

## Suggested Prayers

Prayers such as the Hail Mary, Our Father, and Glory Be, as well as different parts of the faith such as the Beatitudes, are wonderful spiritual tools to have on our faith journey. Here are a few suggestions to help strengthen your child's toolbox - prayers that they can reach for during any stage in life.

Pre-K: Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Grace before meals

Kindergarten: Prayer after meals, Glory Be, Our Father

1st Grade: Angel of God, Morning Offering

2nd Grade: Act of Contrition, Prayer to St. Michael

3rd Grade: The Rosary, Fatima Prayer, Hail Holy Queen

4th Grade: Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Ten Commandments

5th Grade: Anima Christi, Act of Faith

6th Grade: Act of Hope, Act of Love, Pillars of the Catholic Church

7th Grade: Beatitudes, Understanding of Stewardship, Stewardship

Renewal Prayer

8th Grade: The Way of the Cross, Understanding Clergy and Authority of the Church

High School: Precepts of the Church, Vocations Prayer

Confirmation: Understanding the Saints, Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Thank you for sharing your faith with your children and entrusting us at St. Patrick's to assist your family in this important church tradition!

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# THE CROSS IS THE SCHOOL OF LOVE.

— ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



St. Patrick's Church  
Religious Education Handbook

August 2025 - April 2026

## Goals and Curriculum

### Goals of St. Patrick's Religious Education Program:

1. To form disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. To provide our youth with knowledge of the Catholic Faith, our Liturgy, and the Sacraments.
3. To provide our young people with a moral formation in Jesus Christ.
4. To teach our youth how to meet Christ in prayer and form a personal relationship with Him.
5. To prepare our young people to live in community and to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church.
6. To promote a missionary spirit that prepares our young people to be present as Christians in our families and in society.

### Curriculum:

- Pre-K & Kindergarten - Image of God (Ignatius Press)
- 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade - Faith and Life Series (Ignatius Press)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Blessed (Dynamic Catholic)
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade – The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers (St. Mary's Press)
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade – Connected-Catholic Social Teaching; Venture-Bible Timeline for High School (Ascension Press)
- Confirmation – The Chosen Program (Ascension Press)

## Sacramental Programs

### First Reconciliation

Penance is the sacrament by which we receive God's healing forgiveness for sins committed after baptism. The rite is called reconciliation because it reconciles us back to God and to the Church community.

### First Eucharist

First Eucharist or first Communion is the Sacrament by which we receive Christ: body, blood, soul, & divinity for the first time. The Catechism tells us that "The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." CCC 1324

### Confirmation

Per the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "Baptism, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian Initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread & defend the faith by word & deed." CCC 1285

### **Social Media Safety Policy**

With social media sites, we may post pictures of the kids to advertise our program. The safety policy is to *never* post your child's name with their picture. Your registration for our program constitutes your consent to us posting pictures, which may include your child, on our website and social media sites.

### **Drop off and Dismissal**

- Classes meet in the Spiritual Life Center. For parents with a child ages PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade, please come inside to drop off and pick up your child. We need to have you sign them in and sign them out. This is a safety precaution taken to ensure all students are safe at St. Pat's Church.
- Please do not drop students off any earlier than 5:45pm.
- When picking up your children, the children will stay in the classroom until you are here. Catechists and the DRE will be in the Pelican Room to alert children that their parents are here and make sure they go home with the right parental figure.

### **Communication/Cancellations**

- Your children may bring communications home with them from class. Please read the papers that come home with your student.
- We may also periodically send out Flocknote texts if we have cancellations or modifications. Please do not unsubscribe from these messages.
- If school is not in session on a Wednesday or school is not in session on the Thursday or Friday following, we will not have RE classes that week. Please see the calendar for specific days we are planning on not having RE classes.
- In the event of severe weather, classes may be cancelled. This will be communicated on the news outlets, similar to school closings, as well as via Flocknote.

## **Overview**

### **Church Mission Statement:**

St. Patrick's Church: St. Patrick's is a vibrant spiritual home for those who seek Jesus Christ, where the sacramental life of the Catholic Church is eagerly received, passionately taught, and generously shared with others.

### **Religious Education and Catechesis:**

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Catechesis aims at putting "people...in communion...with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity." CCC 426

### **The Purpose of the St. Patrick's Religious Formation Program:**

To assist parents in the religious formation of their children by setting before them Christian adults who, by their commitment to service in the church, will inspire and promote opportunities which will lead the young to faith in Jesus Christ. To inspire and assist young people to choose to live their faith in the Catholic Church. To motivate adults/parents to increase and enrich their faith in God and the Church so they can be witnesses of Gospel love, justice, and mercy to their families and the Church as a whole.



## St. Patrick's Religious Education Catechists

**PreK & Kindergarten:** Tonni Jamie and Ryan Jamie

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Janna Winegardner, Mark Saner and Sami Wright

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Robyn Halouska and Nina Alia

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Tristen Winder and George Campbell

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Jr. High):** Angie Pohlmeier

**High School:** Amy Kylar and Gilbert Seck

**Confirmation:** Jory Torres, Tad Pfeiffer, Brandon Rood, and Tara Rood

**RCIC:**

### Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Father Sorensen

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**Director of Religious Education:** Mary Benson

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## Notes on Religious Education St. Pat's

- Students in all grades (pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup>) and Youth Group will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30pm unless otherwise noted.
- 2026 Confirmation Students will begin meeting in October. Stay tuned for more information and important dates pertaining to Confirmation.

### Expectations/Policies

While our program is mostly funded by your tuition fee, tithing and volunteer efforts are the greatest support of our work with your children. Weekly attendance at RE classes and attending Mass on Sunday, as well as your personal commitment to the Stewardship of our parish (time, talent, and treasure) are all necessary components of participating in our Religious Education program. We also encourage you to engage in prayer as a family in your home.

### Important Guidelines and Responsibilities

- Attendance – Please bring your child to class each week, especially if they are in Sacramental preparation classes.
- Toys, phones, laptops, etc. are NOT allowed to be used during RE classes.
- Students need to use the bathroom before or after class to avoid leaving class during the lesson.

### Discipline Policies

1. The Catechist will handle all minor problems in the classroom. Catechist will tell Director of Religious Education of any problems and catechist will tell parents.
2. If the behavior persists or disrupts the class they will be asked to see the DRE, Makaela Lauderdale, or priest.
3. After being removed from class 3 times, we will ask parents to come and get their child right away and they will not be allowed back for the remainder of the year.