



St. Paul Catholic Chapel

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

2025-2026

Dear Parents,

Together with Fr. Osman, Fr. Raúl, Fr. Jorge, and the catechists, I want to welcome you to the 2025-2026 Religious Education program. Our goal is to encourage each child to make personal, knowledgeable, and heartfelt choices to become lifelong active members of the Catholic Church. 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 own 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 attend weekly Mass and special Church activities with your child. We want them to know they are part of a vibrant St. Paul Chapel community!

Religious education classes are held **following 9:00 a.m. Mass and go until 11:15 a.m.**

- 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.
- Tuition for religious education classes remains at \$35 for each child in the program. Please contact me if this causes a hardship for your family. I can be reached by email at: [religiouseducation@stpaulcatholicchapel.org](mailto:religiouseducation@stpaulcatholicchapel.org) or by calling 260-665-2259.

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

**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.

Please note, 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. We will have a parent meeting for **ALL parents** on the first day of classes, September 7th.

It is important 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. **Also, please be sure that we have up-to-date contact information for you.**

Please complete **both sides** of the registration form for your family. We must have **up-to-date information** for you and your child(ren). Also, please consider ways in which you can share your time and talent with the religious education program. We would love to have you join us throughout the year.!

The 2025-2026 religious education calendar is included. Please keep this in a convenient place for your reference. If changes need to be made to the calendar, you will be notified via **Flocknote**/texts and the **St. Paul website**.

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.

With Gratitude,

*Brett*

Brett Kerspilo , Director of Religious Education

[religiouseducation@stpaulcatholicchapel.org](mailto:religiouseducation@stpaulcatholicchapel.org)

260-665-2259

# St. Paul's Religious Education Class Schedule 2025-2026

Classes Meet From 10:00 am-11:15 am

Sept. 7th- <b><u>Class</u></b> (Confirmation parent meeting after Mass)  ***All other Grades Parent meeting 11:15 am	Jan. 11th- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Sept. 14th- <b><u>Class</u></b>	Jan. 18th- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Sept. 21st- No Class	Jan. 25th-No Class
Sept. 28th- <b><u>Class</u></b>	Feb. 1st- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Oct. 5th- No Class	Feb. 8th- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Oct. 12th- <b><u>Class</u></b>	Feb. 15th- No Class
Oct. 19th- <b><u>Class</u></b> (Safe Environment Training)	Feb. 22nd- <b><u>Class</u></b> Student Mass
Oct. 26th- No Class	March 1st-No Class
Nov. 2nd- <b><u>Class</u></b>	March 7th- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Nov. 9th- <b><u>Class</u></b>	March 15th- <b><u>Class</u></b> First Reconciliation (After Mass)
Nov. 16th- <b><u>Class</u></b>	March 22nd- No Class (Spring Break)
Nov. 23rd- No Class (Thanksgiving Break)	March 29th- No Class (Spring Break)
Nov. 30th- No Class (Thanksgiving Break)	April 5th- No Class (Easter)
Dec. 7th- <b><u>Class</u></b>	April 12th- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Dec. 14th- <b><u>Class</u></b> (Bambinelli Sunday)	April 19th- <b><u>Class</u></b>
Dec. 21st- <b><u>No Class</u></b> (Thanksgiving Break)	April 26th- <b><u>Last Class</u></b>
Dec. 28th- <b><u>No Class</u></b>	May 3rd- First Communion
Jan. 4th- Epiphany Play Presentation	June 27th-Confirmation Mass- 10 am St. Anthony's Angola