



St. Paul Catholic Chapel
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
HANDBOOK

2024-2025

Dear Parents,

Together with Fr. Osman, Fr. Raúl, Fr. Jorge, and the catechists, I want to welcome you to the 2024-2025 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 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: therese@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 8th.

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 2024-2025 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.

In gratitude,

Therese

Therese Shiffler, Director of Religious Education

Therese@stpaulcatholicchapel.org

260-665-2259

Religious Education Calendar

2024-2025

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

Sept 8	Classes begin Parent meeting following Mass Catechetical Sunday (following Mass)	Jan 5	Epiphany celebration
Sept 15	Classes meet	Jan 12	Classes meet
Sept 22	Classes meet	Jan 19	Classes do not meet
Sept 29	Classes do not meet	Jan 26	Classes meet
Oct 6	Classes meet	Feb 2	Classes meet
Oct 13	Classes meet - Student Eucharistic Adoration	Feb 9	Classes meet
Oct 20	Classes meet (Safe Environment lessons)	Feb 16	Classes do not meet
Oct 27	Classes do not meet	Feb 23	Classes meet
Nov 3	Classes meet Rite of Commitment (Confirmation II)	Mar 2	Classes meet Burning of the Palms
Nov 10	Classes meet	Mar 9	Classes do not meet
Nov 17	Classes do not meet	Mar 16	Classes meet - Reconciliation for RE Classes
Nov 24	Classes meet - Advent wreath-making	Mar 23	Classes do not meet
Dec 1	Classes do not meet	Mar 30	Classes do not meet
Dec 8	Classes meet	April 6	Classes meet
Dec 15	Classes meet	April 13	Classes meet
Dec 22	Christmas Break	April 20	Classes do not meet - Happy Easter
Dec 29	Christmas Break	April 27	Classes meet
		May 5	Last class May Crowning

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