

## **A Final Note on Parental Cooperation**

It is our sincere hope that your cooperation with these policies and involvement in our program will be assured. As a parish, we are committed to passing on the Catholic Faith to the youth of our parish and to help them understand and embrace their Catholic tradition. We are also committed to instruct and prepare them to receive the sacraments of the Church. However, these tasks will be impossible for us if we do not have your cooperation and support. So, please help us by praying for all those who have willingly given of their time and desire to share the faith with our young people. Secondly, if you are willing to assist with any aspect of our program, you are most welcome and appreciated. Finally, please take time to become familiar with this policies handbook and place it where it is accessible.

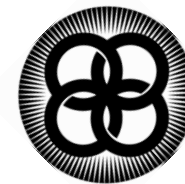
We are looking forward to this year's Religious Education program and are eager to assist your children in discovering their faith. Each year our program is evaluated and improvements are determined by the feedback we receive from interested parents. So, please feel free to contact our Director of Religious Education at 839-7076 if you have any questions or comments.

### **Prayer for St. John the Apostle Religious Education Program**

We thank you Lord, for your blessings on our parish and its families. We seek your help and guidance in our task of teaching the young people to know, to love, and to serve you. Give us the grace we need to help them and each other to live better lives by the example we give them.

St. John the Apostle, patron of our parish, we come to you for help. We ask your intercession. Pray with us and for us that God may grant us His help in meeting our obligations as a parish, now and in the future. May your example of devotion to our Lord inspire us to greater sacrifices and greater efforts in your honor.

**Amen.**



## **St. John the Apostle Catholic Church**

### **Religious Education Parent Handbook**

This Parent handbook contains the policies that were instituted to help coordinate and facilitate the Religious Education program at St. John the Apostle Church. They were drafted and approved by the Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Monica Perry and Fr. David Richter. These policies are important to our program because we believe the success of the efforts of our Religious Education teachers, coordinators and helpers will be dependent on how well these policies are followed and understood especially by parents. We appreciate you taking some time to review the handbook. Your cooperation will be most appreciated.

“The duty and right of educating belongs in a special way to the Church, to which has been divinely entrusted the mission of assisting persons so that they are able to reach the fullness of the Christian life.”

*Code of Canon Law – Canon 794*

## Religious Education Staff

Our Religious Education teachers are individuals that volunteer to teach our children about the Catholic faith. Guidance is given to them by the Pastor and Director of Religious Education. The principals will help to oversee that policies established are followed and provide supervision when needed.

## Attendance

Attendance is taken weekly for all Religious Education classes. If your child is unable to attend please call 839-7076 to inform the acting principal of the absence; if you get the answering machine please press 4 for staff and press 3 for Director of Religious Education and leave a message. If your child's absence is not called in and he or she is not present the acting principal will call to find out why your child is not present.

## Classroom Behavior

The management of classroom behavior is an important issue for our program. How children behave impacts the learning of other children and teacher instruction. This is a religious education program; children are expected to be respectful to their teacher, their peers and the facility. Please remember most of our RE teachers are volunteers and are giving of their time and talent to work with our children. They should not have to deal with behavior issues. Improper behavior will not be tolerated. If the behavioral issue persists, we will initiate the following consequences:

- First incident – the child is brought to the office. The director visits with the child. When the others are dismissed, the child is brought back to the classroom to apologize to the teacher. The parent(s) are contacted. The incident is documented.
- Second incident – the child is brought to the office. The child is given an assignment that makes them think about what is being learned. A written reflection and an apology is completed. When the others are dismissed, the child is brought back to the classroom to hand deliver the apology. The parent(s) are contacted. The incident is documented.

- Third incident – the child is brought to the office. The parent(s) are called to pick up their child. The incident is documented.

## Weather Conditions

If Religious Education classes would need to be cancelled due to weather conditions, the schools, TV and radio stations will be contacted. If you think the weather is questionable, please tune into either the TV or radio announcements or check the parish website at [www.stjohnminot.com](http://www.stjohnminot.com).

## Curriculum

The curriculum that the teachers use is approved by the Director of Religious Education and the pastor. In selecting the appropriate curriculum, we must follow the guidelines provided by Bishop David Kagan and the Diocesan Office of Religious Education. There are standards set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and recommendations for approved texts must be followed. We want to assure all parents who have children in our Religious Education program that we are concerned that they be taught the essentials of the Catholic Faith, our treasured tradition and the sacramental and spiritual aspects of the Catholic Faith. We will be using the Faith and Life Series for all grades.

## Special Activities

If a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Wednesday there will not be class that night but there will be a class assignment which is to attend Mass with your family; times are 7:00am and 5:30pm.

Please watch for youth activities or events for our young people. These special events are aside from the Religious Education classes. Check the parish website at [www.stjohnminot.com](http://www.stjohnminot.com) for more information and ongoing updates. Our youth will also be encouraged to attend diocesan events such as the Youth Rally and Search. The dates for these events will be announced in class and information sheets sent home with the appropriate age group.