



St. Paul Catholic Chapel

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

2023-2024

Dear Parents,

Together with Fr. Osman, Fr. Raúl, Fr. Antonio, and the catechists, I want to welcome you to the 2023-2024 Religious Education program. Our goal is to encourage each child to make personal, knowledgeable, and heartfelt choices to become lifelong disciples of Jesus! We strive to create an educational program that promotes faith growth in families and participation in Church life which will be the foundation for their future.

We believe that parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Your practice of faith is essential to your child's growth. You are giving a good example to your children, as well as growing in your own faith, by:

- ★ attending weekly Mass,
- ★ regularly receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
- ★ praying together daily,
- ★ speaking frequently about your faith at home,
- ★ attending special social activities at the parish, and
- ★ volunteering for service in our parish and community.

We understand that being a parent in today's society can have many challenges such as consumerism, technology, and the media. Our religious education program is based on scripture, prayer, tradition, service, and community. We are dedicated to supporting you in developing your child's understanding of the Catholic faith and providing opportunities to share your knowledge with them. We ask that you **reinforce** the lessons presented in each class with follow-up conversations at home and **review** the material provided by the catechist. Your interest in their lessons is a great witness to the importance of their spiritual growth. As mentioned above we ask that you make time to not only attend weekly Mass but also attend special Church activities with your child. We want them to know that they are part of a vibrant St. Paul Chapel community!

Religious education classes are held **following 9:00 a.m. Mass.**

- The priest will dismiss the students and catechists with a blessing just before the end of Mass.
- Students are asked to go directly to the classroom area where they will be provided with a snack before the start of their class.
- **New this year**, at the end of each class session, all students will gather in the Chapel for a closing prayer before dismissal at 11:15 a.m.
- We will have a parent meeting for ALL parents on the first day of classes, September 10th.

Please note that this year, due to the rising costs of educational materials, there will be a fee of \$35 for each child in the program. Make checks payable to **St. Paul Catholic Chapel** and write "**religious education fee**" in the Memo area. Fees are due on September 10th. If this causes a hardship for your family, please contact me at [therese@stpaulcatholicchapel.org](mailto:therese@stpaulcatholicchapel.org) or call 260-665-2259.

Sacramental preparation is an integral part of the religious education program. The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are prepared for in the second grade. The Sacrament of Confirmation is received after completing the Confirmation I and II classes. Parents whose children will be receiving a sacrament this year will need to attend special meetings as part of the preparations.

Please be sure to check out the religious education section on the St. Paul Chapel website (<https://www.stpaulcatholicchapel.org/children-s-religious-education>) for information about the program throughout the year.

We ask that you are supportive of your child's catechist and the religious education program. Please remember that each catechist is a volunteer who is committed to generously sharing their passion for our faith with your child.

Regular attendance is important. If your child must miss a class, please contact the catechist to obtain the missed content/materials. We trust that we will have your child's full participation and respect.

**Both sides of the enclosed registration form need to be completed for your family. It is important that we have up-to-date information for you and your child(ren).**

Also enclosed is a volunteer form. Please consider ways in which you can share your time and talent with the religious education program. You may return this form with you completed registration. Thank you for your consideration.

Finally, we ask for your prayers and support throughout this year. We are here to partner with you in the development of your child's spiritual journey. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

In gratitude,

*Therese*

Therese Shiffler, Director of Religious Education  
[Therese@stpaulcatholicchapel.org](mailto:Therese@stpaulcatholicchapel.org) 260-665-2259

# Religious Education Calendar

## 2023-2024

Classes meet from 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Sept 10	Classes begin Parent meeting following Mass	Jan 6	Play practice
Sept 16	Day of Spiritual Formation for Catechists	Jan 7	Epiphany play
Sept 17	No classes	Jan 14	Regular classes
Sept 24	Regular classes	Jan 21	Regular classes
Oct 1	Eucharistic Adoration Classes following adoration	Jan 28	No classes
Oct 8	No classes	Feb 4	Regular classes
Oct 15	Regular Classes	Feb 11	Regular classes
Oct 22	Regular Classes	Feb 18	No classes - Concert at St. Anthony
Oct 29	No classes	Feb 25	Regular classes
Nov 5	Regular classes Safe Environment Program	Mar 3	Regular classes First Reconciliation
Nov 12	Regular classes	Mar 10	No classes
Nov 19	No classes	Mar 17	Regular classes
Nov 26	No classes - Thanksgiving break	Mar 24	Regular classes
Dec 3	Class Advent Wreath making activity	Mar 31	No classes - Happy Easter
Dec 10	Regular classes	April 7	No classes - Spring Break
Dec 17	Regular classes	April 14	Regular classes
Dec 24	Christmas Break	April 21	Regular classes
Dec 31	Christmas Break	April 27	Day of Spiritual Formation for Catechists
		April 28	No classes First Communion
		May 5	Last class May Crowning
		June 2	Eucharistic Procession

*This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Ps. 118:24*

# St Paul Catholic Chapel Religious Education Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider sharing your time and talent with the religious education program.

\_\_\_\_\_ catechist

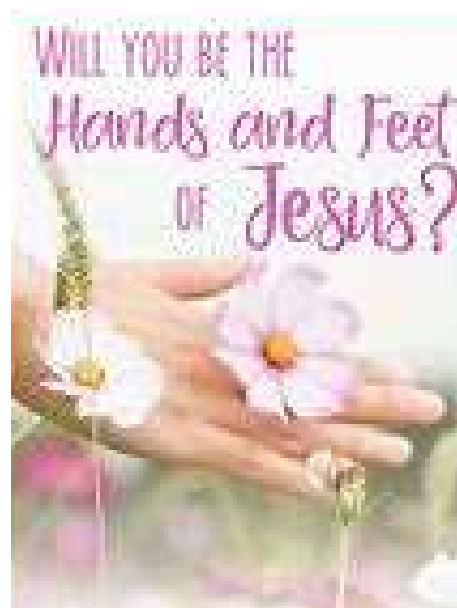
\_\_\_\_\_ substitute catechist

\_\_\_\_\_ classroom project assistance

\_\_\_\_\_ bulletin board support

\_\_\_\_\_ Advent Wreath making assistance

\_\_\_\_\_ general assistance



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_