

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Ann's/St. Joseph's Religious Education program serves to build a foundation in faith in Jesus Christ while nourishing the spirit of our youth and being companions on their journey.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND RE CATECHISTS, ETC.

Religious Education Director: Connie Hill

cell: 815-238-1107; email: conniehill1973@gmail.com;

Office Phone: 815-745-2312; email: parishes.wa@gmail.com;

Office staff: Monica McGivney

Pastor: Father Andrew Hernandez

First Grade – Sara Janecke

Second Grade – Emilie Edler

Third and Fourth Grades – Erin Rendon

Fifth Grade – Connie Hill

Sixth and Seventh Grades - Confirmation – John Leuenberger

Family Mass Coordinator - Lynnette Dietrich

Snacks - Donna and Jeff Blair

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES, FEES & REGISTRATION

Grades 1 through 7 RE classes meet after Mass in the church basement beginning September 13 from 9:00-10:45 am.

Fees are \$30 for 1 student, \$45 for 2 students or \$60 per family. Please be sure you have filled out an RE registration form for 2026-27 by the first RE class, September 13. Forms are available online at <https://forms.gle/VFBft9iorgCHYJ1P9>, in the back of the church or contact the DRE - Connie Hill, or St. Ann's office.

All families with children attending catechetical programs must be registered with St. Ann's Parish here at Warren or St. Joseph's Parish, Apple River or have been accepted to be enrolled by the pastor and DRE.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

Parents will be notified by phone call, text or email should cancellations occur due to weather or other unforeseen occurrences.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Catechists will review evacuation or remain in place emergency procedures with their class each year. An emergency may include a fire, tornado warning or watch, intruder in the area, intruder in the building, or other unsafe situation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GOAL

Our Religious Education program aims not only to enrich our children's knowledge of their faith through lessons in the classrooms, but it also aims to put what they learned into practice through active participation in our parish events and liturgical celebrations.

RE ATTENDANCE POLICY, FAMILY MASS, FAMILY FAITH & ALTAR SERVERS

The following policies and requirements will help us achieve the above goal.

RE Attendance - All students are encouraged to attend all RE classes and liturgical celebrations, including Masses, Family Faith Sessions, Stations of the Cross, and other parish activities.

The CCC: 1324 teaches that the Mass or Eucharistic Celebration is “the source and summit of all Christian life.” Our RE program aims to introduce and expose the children to the celebration of the Mass, and students and parents are highly encouraged to attend Sunday Mass.

Mass Card Binders: Students will be asked to have their parish-provided Mass cards signed by the celebrating priest each time they attend Sunday Mass.

- Binders will be kept in the back of the church for easy accessibility after Mass, unless the family chooses to keep the binder in their possession.
- If a child does not have their binder, please have the priest sign a piece of paper that includes the **date of the Mass, the parish, and the priest’s signature.**

Family Mass - The first Sunday of the month will be Family Masses beginning September 13. Families will be actively involved in the liturgy through various roles. Lynnette Dietrich :

- Families will be assigned to serve as readers by Lynnette Dietrich, our Family Mass Coordinator. Please let her know if you have a conflict with the dates you are assigned..

- Families will assist ushers as greeters before Mass and distribute bulletins afterward.

Family Faith – Three Sundays during our regularly scheduled RE class dates will be dedicated to Family Faith: Advent-December 6, January 10, 2027, and March 7. **Attendance by both students and at least one parent or guardian is expected for each of these sessions.** These sessions are designed to encourage parents and children to grow together in their understanding and practice of the Catholic faith. Each session will include a parent-led presentation, video, or discussion, followed by a related family activity that allows parents and students to learn, reflect, and work together. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in these sessions, as their involvement is an important part of their child’s faith formation.

Altar Serving – Altar serving will be an important part of the RE experience. To help students appreciate the beauty of the Mass and participate in a meaningful way, all students in grades 3–7 will be trained as altar servers. Students through 5th grade will be asked to serve at least once during the school year. Students in grades 6–7 who are preparing to receive Confirmation next year will be asked to serve throughout the next two years as part of their Confirmation service project.

PICTURES AND FIELD TRIPS

The registration form includes a question for permission to use photos and/or names in the parish bulletin, posted on the parish bulletin board, The Observer - the diocesan paper, or local

publications. Field trip permission forms will be sent prior to any field trips. Students may not attend field trips if a permission slip is not returned.

ILLNESS

Please do not send your child to class if they are ill. Please immediately notify the DRE if the student will not come to class. If your child becomes ill during class, you will be notified to come and pick them up.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents are the primary catechists in their children's lives. We encourage you to support St. Ann's/St. Joseph's RE program in the following ways:

- Attend weekly Sunday Mass with your child
- Attend Family Faith Sessions with your child
- Support your child's participation in RE
- See that your child is on time for class.
- Take time after class to review lessons.
- Be active in the sacramental preparation of your child.
- Help your child learn the basic prayers of our Catholic Faith.
- Become a part of the RE catechist/teacher team. Please contact the DRE to get more information about the requirements of being an RE teacher/catechist.
- Use the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

This program has been established for use in the Rockford Diocese and is required to be taught yearly to all students in grades 1 through 8. All parishes are to provide formation for children in the areas of safety and the integrity of their persons. Information, and the opportunity to opt-out of this program is available before we administer the program to the children.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS, BULLYING AND DISCIPLINE

We have the expectation that every student and catechist will be respectful to themselves, to others, and to the materials around us. Any action, word, or behavior which harasses, intimidates, or causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to another student or students is considered bullying and is strictly prohibited. If there is an occasion of concern in regards to behavior and discipline, the DRE will contact the parents to share this concern.

"Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically ("cyberbullying"), directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of placing the student/students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's/students' person or property or causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's/students' physical or mental health.

LIVING THE TRUTH OF OUR CREATION

[GENDER IDENTITY/HUMAN SEXUALITY POLICY - Living the Truth of Our Creation](#)

Click on the link above if reading this online or find the document attached at the end of the handbook.

CURRICULUM

The mission of the Diocese of Rockford is to infuse the teachings of Jesus as expressed in our Catholic faith and tradition. Students are encouraged to recognize and grow in their relationship with God. Our Religious Education Program offers students opportunities to encounter Jesus within the Catholic community, provide them with instruction in Catholic doctrine and challenge them to develop a Catholic lifestyle which serves God, the Church and the world around us.

The Rockford Diocese religion curriculum guide for grades 1 through 8 are grounded in the basic truths of the Catholic faith presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Your child can learn much in the time spent in the religious education classes but we only have a specific timeframe, then the child should turn to their parents to guide them in their faith formation. Parents should be aware of their important role, and should try and spend time each week with their child reviewing the lessons covered in the classroom. This way they can see how their child is growing in his/her faith and sharing the journey with them.

Learning outcomes for each specific class are given to the teachers at the start of each year so that they are able to prepare their goals in accordance with the Diocesan guidelines.

Current workbooks for grades 1, 3-5 will be “Blessed Are We Faith in Action”, the “Gift of the Eucharist” and the “Gift of Reconciliation” for 2nd grade sacramental preparation from Loyola Press, and grades 6-7 is “Chosen” from Ascension Press for a two-year Confirmation program.

Please review this information below.

Grade 1:

Understands: the Creed - how God reveals Himself to us and the Trinity as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Scripture - Jesus' stories of Christmas, Easter, His parables and miracles,

Worship and the Sacraments - why all life is sacred, participates at Mass, knows that Baptism is the first sacrament and identifies the difference between the church seasons of Advent and Lent,

Morality - that making wrong choices is a sin, and know the process of sin and forgiveness,

Prayer - knows and says Sign of the Cross, Angel of God, Glory Be, Grace Before and After Meals, Hail Mary, and Our Father.

Grade 2:

Understands: the Creed - explains how God reveals Himself to us and defines the Trinity,

Scripture - the Bible is the history of our faith, the Last Supper, tell events of the Passion and Resurrection, tell and understand stories of Jesus' parables and miracles and identifies and describes Mary as Mother of God and everyone,

Worship and the Sacraments - recognizes and understands the two main divisions of Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, knows the meaning of the word Amen, understands the church season of Advent and Lent, participates at Mass, defines the sacrament of Eucharist and describes the steps of the Sacrament of Reconciliation,

Morality - the process of sin and forgiveness,

Prayer - added Act of Contrition to beginning list of prayers.

Grade 3:

Understands: the Creed - defines the relationship of the three persons of the Trinity,

Scripture - names the divisions of the Bible and shows ability to retell Bible stories,

Worship and the Sacraments - identifies basic Catholic traditions, the liturgical season, and the divisions of the Mass, participates at Mass and knows the seven sacraments,

Morality - knows and understands the meaning of sin, forgiveness, and penance, identifies grace, the Ten Commandments, and demonstrates Christian values through actions,

Prayer - able to recite Sign of the Cross, Angel of God, Glory Be, Grace Before and After Meals, Hail Mary, Our Father, and Act of Contrition.

Grade 4:

Understands the Creed - shows understanding of how God reveals Himself as one God in Three Person and knows the lives of the saints,

Scripture - how to use the Bible and able to retell parables,

Worship and the Sacraments - knows that the Eucharist is central to our Catholic faith, identifies the liturgical seasons and feast days, knows the parts of the Mass actively participates at Mass, the real Presence of Jesus in the in the Eucharist (Adoration) and knows the signs, rights and effects of the seven sacraments,

Morality - defines the meaning of sin, forgiveness, and penance, defines faith, explains the two Great Commandments, identifies the Beatitudes and demonstrates Christian values through actions,

Prayer - recites Sign of the Cross, Angel of God, Glory Be, Grace Before and After Meals, Hail Mary, Our Father, and Act of Contrition.

Grade 5:

Understands the Creed - knows God reveals Himself as one God in Three Persons, the lives of the saints, identifies the Catholic Church as founded by Christ, identifies leaders of the Catholic Church and defines eternal life,

Scripture - explains Bible as a collection of sacred books and demonstrates knowledge of the divisions of the Bible,

Worship and the Sacraments - identifies basic Catholic symbols, understands the liturgical seasons and feast days, knows the meanings of all parts of the Mass, actively participates at Mass, understands and identifies the meaning of Mass and all its parts, understands the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist (Adoration), defines the signs, rights and effects of each of the seven sacraments, identifies sacrament categories, initiation, healing and vocation, and understands the Church's teaching authority of moral law,

Morality - knows and understands the meaning of sin, forgiveness, and penance, identifies Grace, identifies and explains the Ten Commandments, knows and demonstrates the Beatitudes, and demonstrates Christian values through actions,

Prayer - recognizes prayer and its forms, knows and says prayers and includes Hail Holy Queen, and shows reverence during prayer time.

Grade 6:

Understands the Creed - describes God's covenant with humanity, tells the story of the creation, fall, and promise, and understands Jesus is Son of David and the Messiah,

Understands the Church, Scripture - Knows the books of the Old Testament,

Worship and the Sacraments - actively participates at Mass, understands the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist (Adoration), and understands Mass as fulfillment of the Covenant,

Morality - understands sin as violation of moral law, identifies the two greatest commandments, understands relationship between commandments and covenant, identifies, idolatry, atheism, superstition, defines blasphemy, false oaths, perjury, and demonstrates Christian value through action,

Prayer - recognizes the ways Jesus taught us how to pray and knows Memorare and Regina Coeli - the prayer we say at the end of the rosary after Hail Holy Queen.

Grade 7:

Understands the Creed - describes how God is revealed through Sacred scripture and knows and relates the stories of Jesus' life,

Scripture - understand the gift of the Holy Spirit at Baptism, knows that the Church is founded by Christ, identifies and describes the four marks of the Church, Describes the Church as missionary,

Worship and the Sacraments - actively participates at Mass, identifies and discusses the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist (Adoration), identifies the Eucharist as celebration, sacrificial and memorial, and knows Penance as fasting prayer and almsgiving,

Morality identifies and explains the Beatitudes, defines cardinal virtues and theological virtues, explains sanctifying, actual and habitual grace, explains, purgatory and hell, understands the duties of civil authority and citizens, identifies and explain the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and demonstrates Christian values through action,

Prayer - understands prayer is a personal relationship with God, identifies and describes prayer as blessing, petition intercession, thanksgiving and praise and knows the Magnificat and Come, Holy Spirit.

Grade 8:

Understands the Creed - describes how God is revealed through Scripture, describes how humans are co-creators with God, and understands how Jesus fulfills Covenant and conquers death,

Scripture - understands the role of the Holy Spirit in Church today, understands the role of pope, bishop, priest, deacon, and the laity, and recognizes the Church as the Body of Christ,

Worship and the Sacraments - actively participates at Mass, understands the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist (Adoration), identifies Baptism as initiation into new life, recognizes responsibilities and effects of Confirmation, understands the gifts and fruits of the Holy spirit, and understands penance as conversion and forgiveness,

Morality - discuss the relationship between sin and penance, discuss an explains Church's teachings about murder, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and suicide, and explains the corporal and spiritual works of mercy,

Prayer - recognizes different forms of prayer, understands prayer as personal expression: vocal, meditation, contemplation, and understands prayers as communal expressions: Eucharist, Sacred Scripture, and Liturgy of the Hours.

Following are basic Catholic prayers that are an integral part of practicing our Catholic Faith.

PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell, on the third day He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy. Amen.

St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

OTHER CATHOLIC PRAYERS

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lords,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Memorare

Remember O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother. To thee do we come, before thee we stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee. I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishment but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen

Prayer Before Meals

Bless us O Lord and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer After Meals

We give thee thanks for all thy gifts, almighty God, living and reigning now and for ever. Amen

Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful in the same Spirit, help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured. Amen.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Be the last of all, the servant of all, be humble, do not judge others and share all.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Consider well the people you and others have lost, the things you have not done well, and the things you long for. You are never alone.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Be slow to anger, quick with patience and drop the ego.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Help others to take the right path. Trust everyone and know they may let you down.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Strive to do the right thing. Forgive others first, then yourself.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Build your castle with blameless foundations.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Love peace and be involved in helping others to make peace.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Do not stop doing the right thing because of others.

SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Baptism Reconciliation Eucharist Confirmation Holy Orders
 Marriage Anointing of the Sick

The Four Last Things

The four last things describe the end of human life for all:

Death Judgment Heaven Hell

VIRTUES, GIFTS & FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, & WORKS OF MERCY

Theological Virtues

Faith Hope Charity

Cardinal Virtues

Prudence Justice Fortitude Temperance

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to do what God asks of us by giving us these many gifts:

Wisdom	Understanding	Counsel	Piety
Fortitude	Knowledge	Fear of the Lord	

12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Love	Kindness	Faithfulness
Joy	Goodness	Modesty
Peace	Generosity	Self-Control
Patience	Gentleness	Chastity

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the Hungry	Give Drink to the Thirsty
Clothe the Naked	Shelter the Homeless
Visit the Sick	Visit the Imprisoned
Bury the Dead	

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Counsel the Doubtful	Instruct the Ignorant
Admonish Sinners	Comfort the Afflicted
Forgive Offenses	Bears Wrongs Patiently
Pray for the Living and the Dead	

			2026-27 St. Ann's Religious Education Schedule
	Date	Day	*Parent attendance required. St. Ann Class only 9:00-10:45 a.m. church basement Family Faith Sessions 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
August	30	Sunday	Parent Meeting 9:00 a.m.
September	13	Sunday	*Family Mass 8 a.m. St. Ann First RE Class
	20	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class- intro Saints
October	4	Sunday	*Family Mass 8:00 a.m.; St. Ann RE Class-Intro to Mass
	18	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class - Altar Server practice
November	1	Sunday	*Family Mass & Parade of Saints in costume - 8:00 a.m., & RE Class All Saints Day
	15	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class - Thanksgiving baskets
	29	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class - First Sunday of Advent - Confession
December	6	Sunday	*Family Mass 8:00 a.m.; St. Ann RE Class & *Family Faith Session
	13	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class - prepare Nativity Play
	20	Sunday	RE Nativity Play 6:00 p.m. before St. Ann Simbangabi Mass @ St. Ann 6:30pm
	25	Friday	Christmas
January	10	Sunday	*Family Mass 8:00 a.m.; *Family Faith Session
	24	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class - St. Ann RE Class Safe Environment
	31	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class
February	7	Sunday	*Family Mass 8:00 a.m.; St. Ann RE Class
	10	Wed.	Ash Wednesday
	21	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class - Lent Reconciliation
March	7	Sunday	*Family Mass 8:00 a.m.; *Family Faith Session
	14	Sunday	St. Ann RE Class
March 21-27			Holy Week - Invite RE Families to Holy Week liturgies

March	28	Sunday	Easter
April	4	Sunday	Family Mass 8:00 a.m. St. Ann RE Class
	18	Sunday	Last St. Ann RE Class
May	2	Sunday	First Holy Communion Mass 8:00 a.m. May Crowning - end of Mass/all RE Students participating

Handbook Agreement Form

St. Ann Religious Education Program

Dear Parents,

This is your copy of the St. Ann/St. Joseph RE Parent Handbook. This booklet outlines our expectations and the spiritual vision that guides our program. Please take time to read through it with your child.

In order for your child to participate in Religious Education classes, the signed form below must be returned. This confirms that you understand and accept the policies in place.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us provide a meaningful faith experience for your child.

Sincerely,
Connie Hill, DRE

Please return this signed portion by September 20, 2026

I have read and discussed the St. Ann/St. Joseph RE Parent Handbook with my child(ren). We understand and agree to follow the guidelines outlined.

Parent's/Guardian's

Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Names: _____

