors on Ashe Street or the red double doors leading to the back parking lot. Please advise your child(ren) not to leave the building if you are not there to pick them up. We ask parents to pick up their kids within ten minutes of dismissal.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

In case of inclement weather, please check WRAL TV or go to their website at www.wral.com.



PARISH WEBSITE

Visit the website for the current class schedule and copies of the parish bulletin. @ www.st-anthony-of-padua.org.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Our children are taught that to be a Catholic Christian is to become like Jesus Christ. The saints are offered as role models and our real heroes. So the focus of any discipline (training) is to help them become holy.

Students are expected to be respectful of teachers and peers. Since class time is limited and our teachers are volunteers, they are not expected to handle discipline problems. Any child who disobeys class rules will be sent immediately to the Director for clarification of rules, and parents will be notified. Should a child be unable to control his/her behavior, arrangements will be made with the family to assist in teaching their child at home.

Catechist's take part in the Diocesan Safe Environment Training on recognizing and reporting child abuse. In addition our volunteers undergo a full background check.



DRESS CODE

Teaching students virtue is a large part of the catechetical process. Virtues are skills for living a moral, holy life; they must be practiced. Teaching the virtues of modesty and chastity are a part of the curriculum. In order to help students live these virtues, we provide a dress code. A simple guide is the 'neck to knee' rule. Clothing should be neither tight or see-thru, and when seated tops should be long enough to keep skin from being exposed.

level. Therefore beginning in Grade 1 and continuing through Grade 8, God's Law and the Sacramental Life of the Church are discussed. However as you can see in the brief descriptions following, each year has its own particular focus.

Grade 1 (First Communion Level 1)

Is for students in first or second grade preparing for First Holy Communion (FHC). The student begins the two year preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and FHC. Level 1 will focus on God Our Father, emphasizing the Infinite Love of God for each child. The effect of sin and the need for forgiveness is also discussed. Memorization of the prayers above and the Guardian Angel Prayer, and the Apostles Creed begins in grade one.

Grade 2 (First Communion Level 2)

Only children who have completed FHC1 are admitted to this class. Children moving to the parish must obtain a letter from the previous parish verifying the child attended RE the previous year before they will be placed in the FHC2 class. Children will learn The Ten Commandments, how to examine their conscience and the meaning of contrition in preparation for receiving First Reconciliation. The second half of the year dwells on The Mass and the reality of Jesus in The Eucharist. FHC is celebrated in May. The students complete their memorization of the above mentioned prayers and also are able to pray the Act of Contrition and Apostles Creed from memory.

GRADE 3

The curriculum this year pulls together what was presented in Grade 1 & 2 with God's plan for salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion, and the Mass.

GRADE 4

The primary emphasis is The Old Testament explaining how it foretells the coming of the Messiah. Children learn how to use The Bible for study as well as personal prayer. Memorized prayers include the Memorare, the Prayer to St. Michael and the Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity, the Morning Offering, and the Angelus. The Mysteries of the Rosary are introduced.

GRADE 5

The fifth grade text examines The Creed giving the student a basic summary of all the truths of the Faith. Students are encouraged to apply these truths to their everyday living. The children begin memorization of the prayers introduced in grade four.

GRADE 6

Building upon the child's basic understanding of God's Law and The Creed, he is now presented with the dignity of choice and grows in understanding the gift of Free will. The child will be challenged to understand the real freedom found in obedience to God. Memorization of all previously introduced prayers continues.

GRADES 7-12

Meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM. Sessions conclude at 8:00PM. Contact person to be announce for the upper grades.

HOME BASED CATECHESIS

On February 13, 2009 Bishop Michael Burbidge released *the Policy for Home-Based Catechesis from the Diocese of Raleigh*. Parents may chose to use home-based catechesis for their children, however; "parents must communicate their intentions to do so to their local pastor." Parishioners **must let the pastor know their intentions to use home-based catechesis**. "Home-based catechesis of children is the cooperative effort between the children, their parents, parish leadership and the diocesan bishop." "Homeschoolers are to participate in the parish sacramental preparation." If you are

homeschooling your children and have a child preparing to receive a sacrament this year we need to know. In this case, please contact the Mrs. Wake in September. Copies of the Diocesan policy are available in the parish office upon request. The Pastor expects parents who choose to only homeschool their children's religion classes to use the Faith and Life Program. Information on how to order the material needed may be obtained from Diana Wake in the Parish Office. Testing will be required.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Diocesan policy requires all children participate in a two year course of appropriate catechesis prior to the reception of any sacrament to include Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Parents likewise are to be catechized in accordance with the guidelines provided by the diocese of Raleigh.

At the start of formation for these sacraments, parents are provided with written agreements outlining all the necessary requirements to be fulfilled by both parent and student. Regular class attendance (of at least 75%) as well as Mass attendance is required.

Any **unbaptized child** entering the program who is **over the age of seven** must also participate **in the RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation adapted for children)**. It is determined that a child over age seven and entering the Church will be fully initiated receiving Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Therefore more preparation is required. Attendance at RCIC is also required of **any child beyond second grade** not having received First Penance and/or First Holy Communion. This applies to children in our parochial school as well the parish at large. The time for RCIC to be announced.

First Penance is ordinarily celebrated in February or March of second Grade and First Communion in May of the second grade.