

**Parent / Student
Religious Education
Handbook
2022-2023**



**RADIATE
CHRIST**

Coordinator of Religious Education

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OUR GOAL

Catechesis is oriented toward forming persons who get to know Jesus Christ and his Gospel of liberating salvation ever better; who live a profound encounter with him and who choose his own way of life and his very sentiments, striving to realize in the historical situations in which they live, the mission of Christ, which is the proclamation of the kingdom of God. (*Directory for Catechesis*, # 75, Vatican, 2020)

The tasks of Religious education are:

- to form children in the knowledge of our faith
- to prepare children for the Sacraments and initiation into the Mystery
- to foster a life in prayer
- to form children into a life in Christ and become missionary disciples

REGISTRATION

The student registration forms must be completed and on file for a child to attend the Parish Religious Education Program. Registration can be done online on the parish website, www.bfvcatholic.org or at <https://cincinnati.parishsoffamilysuite.com/> or, if requested, by mail. Tuition is necessary and payment is expected. Fees are:

\$55 each for 1 to 2 children
\$160 total for 3+ children

Online payment option is at <https://bfvcatholic.weshareonline.org/>. If your family needs financial assistance please contact the pastor.

COMMUNICATION

To help keep you informed about Rel. Ed. activities or reminders, we use a program called Flocknote. Flocknote allows you to receive messages via texting and/or email. This is a free service but standard messaging data rates may apply. Flocknote will keep your phone number private, while making it easier to receive reminders for parent meetings or weather-related cancellations for Rel. Ed classes and other events. It is important that you provide an email and a cell phone number so that we can contact you when necessary.

Other social media options are:

- the parish website: www.bfvcatholic.org
- the parish Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/versaillescatholicparishes>
- the religious education Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/295307695566187>

CURRICULUM

- Grades 1, 3-7 will use the *Blessed Are We, Faith in Action Parish Edition* from RCL Benziger
- 2nd grade will use *Blessed* from Dynamic Catholic
- 8th grade will use a program by Dynamic Catholic called *Decision Point* as well as part of the 9th grade confirmation book by Ascension Press called *Chosen*. Both *Decision Point* and *Chosen* programs are aimed at confirmation preparation
- 9th grade will use *Chosen Your Journey Towards Confirmation* by Ascension Press
- Grades 10 -12 will follow a curriculum based on the religious education guidelines set by the archdiocese called "Forming Young Disciples"

In order to be compliant with Religious Education Policy number 2101. 03, "All catechetical efforts should incorporate a respect life component that includes the Catholic perspective on sexuality", we will use a program called the "Theology of the Body" that is based on the teachings of St. Pope John Paul II. The program is age appropriate. Grades 1-9 will be taught one lesson of "Theology of the Body" each year. Parents are welcome to attend these "Theology of the Body" lessons and/or look at the book. Please call the CRE in advance to review the book. Grades 10 thru 12 will be taught 3 to 4 chapters of *Theology of the Body for Teens* in each year's curriculum. For a list of the chapters covered and the dates contact the CRE.

2nd GRADE

- First reconciliation will be on a Wednesday night in place of PREP class. It is important at least one parent attend with their child(ren)
- Information regarding first communion will be sent home in the fall
- One (1) student/parent retreat on 1st Communion
- Practice for 1st communion students will be the Wednesday night before 1st communion and it is important at least one parent be present with their child(ren)

9th GRADE

- One (1) parent & student retreat on confirmation. It is important at least one parent attend with their child(ren)
- One (1) confirmation retreat 4-8:30pm on a Wednesday night

Special Events

- spiritual survivor for high school students
- local world youth day for high school students
- field trip to the Shrine of Holy Relics for 9th graders
- lesson on vocations
- lesson on respect life

ACRE ASSESSMENT

In order to assess how well we are passing on the faith, 5th and 8th graders we use the ACRE assessment on alternate years.

2021= 8th grade

2022 = 5th grade

2023 = 8th grade

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is good practice for parents and children to take advantage of regularly scheduled Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please see the bulletin or website for the weekly scheduled times. All Rel. Ed students grades 3 – 12 will have 2 scheduled opportunities for reconciliation during Rel. Ed class time which will be during Advent and Lent. Parents are welcome to come at this time, too. Second grade will have an opportunity for reconciliation during Lent as well.

CANCELLATIONS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Before calling the rectory, please check Flocknote to find out if Rel. Ed classes are cancelled. All notifications regarding Rel. Ed cancellations will be sent by Flocknote and posted on Facebook and/or text messages. If Versailles school is cancelled because of morning fog, Rel. Ed will still meet at usual times. If Rel. Ed is cancelled, a Flocknote will be sent out. If the weather is inclement in your immediate area, please use your best judgment in coming to Rel. Ed.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken at all Rel. Ed gatherings.

- All students are expected to attend each scheduled class
- All students are is expected to attend all sessions involving Sacramental preparation
- All students are is expected to attend special events
- If your child will be absent from class, please notify the CRE or your child's teacher before the start of Rel. Ed class
- A Permission, Release, and Authorization to Seek Medical Treatment Form must be completed and kept on file to attend any off-site events

Records of attendance for past years are kept at the Rel. Ed Office.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

In the event that your child has a medical concern, please notify the CRE or your child's teacher so that we can follow any special instructions. A Permission, Release, and Authorization to Seek Medical Treatment Form must be completed and kept on file as noted under "Registration" above.

DISCIPLINE

Our children need to be models of good, Catholic behavior. They are expected to be respectful of each other, including teachers, guest speakers, the CRE and any other church employee. Examples of unacceptable behavior include bullying, name-calling, swearing, or harassment. Unacceptable behavior interferes with learning and teaching. Each case will be handled individually and these steps will be implemented as necessary:

- The catechist will attempt to deal with in the student(s) in the classroom
- If behavior continues, the catechist will notify the CRE
- The child will be sent to the CRE's office for discipline
- If behavior continues, the CRE will notify the parents
- When further discipline is needed, the CRE will notify the pastor and the parents.

- If behavior does not end, the parents will be notified by the pastor of the child's possible suspension, dismissal and/or expulsion. Parents will then be expected to home school religious education
- When the child resolves to no longer act in a disruptive manner, re-admittance will be considered

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students cannot have electronic devices out in class. Students are required to place their electronic devices in a designated area during class. Violation of this policy while the student is under the supervision of their Rel. Ed teacher may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the electronic device. In which case it will be the student's responsibility to have the parents contact the CRE and make arrangements to pick up the electronic device.

In the event you need to contact your child during Rel. Ed, please contact the CRE. If the child has an immediate need or emergency to contact you, the CRE (or the teacher) will contact you.

All teachers, youth minister, and coordinators will have their cell phones with them and turned on during Rel. Ed classes. These are used for communication purposes when needed as part of our safety policy.

ARRIVING OR PARKING FOR PREP (DROPPING/PICKING UP STUDENTS)

ST. DENIS

1. Students should not arrive at St. Denis before 5:45 p.m. If a student needs to arrive before then, arrangements must be made with the CRE or pastor, when possible, 24 hours in advance.
2. Parents and students old enough to drive must enter the parking lot by the Northwest Entrance. Exit to the east to South Second Street.

YOUTH MINISTRY Grades 7-12 in the basement at St. Denis 6:00 – 7:15p.m.