

ST. JUDE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM POLICY SUMMARY 2018/2019

The Ministry of Catechesis is an educational ministry. Our parish Catechetical Ministry has the following elements:

- * *The Director of Religious Education and the parishioners, who are called to be catechists, support and extend the pastor's vow to catechesis.*
- * *The Religious Education program makes connections between the home and the parish, between family life and parish life and, between family gatherings and the Sunday liturgy.*
- * *The Religious Education programs are based on the Diocese of Bridgeport approved curriculum using Diocesan approved materials.*
- * *Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass, mass attendance on Holy Days of Obligation and the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation is expected.*

Safe Environment

All volunteers must comply with the 4 Step Program:

1. Virtus "Protecting God's Children" - New volunteers must attend the 3 hour seminar. All other volunteers who have already taken this 3 hour seminar must re-certify, as of March 2015, due to a Diocesan-wide update. Sign on to your Virtus account and take the 1.5-hour update. Submit the Certificate of Completion.
2. Authorize a Background Check. This must be done every 5 years.
3. Read the *Diocese of Bridgeport 2015 Safe Environment Handbook*.
4. Sign and submit the Executive Summary for Lay Volunteers.

Curriculum

- * Each grade level has a course of study and is based on the upcoming Gospel lesson.
- * Homework, when assigned, is to be completed at home and shared with an adult.
- * In the event of absence, the Gospel reading should be completed at home with the help of an adult. When Department as early as possible.

Behavior and Dress Code

- * Hats, caps, etc. may not be worn in the building or during class. It is disrespectful to wear a hat during prayer. Religious education is an extension of our Liturgical experience.
- * Students should dress modestly. No exposed midriffs, pajamas or inappropriate T-Shirts. No *short* shorts and no low cut tanks or camisoles. Pants or jeans that drag on the floor or encumber climbing stairs are a safety hazard.
- * Shoelaces are to be tied or tucked inside shoes.
- * All cell phones must be turned to silent mode. All student and catechist aide cell phones must be placed in the "Class Cell Phone Basket" prior to the start of class. No cell phone use is allowed in the classroom during class time.
- * Each class has a Discipline Plan. *Please remind your child* that the catechist is to be given the same respect as their daytime schoolteachers! Students will be **sent to the Religious Education Office** for

disrespectfulness. Parents will receive a phone call when a child needs adjustments to their behavior or attitude.

- * If behavior problems continue, a parent will be asked to attend class with their child. That parent will be required to have Safe Environment training.

Dismissal

* Children must be picked up in the classroom. Sign-out is necessary for Grades 1 – 8. If you are going to be late, please call the Religious Education Office. Your child/children will be brought to the foyer or the office for sign out.

* If your child must leave class before dismissal, the child is to be picked up in the classroom. Early dismissal requires a written note; please send the note with your child on the day of early dismissal.

Parking Lot

- * **Your child's safety is the primary concern.**
- * Parking is available in both the school and church parking lot.
- * The Religious Education Program does not supervise the parking lots. You are responsible for the children in your care once they have been signed out.
- * **The crosswalk directly in front of the MAIN entrance/exit of the school is the SAFEST way to cross into the parking lot.**

PLEASE USE THIS CROSSWALK ONLY.

- * **Observe the No Parking Signs, Fire Lane Signs and the One-way arrows.**

Cancelled classes: Channels 3 and 8.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BUILDING SECURITY POLICY 2018/2019

The St. Jude School Building/Parish Center is a locked and secured building. All 2nd floor doors will be monitored. These doors have been designed for a quick exit once you are securely in.

The policy for Religious Education is as follows:

- During Religious Education classes, the Office of Religious Education has an appointed person that supervises and secures the 2nd floor door.
- **Each family is given a St. Jude Religious Education Family ID card (when your registration is complete.) You must show this card to enter the building at all times. You need this card to drop off and pick up your child. Please keep this card secure.**
- The 2nd floor door will be supervised fifteen minutes (15) before class begins.
- The door will be supervised ten minutes (10) after class begins for late arrivals.
- Please call the R.E.O. (203-261-6788) for late arrival .
- Please do not allow another parent or student to open the door for you! Doors are never propped open or held open for anyone following you. Please report any problems or concerns to the office.

- Our motto is “When in doubt – person will stay out.”
- All volunteers have completed the 4 Step Safe Environment Program.