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PURPOSE

Catechesis speaks to the totality of the Church's efforts to make disciples of all people and to help them believe that Jesus is the Son of God. In believing, we hope to all have life in His name and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the body of Christ.

As parents, you are given the profound privilege and serious obligation of being the child's first and best teachers of the faith. Most of the religious attitudes and values children acquire come from their parents and the home. The family is the first place where faith is earned, interpreted and lived. It is the right of all children to have loving parents to support them in their development. Children will learn their faith by watching their parents communicate values and attitudes when they share their love for Christ and His Church and each other by receiving the Eucharist and living in His spirit and by engaging in this love in all their relationships.

This document provides guidelines for parents and catechists concerning the religious formation of children through grade eleven.

These guidelines are intended to provide a basic set of expectations for each grade level. It is important to note that these guidelines state the minimal requirements of a student at a particular grade level. By a stated grade level, the student should be able to articulate the foundational beliefs expressed for that level.

CHALLENGES

A faith-filled family is the foundation upon which the religious education program must be built. Unfortunately, not all families are aware of the importance of their role as the primary educator of their children. The parish will do everything within its power to provide families with this awareness. The parish must also recognize and be sympathetic to the structure of the family in today's society that include single-parent, extended or blended families, family breakdowns, marital tensions, financial pressures, alcohol or drug abuse, illness, death, and other difficulties can weaken a family's ability to nurture faith.

It is important for the parish community and especially the catechists to find effective means of communication with parents. Parents should be encouraged to take an active part in the everyday religious experience of their children. Opportunities must be presented for the parents to make them more conscious of their role and more effective in fulfilling it. This can happen if the family understands what is being taught, the methods used in teaching, and the programs which assist and support the family in its roles.

FIRST GRADE

Theme:

God our Father shows His love through the many gifts of creation. Jesus, God's Son and our brother teaches us about the Father.

Message:

God is the loving creator of all things.

Community:

- ❖ Be aware of God's creation and recognize ourselves as unique and special parts of creation.
- ❖ Understand ways that God has shown us love.
- ❖ Value our own family and extended family.
- ❖ Develop a sense of belonging to our parish community.

Worship:

- ❖ Participate in weekly prayer.
- ❖ Participate with all other Catholics in Sunday Mass where we hear the Word of God and share the body and blood of Jesus.
- ❖ Participate in activities for advent and lent to appreciate the significance of these liturgical seasons, e.g., advent wreath, stations of the cross

Service:

- ❖ Become aware of the ways people care for us
 - ❖ Explore ways we can show we care for all of God's creation.
 - ❖ Understand that we must love ALL people, even those who are different from us.
-

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 1:

After completing Grade 1 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- ❖ Prayers
 - Baptism
 - God is our Father
 - ❖ Advent
 - ❖ Cover 2 to 4 of the Ten Commandments
 - The Lenten Season
 - ❖ Grow in God's Love
-

SECOND GRADE

Theme:

We come to the table of the Eucharist where we eat the body and drink the blood of Jesus. We learn to live through the Word of God. We learn how to let the Sacrament which nourishes us nourishes others and, through us, give life to the world.

Message:

The Eucharist is our celebration of unity, reconciliation, and peace.

Community:

- ❖ Be aware that through reconciliation, God, through the Church, overcomes our separation and sinful isolation in a gesture of merciful love.
- ■ Understand that God wants us to forgive others.
- ❖ Understand that the sacrament of penance welcomes us back to close friendship with God and the community.
- ❖ Realize that we can be selfish and how that selfishness affects other people.
- 41- Value the role of parents and teachers in making right choices.
- Understand that there are many wrong choices shown on television and in the media and sometimes through our friends.
- ❖ Become aware that God calls us to be responsible for others, especially people in need.
- ❖ Understand that we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord, using the gifts and talents God gave us.

- ❖ Understand that we cannot love God without loving the people around us.

Worship:

- + Understand how to examine our conscience.



- ❖ Experience the sacrament of penance.
- ❖ Understand the different ways to receive communion
- : * Experience spontaneous prayer
- ❖ Understand the Bible as God's Word

Service:

- : . Understand that the friends and followers of Jesus act in loving ways.
- ❖ Participate in activities that show a good example to others.
- ❖ Participate in activities to serve others as a way to show love for God and forgiveness and love for others.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 2:

After completing Grade 2 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- ❖ Sign of the Cross
- : . Prayers
- ❖ Penance — Healing/Forgiving
- ❖ Advent Season & the Birth of Jesus
- : * Recite a few of the Ten Commandments
- : , • Understand Mass
- ❖ Holy Spirit
- ❖ Receive First Holy Communion

THIRD GRADE

Theme:

The Church is the people of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, sharing the faith of the apostles in Jesus Christ. The church continues the work of Jesus today by sharing the Good News, celebrating the sacraments and serving all God's people.

Message:

The church is the family of God.

Community:

- ❖ Appreciate that belonging to the Church involves participating in the faith community and contributing to it by our gifts.
- ❖ Participate in celebrations that honor the religious and cultural heritage of the parish such as the feasts of patron saints and special devotions.
- ❖ Accept responsibility for telling others about Jesus, and building up the family of God through works of love, justice, and peace.
- Understand the role of the Church in helping us to live as Jesus asks us to live.
- ❖ Value the adults in our lives who model their life with faith (e.g., parents, teachers, priests).

Worship:

- ❖ Participate with the Church community of God as we meet on Sunday to celebrate the Good News that Jesus has died, is risen, and will return again.
 - . Appreciate prayer in our lives for all things, for example, praise, thanks, sorrow and petition.
 - Pray to Mary, our special Mother.
 - ❖ Experience the rosary as a means of prayer.
-

Service:

- ❖ Grow in awareness of the needs of others.
- :* Accept that we are responsible for the choices we make.
- ❖ Participate in acts of service for neighbors, friends, and family.
- :• Appreciate that we must share our time and talents in ways that show our love for God and others.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 3:

After completing Grade 3 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- ❖ The Sacraments
- ❖ Promise of: Baptism, Penance, & the Eucharist
- Peace and Justice
- ❖ Live God's mission of the Church
- : The Ten Commandments
- Order of the Mass
- : Holy Spirit
- ❖ Love of all people

FOURTH GRADE

Theme:

Everyone has a call to holiness in imitation of Jesus. We respond to this call by living as members of the community of the Church, by understanding and obeying the Ten Commandments, especially love of God and neighbors, and by living the beatitudes and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Holy Spirit enlightens us and gives us the power to live as Jesus did.


Message:

The Ten Commandments guide our actions in daily life.

Community:

- . Explore ways in which each of the Ten Commandments applies to our lives and our relationships with others.
- ❖ Understand that God calls us to a life of community within the Church.
- ❖ Grow in understanding of the ways in which friends, society, and media can lead to occasions of sin.
- ❖ Become aware of how Jesus' call to forgiveness of others can be used in real situations of hurt in our daily lives.
- . Express an understanding of the relationship between God, self, and others.

Worship:

- ❖ Understand why it is important to participate in the weekly Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.
 - . Develop ways and occasions to celebrate communal prayer, both formal and spontaneous, especially those that celebrate the liturgical seasons.
 - ❖ Understand that the Beatitudes should guide our relationships with each other and lead us to God.
- 

- ❖ Understand that the sacrament of penance celebrates the forgiveness of Christ in and through the Church.
- ❖ Develop a sensitivity for practicing a daily personal examination of conscience.
- : • Experience the rosary as a means of prayer.

Service:

- ❖ Develop an understanding that individual gifts and talents are to be used in the service of others.
- ❖ Participate in making good moral choices to serve others.
- ❖ Develop ways to show our love for the poor and the sick.
- ❖ Participate in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
- ❖ Develop and participate in simple class projects to benefit the people in the parish and/or the community that are in need of assistance.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 4:

After completing Grade 4 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- ❖ Trinity
- ❖ Beatitudes
- ❖ Saints
- ❖ Spiritual works of Mercy
- ❖ **All** Ten Commandments
- ❖ Mass Order & Why
- ❖ Prayers & the Stations of the Cross

FIFTH GRADE

Theme:

God gave us the ultimate sacrament in Jesus. Jesus instituted the seven sacraments to give us grace. The sacraments are actions of Christ celebrated in the Church. In the midst of the faith community, Jesus is present to us through the words and symbols.

Message:

Through sacramental signs and symbols, we are able to experience the presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Community:

- ❖ Appreciate that all persons are created in God's image.
- ❖ Grow in the understanding that the Holy Spirit gives us special gifts and talents for the good of the community.
- ❖ Reflect upon God's gift of free will and our responsibility for our own actions.
- ❖ Grow in the understanding that sin is freely choosing to do what we know to be wrong or omitting to do what we know is good.
- ❖ Reflect upon personal failings and sin in relationship to Jesus' law of love, the Ten Commandments.
- ❖ Understand the call from God to exercise our freedom wisely by living moral lives.
- ❖ Become aware of the affects of sin that separates us from God and community.

Worship:

- ❖ Appreciate the cycle of the liturgical seasons, major feast days, and holy days of obligation throughout the Church year.
 - ❖ Establish a prayerful environment in the classroom
-

Service:

- + Value all forms of life as a sacred gift.
- + Appreciate that all followers of Jesus are called to the ministry of service through baptism.
- ❖ Understand that Jesus heals us through others.
- Understand that all members of families have a right to be treated with love, respect and dignity.
- + Appreciate the beatitudes as Jesus' invitation to perfection.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 5:

After completing Grade 5 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- Baptism
- ❖ The Eucharist & the Mass + The Ten Commandments, the Laws of the Church, and some Cannon Laws
- ❖ All Sacraments
- ❖ Healing — Penance & Sick
- Prayers and Psalms
- + Service to our Lord
 - Vocations — Holy Orders
 - Vocations — Lay & Matrimony
- ❖ Social Morality — 4 Values
- ❖ Truth, Justice, Freedom & Love
- What is Confirmation?

SIXTH GRADE

Theme:

God, our Creator, loves us deeply and interacts in our lives. The saving actions of God throughout history are most completely revealed in Jesus. God's loving relationship with the chosen people is recorded in the Old and New Testaments written by persons of faith under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Church is responsible for safeguarding and interpreting the truth we find in the Scriptures. All Christians continue the work of building the kingdom of God.

Message:

Scripture helps us to understand who God created us to be and how we are to live.

Community:

- ❖ Understand that everyone who is baptized has a responsibility to take an active part in the life and work of the Church.
- ❖ Understand that members of the parish are a family who support one another.
- ❖ Appreciate our common heritage with the Jewish people.
- ❖ Become involved in some human services the parish community offers.

Worship:

- ❖ Grow in the understanding that the Old and New Testaments are the source of our Eucharistic and sacramental liturgies and our personal prayer and meditation.
 - : Understand the Eucharist in relationship to Passover, covenant, the last supper, crucifixion, and resurrection.
 - :, Value the sign of the cross as a public sign of our Catholic faith.
 - ❖ Value the Mass and especially the celebration of the Eucharist as the central act of worship for Catholics.
 - ❖ Learn to read and meditate on the Bible.
-

- Understand the power of prayer.

Service:

- Value the men and women of Sacred Scripture as models of holiness and service.
- ❖ Explore what their example means for us today.
- ❖ Develop ways to use personal talents in the service of others.
- ❖ Appreciate that prayer is the source of a life of holiness and service and begin to respond to the call.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 6:

After completing Grade 6 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- ❖ Revelation
 - + Scriptures
 - . Prophets
 - ❖ Old Covenant/New Covenant
 - ❖ All Prayers, Commandments, Sacraments, and the Rosary
 - Laws of the Church
 - ❖ Canon Law
 - . Order of the Mass & Why
 - What is Confirmation?
 - ❖ Psalms 1, 104 or current Liturgies
 - . Trust God's Word
-

SEVENTH GRADE

Theme:

God gave Jesus two unique natures, one being human the other divine, which are united in the one person of God's son.

Message:

Jesus redeemed us from sin through His sufferings, death, and resurrection.

Community:

- ❖ Recognize the call to continue Christ's mission of forgiving, healing, and reconciling one another.
- ❖ Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of the parish community experience.
- ❖ Appreciate that all individual moral decisions affect one's relationships with self, others and God.
- Identify and appreciate special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

Worship:

- ❖ Experience prayer as a deepening of our personal relationship with Jesus.
- ❖ Develop a habit of daily prayer to seek guidance and discern one's vocation.
- ❖ Appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Service:

- ❖ Develop ways to put into practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
 - ❖ Become involved in service outreach projects, clothing and food collections, and fund-raising drives.
-

- ❖ Identify traditional Catholic saints whose lives were dedicated to service.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 7:

After completing Grade 7 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- Jesus Christ—Who is He?
- ❖ Creed—Meaning & Understanding
- ❖ All Sacraments including when they are received and what they mean.
- ❖ How do the Sacraments guide us?
- ❖ Look up Gospels in the Bible
- ❖ Meaning of The Our Father
- ❖ Who is Mary?
- ❖ The Saints—Who & what they did and when they were Canonized.
- ❖ Evangelizing work of Jesus
- ❖ Holy Spirit—God's will
- . The Person, Message & Mission of Jesus

EIGHTH GRADE

Theme:

The Sacraments are specific faith actions of the Church empowered by Jesus through the guidance of the Spirit.

Message:

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church continues to develop throughout history.

Community:

- ❖ Create a family and classroom environment where each person is accepted as unique and treated justly.
- ❖ Discuss the future of Church and what one's role as an adolescent might be in the Church.
- . • Develop the skills necessary for building relationships and community life, such as trust, self-disclosure, and communication.
- . • Examine how social ills and injustices affect the lives of all people as well as their responsibility for others even when suffering is perceived as global experience.

Worship:

- ❖ Experience various forms of prayer, such as silent meditation, prayer with Scripture, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, prayer with song, and liturgy of the hours.
- . • Experience days of reflection and retreats as opportunities for personal growth.
- ❖ Plan and participate in class liturgies, such as the rosary and stations of the cross.



Service:

- : # Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.
- ❖ Participate in service opportunities with the parish and local community.
- ❖ Become aware of local and global social concerns.
- ❖ Recognize that in baptism all Christians receive a call to service.
- ❖ Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 8:

After completing Grade 8 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- : • Church History
- ❖ Sacraments
- + Prayer
- ❖ Scripture
- Liturgy
- Doctrine
- ❖ Communion of Saints
- ❖ Beatitude of people
 - o Respect—dignity—values (Church & personal)
- : . Purpose of the Church
- ❖ Know—Sacraments, Church Law, Holy Days & Obligation Days, Ten Commandments (by heart)
- Sacraments—Touch our lives

1' Birth—growth—health—family—responsibility—Spiritual growth & the hour of death/our promise

- ❖ Holy Spirit—God's will
- ❖ The Person, Message & Mission of Jesus



NINTH GRADE

Theme:

The Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives.

Message:

The Spirit strengthens our relationship with Jesus and empowers us to continue his mission through the gifts of the Spirit.

Community:

- ❖ Appreciate that belonging to the Church means participating in its mission.
- ❖ Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of the parish community experience.
- ❖ Identify and appreciate the special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

Worship:

- ❖ Experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.
- ❖ Develop a daily habit of prayer to seek guidance and discern one's devotion.
- ❖ Experience days of reflection and retreats s opportunities for personal spiritual growth.
- ❖ Appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Service:

- ❖ Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.
-

- ❖ Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself with the parish and the local community.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 9:

After completing Grade 9 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- Meaning of the Mass
- ❖ The Bible
- ❖ How Catholics Interpret the Bible
- Mary
- ❖ The Saints
- ❖ History of the Church
- Prayer
- ❖ Parish Ministries
- Dignity of Life
- + Life: The Greatest Gift
- ❖ Social Justice



TENTH GRADE

Theme:

The Holy Spirit enlightens our choices so that we come to recognize the will of God in our lives.

Message:

The Spirit strengthens our relationship with Jesus and empowers us to continue his mission through the gifts of the Spirit.

Community:

- ❖ Appreciate that belonging to the Church means participating in its mission.
- : • Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of the parish community experience.
- ❖ Identify and appreciate the special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

Worship:

- : • Experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.
- ❖ Develop a daily habit of prayer to seek guidance and discern one's devotion.
- ❖ Experience days of reflection and retreats s opportunities for personal spiritual growth.
- ❖ Appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.

Service:

- : • Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.

- ❖ Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself with the parish and the local community.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 10:

After completing Grade 10 CCD, the student should be able to demonstrate their knowledge of and/or recite the following:

- ❖ The Priest
 - ❖ Service
 - + Service
 - . Establish a Service Plan
 - ❖ Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ Spreading the Good News
 - ❖ Liturgy of the Word
 - . Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - How to celebrate the Mass
-

ELEVENTH GRADE

Theme:

Everyone has a call to holiness in imitation of Jesus. We are now becoming adults in our faith and must respond to this call by living as members of the community of the Church, by understanding and obeying the Ten Commandments, especially love of God and neighbors, and by living the beatitudes and the spiritual and corporal works of mercy

Message:

The Spirit strengthens our relationship with Jesus and empowers us to continue his mission through the gifts of the Spirit.

Community:

- :• Appreciate that belonging to the Church means participating in its mission.
- ❖ Accept the invitation and responsibility to become part of the parish community experience.
- :• Identify and appreciate the special gifts and talents which can be used for oneself and others.

Worship:

- ❖ Experience prayer as a deepening of personal relationship with Jesus.
 - ❖ Develop a daily habit of prayer to seek guidance and discern one's devotion.
 - ❖ Experience days of reflection and retreats s opportunities for personal spiritual growth.
 - :• Appreciate the need for the frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist as ways to participate in the worship of the Church and to grow in God's grace.
-

Service:

- ❖ Realize how persons give witness to their faith through their work.
- ❖ Reflect on and participate in service opportunities for oneself with the parish and the local community.

Archdiocesan Expectations for Grade 11:

After completing Grade 11 CCD, the student is a responsible, adult member of the Catholic Church.



IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ **Confirmation:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 11:30 AM

- ❖ **First Penance:** Saturday, January 21, 2012, 8:30AM — 11:00 AM In
case of snow cancellation: Saturday January 30, 2010
 - Prayer breakfast: 8:30-9:15
 - Parent/Child Workshop: 9:15-10:45
 - Reconciliation: 9:30-10:45
 - Final Prayer: 10:45-11:00

Note: The workshop will be ongoing during Reconciliation. Children will be sent to the Chapel in small groups for penance and return to the hall for the workshop.

- ❖ **First Communion:** May 5, 2012

- ❖ 11:00AM

- ❖ **May Procession:** May 6, 2010 following Children's Mass

CLASS TIMES

Grade Pre-K will meet at 11:15AM-11:45AM.

Grades K-2 will meet at 8:45AM-9:45AM.

Pre-K will meet one Sunday of each month beginning September 18, 2011.

Kindergarten classes will meet every other Sunday of beginning Sept. 18, 2011.

First Grade classes will begin on Sunday, September 11, 2011 and meet every week.

Grade 2 will meet weekly beginning September 11, 2011.

Grades 3, 4, 5 will meet Sunday from 8:45AM-9:45AM, or every Wednesday 4:30PM-5:30PM.
Classes will begin the week of September 11, 2011.

Grade 6 will meet Sunday every week from 8:45AM – 9:45AM or every other week on
Wednesday from 4:00PM-5:30PM beginning September 14, 2011.

Grades 7 and 8 will meet every other week on Sundays at 6:00PM-8:00PM beginning
September 18, 2011.

Grades 7 and 8 will meet every other week on Sundays at 6:00PM-8:00PM beginning September 18.

Grades 9 and 10 will meet every other week on Sundays at 6:00PM-8:00PM beginning September 25, 2011 [Retreat Date: September 10, 2011 10am -4pm Mass].

Grade 11 will meet weekly until Confirmation 10/30/11 on Sundays at 6:15PM-8:00PM in the Chapel beginning September 11, 2011 and running through October 23rd. The Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for September There will not be class on Sunday October 9,th in observance of Columbus Day.

Classes are centered on Sundays and include class instruction and participation in Mass. Grades K-6 will be required to participate in the 10AM Mass. Grades 7-11 are required to participate in the 7:00PM Mass.

CONFIRMATION/ CHURCH SERVICE HOURS

Students making the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to complete 20 hours of church service prior to receiving the Sacrament. Students should begin to earn those hours starting in Grade 9.

The 20 church service hours must be completed by either assisting in the Liturgies, helping at social events, or with physical work on the church property.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Religious Education Program at St. Ann by the Sea Parish is exploring how to best serve the needs of all of its children, including those with special needs or various learning styles. St. Ann's will be developing a special education program based on the needs of the children in the Parish. Accommodations and modifications can be made to the present religious education curriculum to accommodate the needs of children who have been identified with Autism Spectrum, Hearing or Vision needs, ADD/ADHD, language learning difficulties, social-emotional issues, or any specific learning disability.

In order to serve all of our children, we need to know if your child has a learning disability. If your son/daughter has been identified with a disability, please help us by letting us know. Please contact the Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Catherine Rein, and be assured this information will be held confidentially.

Special Education classes will begin Monday, October 17, 2011 in the Parish Hall from 4pm - 4:30pm.

CCD CANCELLATION

CCD classes will be cancelled whenever the Marshfield Public Schools are closed for adverse weather conditions. Announcements will be made on Marshfield's radio station, WATD 95.9, and Boston Network Television News programs.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

CCD is an integral part of your child's spiritual growth. Regular attendance and punctuality are two things that will help your child develop a positive attitude toward their faith as well as let them know that you support their spiritual growth. We urge parents and guardians to make every attempt to ensure their child attends all of their CCD classes and arrive on time.

If a child is absent, the parent/guardian must call the Religious Education Office and leave your child's name and the reason for the absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class and calls will be placed to the families of absent students. The Archdiocese requires that each student participate in a minimum of 24 hours of instruction each year. There will be three excused absences during the catechetical year. After three absences, **your** child will be required to make up classes by attending make-up class opportunities offered throughout the Catechetical year.

Parents and guardians of children with excessive absences will need to meet with the DRE and Father Carmichael to discuss how the CCD requirements for the year will be fulfilled in order for their child to move forward the following year or to receive one of the Sacraments.

DISMISSAL FROM CLASS

The Sacrament of the Mass is an important part of your child's faith formation. Each child is expected to attend Mass either directly after or prior to their CCD class. The Archdiocesan Mandate requires 40 hours of Religious Education Instruction, of which the Holy Mass has been included. Lower grades are expected to attend the 10:00AM Mass. Teachers will bring the students to church. Dismissal for grades K-4 will be after the Mass in the Chapel.

Grades 7-11 are expected to attend the 7:00PM Mass. Grades 7-11 will be dismissed following Mass. Please note, the evening Mass concludes normally at 7:45PM.

CHILDRENS MASS



The 10:00AM Mass is the Children's Mass. The readings for this Mass are read by the children in the parish and the homily is discussed in terms appropriate for children. Children also participate in bring up the gifts for the Eucharist.

It is strongly recommended that children and their families attend these Masses after or before their CCD classes. Volunteers at each grade level will be asked to participate in the readings and gifts. A schedule will be posted in the Church hall and on the web. Please ensure that your child is available on the dates scheduled.

CHOIR

Students are encouraged to join with the parish choir and sing the various hymns. The children will practice the songs in class.

USE OF TELEPHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones are not permitted in the classrooms or in the church. Students who use phones during class will have their phones taken away by their teachers. If the child continues to use the phone in class, the parent/guardian will have to pick the phone up from the Director of Religious Education.


Text messaging is prohibited from the classroom and in Church. In the past we have experienced disruptions during Mass as some of our teenage students have used the Liturgy to text message their friends. While we understand the temptation to text message, it hinders their participation in the Mass, as well as those seated by them.

PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE CLASSES

Special consideration will be given, when requested, to have your child placed with a specific teacher.

HOMEWORK

Although we understand that your children have commitments with school assignments and extra curricula activities, we ask your support in having your child complete any assignments given by the teachers. These assignments are a building block to your child's growth in their faith. Many of the assignments consist of memorizing prayers, such as: the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and Apostle's Creed, Profession of Faith, and Prayer responses from Mass. By attending weekend Mass, your children will become more familiar with each prayer. Your children will also be responsible for remembering the Ten Commandments, the 7 Sacraments and the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy.



CODE OF BEHAVIOR

The church and the classroom are place of learning and growing in one's faith. We are dedicated to providing a safe and secure learning environment of mutual respect. To achieve this, all students will exhibit Christian behavior while in the classroom and during Mass. Students must meet the following code of behavior:

- ❖ Respect each other at all times by being kind, considerate, and polite.
- ❖ Respect each other's property, Church and hall property, and keep our Church buildings and grounds clean.
- Be responsible for whatever you do and take pride in your work.
- Be good listeners at all times.
- ❖ Be quiet in the classrooms, hall, and Church and always walk, don't run.
- ❖ Be cooperative and resolve problems together in a positive manner.
- Be honest.
- Respect the rights of other students without fighting, teasing, or name calling.
- ❖ Use appropriate language that is free from vulgarity and profanity.
- ❖ Act in a way that does not disrupt the work of the teacher or the learning of the other students.

The following procedures will be followed when behavior is detrimental to another student or the class:

- ❖ Discuss the specific incident with the student or students who are involved.
- ❖ Exclude the student from a specific activity.
- ❖ Notify parents/guardians via a note or phone call of the specific incident under discussion.

• Refer the student and the parents/guardians to the Pastor for a conference.

CONDUCT, DRUGS, VIOLENCE, SMOKING, AND DISCIPLINE

Order and discipline shall be required in all classrooms. Whenever the conduct of any student violates the rules of the classroom or is detrimental to the morale, welfare, or education of all students, then the DRE shall invoke such methods of discipline deemed necessary and proper.

Disciplinary actions taken for drug, alcohol, or violence issues should always emphasize fairness and developmentally appropriate consequences, which may include suspension from the CCD program or other necessary actions. The DRE and the Pastor will work closely with the parents when such issues arise to ensure that students who violate Church policy around drugs and violence are dealt with in a fair, consistent, and remedial manner.

SMOKING in or around the Church or the classroom IS NOT PERMITTED.

PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS

Whenever there is a concern about your child's religious education or an incident in the classroom or Church, please contact the DRE. If you feel the situation needs further attention, the Pastor should then be contacted. The Pastor and his staff will resolve any problem as professionally and satisfactorily as possible, for your child's welfare is our highest priority.


HARASSMENT

The policy of the Archdiocese is to provide a learning and working atmosphere for students, employees, and volunteers free from sexual harassment. This policy affirms a federal and state law prohibiting sexual harassment.

Complaints of sexual harassment will be promptly and carefully investigated. Retaliations that occur as a result of filing a sexual harassment claim will not be tolerated.

BULLYING

St. Ann by the Sea will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior, including bullying, in our classrooms, Church, or during Church related activities. All reports of bullying will be promptly investigated by the DRE.



Bullying is defined as a verbal, physical, written, or electronic action or incident or other direct or indirect behavior that is intentionally cruel and repetitive. Bullying is characterized by an imbalance of physical, psychological, or emotional power. Bullying actions will include, when appropriate, referral to a law enforcement agency.

RESPECT FOR LIFE PROGRAM

Four years ago, Cardinal Sean O'Malley called on all parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston to implement the 7th grade curriculum on love and relationships called *Created for Love*. This program will be presented each year to both the 7th & 8th grade classes.

Theology of the Body for Teens, a program designed for our 9 and 10th grades will be implemented as the main curriculum for both grades. This curriculum is based on Pope John Paul II's landmark and revolutionary *Theology of the Body*, which offers a very positive message of the gift of sexuality as a good and essential part of love and life. It is our hope that this curriculum will provide your teen with the knowledge and understanding they need concerning the meaning and purpose of their sexuality and of their very existence.

FOOD IN THE CLASSROOM

As our classes are normally 60 minutes long, food and drink are prohibited from the hall.

CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information)

It is the policy of the Archdiocese to obtain all available criminal offender record information (CORI) from the Criminal History Systems Board of prospective and existing employees and volunteers of the Church who may have direct and unmonitored contact with children, prior to hiring the employee or accepting any person as a volunteer.

PHOTOS

Several times during the year, the occasion arises for St. Ann by the Sea to photograph your child and display his/her picture on our bulletin boards or website and possibly local newspapers. If a name appears, it would be your child's first name only. We are more comfortable when we have your permission to allow your child to participate.

A copy of the form is available on our website at www.stanns.net

FIRE DRILLS

In the event of a fire emergency, a fire drill procedure has been implemented. Children in each front classroom will file out the front door (if safe to do so) and meet on the front *lawn*. They will continue to walk down the ramp and meet in the parking lot near the ramp.

Children in classrooms on the stage will exit the hall through the side door and meet in the parking lot by the door.

All other classrooms will exit by the door to the left of the stage and meet in the parking lot by the clothing container.

The students should walk not run out of the building and remain quiet while waiting for further instructions. When exiting, all personal belongings should be taken out of the building.

Dear Parent,

Please click the link below indicating that you have been presented the information in the St. Ann by the Sea Handbook, and understand its content.

Thank you for taking the time and for your support and prayers for the success of our 2011- 2012 CCD Program.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. John Carmichael
Pastor

<http://www.stanns.net/ccdhandbook.html>