

IHS

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Religious Education Handbook 2008 - 2009

*Faith and Formation
Schedule and Guidelines*



Teach us your ways, O Lord

LORD JESUS

I give You my hands to do Your work.

I give You my feet to go Your way.

I give You my eyes to see as You do.

I give You my tongue to speak Your words.

I give You my mind that you may think in me.

I give You my spirit that You may pray in me.

*Above all, I give You my heart that You may love
in me Your Father and all mankind.*

*I give You my whole self that You may grow in me,
so that it is You, Lord Jesus, Who lives and works and
prays in me.*

Amen

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for enrolling your child in our Religious Education Program. We are honored that you have chosen us to help you, the primary religion teacher of your children, to assist you in this awesome responsibility. This booklet has been compiled for your information, and will be a quick guide to schedules, phone numbers, guidelines, and policies.

We look forward to a successful year and appreciate your help in our program by making sure your children bring their books to class and reviewing at home with them what they are learning. We thank you for your support and ask for your prayers for our teachers and for all the children.

May God Bless You,

Religious Education Coordinators

Religious Education Guidelines & Policies

ATTENDANCE:

Students enrolled in our Religious Education Program are required to attend Mass each week and are also expected to attend class each week. It is extremely important to arrive on time for class. If family situations do not allow weekly attendance, parents must coordinate make up assignments with the teachers. **PLEASE NOTE:** Children will not leave their class early unless prior arrangements have been made with their coordinator.

ABSENCES:

In the case of illness or if the absence is anticipated, a parent should contact the coordinator of the child's grade level so that the absence might be excused. It is recommended that a written note be presented to the teacher when the child returns to class. It will be the responsibility of the student and parent to make arrangements with the teacher to make up lessons due to absences.

After three unexcused absences, your child will be considered for termination from religious education. An interview with the coordinator and the Pastor will be required for reinstatement.

DRESS CODE:

Out of respect for our Lord, students are required to dress in a manner that reflects Christian modesty and respect for Mass and religious education. No tank tops, short shorts, low cut tops, halters, or backless shirts, mini-dresses, bare midriffs, baggy trousers or disrespectful t-shirts.

DISCIPLINE:

Discipline in the classroom is based upon mutual respect between teachers and all students. Teachers are responsible for insuring that a safe, disciplined learning environment is maintained.

Students who do not cooperate will be referred to the coordinator. Coordinators will work to resolve any classroom situations to insure the education process is not disrupted. Options available to the coordinator include, but are not limited to: counseling, time out periods, and suspension. A suspended student may be reinstated following a meeting of the student, his/her parents/guardians, and the Pastor.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Those students attending the 10:30 am Mandatory Mass with their class will be seated in a reserved area in the church. Please be sure they arrive at the Education building no later than 10:15 am so that they may be escorted to the church as a class before Mass begins.

Proper reverence at Mass and proper behavior in the classroom is expected (see paragraph 2199 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Children should have respect for church property as well as the property of others. No food, gum, toys or laser light pointers will be allowed in the church or classroom.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENTAL STUDENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

All students who will be receiving their First Holy Communion must have completed two consecutive years of Religious Education with emphasis on First Communion, and have a copy of their Baptismal Certificate on file prior to beginning the first year.*

CONFIRMATION:

All High School students who will be receiving Confirmation must have completed two years of High School Level Religious Education with emphasis on Confirmation, and have a copy of their Baptismal Certificate on file. A Weekend Retreat is required for Confirmation students.*

***PARENT/GUARDIAN CLASSES:**

There will be classes for parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the Sacramental classes of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These classes will be offered twice in the same day, but it is only mandatory to attend one. The schedule of classes will be announced at a later date.

CONTRACTS:

Parents/Guardians of students enrolling in a Sacramental class will be required to read and sign a contract of the requirements for students to receive a sacrament in this program. Contracts will be prepared during the first year to the two year program.

HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS:

Parents who are planning to Home School their children in Religious Education **MUST FIRST MEET WITH THE PASTOR & OBTAIN WRITTEN PERMISSION** to be submitted to the Elementary Coordinator no later than September 30 th . The child/children **MUST STILL REGISTER AT THIS TIME.**

The child/children must have two consecutive years of Religious Instruction before receiving First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

The “Faith and Life Series” books **MUST** be used and the parent/guardian must confer with the teacher of that grade level to assess that the student meets the necessary criteria to achieve their goals. All students will be tested by the coordinator prior to receiving the sacraments.