

ST JOHN FRANCIS REGIS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HANDBOOK



ST. JOHN FRANCIS REGIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been assembled to assist you, parents and guardians, in your responsibility to make your child's religious education complete and meaningful.

Besides seeing that children attend Mass and Religious Education (RE) regularly, parents need to facilitate class instruction with on-going home instruction. Teachers will provide you with the lesson(s) being presented during a particular class. The children should have shared this lesson with someone at home. Special emphasis should be given to activities that help your child relate their life to that lesson. Highlighted terms and materials should help you focus on the heart of the lesson. The subject matter of the lesson(s) includes information gathered from scripture and Church teachings. Because this material is often presented in language beyond the grade level ability of the children for whom it is prepared, it is perfectly acceptable to read it to your child and lead the discussion.

During RE classes the teacher will review the content of the lesson allowing the children to share their experience and insights. They will also be involved in activities to assist in making the lesson more meaningful.

Classes will also participate in service projects as a way to put their faith into action. Children should be responsible for helping to make the service project work, but whole family movement will make the projects more meaningful and fun.

RE PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Students are to attend Mass every week. RE class is not a substitute for mass attendance.
2. Class times are 10:05 to 11:15am on Sunday mornings. Children will be admitted to the building through the main entrance of St. John's School or the entrance from the Monsignor Harris Center. If children arrive before their Catechist, they may wait outside of their classroom until the Catechist arrives and opens the classroom. In no case should children be wandering through the school building.
3. Children are expected to bring their books to class and these books should be maintained in good condition. They should also bring completed homework assignments to class. Lost books will be replaced at a cost to the parents.
4. Children should behave in a respectful and cooperative manner toward their teachers, classroom aides, the coordinator of RE, and the priests of the parish.
5. According to archdiocesan policy, attendance is expected to be 85% or more of the regularly scheduled religious education classes. No more than four absences are allowed during the RE year. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to assure regular attendance at the classes, to see that children report to their classes on time, to give the teacher written notification about necessary absences, and to be sure that the assignments are completed. If a child is absent more than four classes, the matter must be discussed with the coordinator of RE, who, along with the pastor, will determine if a child can complete the year and be promoted (or whether the first reception of the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist and the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation should be postponed to the next year or not). A test on the year's material may be required to advance grades the following year. If there are extenuating circumstances that make the child unable to meet the attendance requirements, please contact the pastor to make special arrangements.
6. **Sacramental Requirements:** The requirement to be enrolled in the sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation (Penance) and First Communion (normally in second grade), is completion of the first grade RE program. The minimum requirement to be enrolled in the Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation (eighth grade) is attendance in sixth and seventh grade in a Catholic school or RE program. Testing may

indicate additional preparation is needed when children have missed part of the elementary program. **Students who have not been baptized at St John's Parish in Hollywood must submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate before they can receive the Sacraments of Penance, the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist or the Sacrament of Confirmation. After students have received First Penance and First Communion, they are encouraged to complete the full Elementary Program (Grades 3-8).**

7. If a student has a disability, parents should feel free to contact the coordinator of RE who will work with the parents and the students so that the student with a disability can receive religious instruction and sacramental preparation.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Please read this discipline policy and discuss it with your child(ren).

Good Conduct:

Good conduct, cooperation, attention and courtesy are expected during class time. Students are reminded that the rooms and desks they use for class are shared with other children within the parish. All are expected to respect the property of other students. Any student who consistently disturbs a class or who continually fails to cooperate with the Catechist and other students within a class shall be subject to the following procedures:

First Infraction: The student will be sent to the RE office. The Coordinator will handle this infraction directly with the child and give him/her a chance to adjust his/her behavior on his/her own, unless the infraction is serious enough in the discretion of the Coordinator to warrant a call to the parents to advise them of the problem. The student will either remain in the office during the rest of the class period or return to class at the Coordinator's discretion.

Second Infraction: If there is a repeat offense by the same student, the above procedure will be followed and the parents will be notified, and if warranted in the discretion of the Coordinator, asked to meet with the Catechist and/or the Coordinator. It must be agreed that the problem will not happen again.

Third Infraction: With a third offense, the student will be dismissed from the class to the RE office. The parent will be called and asked to come and pick up the child. A meeting with the Coordinator and the Pastor must be held with the child and parents to determine whether and when the child will return to Rel. Ed. If a Confirmation student is dismissed, then he or she is no longer eligible for Confirmation that year.

With any infraction of discipline, the teacher will complete a written incident report, which will be kept on file in the rectory in case a need arises for the teacher to produce the record of the incident.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Parents will park their cars and walk to the front of the school building to pick up their children. No children are to walk unescorted from the front of the school building. Please do not give older children permission to cross the parking lot as this sets a bad example for the little ones.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Kindergarten: Imparts a basic and general understanding of God and Creation.

To Learn and Memorize: Sign of the Cross, Genuflection, Guardian Angel Prayer, Prayers before and after meal.

Grade 1: Introduction to the Holy Trinity through presentations on God the Father, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's plan of salvation and our part in that plan. Acquaints children with Mary, angels, and the saints. Children learn basic prayers.

To Learn and Memorize: The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Prayer for the Dead

Grade 2: Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Creation, the Covenant with Moses, the Ten Commandments, Redemption, Forgiveness of Sins, and the Mass.

To Learn and Memorize: Act of Contrition, The Apostle's Creed, Two Great Commandments, The Ten Commandments

Grade 3: God's plan of 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.

To Learn and Memorize: Morning Offering, Hail Holy Queen, Fatima Prayer, Prayer to St. Michael, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist

Grade 4: God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

To Learn and Memorize: Memorare, The Mysteries of the Rosary, The Beatitudes, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Precepts of the Church

Grade 5: A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, and the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

To Learn and Memorize: Nicene Creed, Stations of the Cross, Prayer to St. Michael

Grade 6: The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

To Learn and Memorize: Holy Days of Obligation, Cardinal Virtues, The Divine Praises

Grade 7: Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

To Learn and Memorize: 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Anima Christi

Grade 8: The history of the Church —its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

To Learn and Memorize: Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Grades 9-12: Develops a more complete understanding of the Catholic Faith through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Builds on the Sacrament of Confirmation in preparing students to be missionaries for the Church in articulately defining and defending the Faith.

To Learn and Memorize: The Angelus and the Vocation Prayer

PRAYER IN RELEIGIOUS EDUCATION

Generally religious education instruction is presented in a spiral approach. Important teachings on the Ten Commandments, the Commandment of Love, the Sacraments, and the Church as God's people, the Blessed Trinity, and the Blessed Mother are introduced at an early level and then information about them builds in subsequent grades. Prayers are presented for introduction at a particular level and are a part of instruction at several levels. Instruction in prayer includes frequent opportunities to pray and help in understanding the importance of all kinds of prayer as part of daily life.

PRAYERS

Please see our web site, www.stjohnsparishhollywood.org, for all the prayers for each grade.

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

Hazardous weather conditions, such as excessive heat, hurricanes, snow, or ice may require Religious Education classes to be cancelled. Please see the religious education (RE) page on the parish web site for the most current information on any class cancellations (<https://www.stjohnsparishhollywood.org/reled>).

SOME FINAL WORDS ABOUT PRAYER IN THE HOME

Many useful catholic resources can be found online. Thanks to the internet, there is better access than ever before to companies and ministries that pertain to the catholic faith. While you and your child are researching these interesting sites on your computer, remember the advice of the late Fr. Peyton, C.S.C.: "The family that prays together, stays together!"

www.catholicrelief.org

www.jp2cc.org

www.catholictothemax.com

www.myfranciscan.com

www.catholicnews.com

www.nationalshrine.com

www.smp.org

www.usccb.org

www.justcatholic.com

www.ignatius.com

AND DON'T FORGET TO FREQUENTLY VISIT OUR OWN PARISH WEBSITE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION ON ST. JOHN'S: www.stjohnsparishhollywood.org