

Conduct

Our catechists respond to their baptismal call by volunteering in the Religious Education Program. Cooperative and courteous behavior is expected of all students. Minor discipline problems will be handled directly by the catechist. Any consistent disruptive behavior by a student will be referred to the program director, who will determine whether the parent(s) are also to be consulted. A third (3) warning will result in requiring a parent to accompany their child back to the program. In some instances, it may be required that the parent sit in the classroom with their child.

Classrooms used for the Religious Education students are also used by St. Paul School students during the week. **RE students must respect materials left in the classrooms.** *Parents and students will be responsible for any problems in this regard.*

Progress reports are sent to parents twice during the year.

Arrival/Dismissal

Arrival- Parents may drop off children via a car line **no more than 10 minutes** before the start of their session. Children should be dropped off at the north door (Door #1) of the Education Center. **Please be sure that the doors are unlocked and that classes are in session before leaving.** Children gather in the foyer inside the front doors and are dismissed to their classrooms after a group prayer. Parents are always welcome but for safety reasons they must park on the far east side of the lot and ring the bell for building entry. All late student arrivals must check in with the RE Office for a pass to the classroom.

Dismissal - To best ensure the safety of our children, **vehicles are prohibited from moving in the parking area during dismissal.** Parents may begin forming car lines in front of the Education Center 15 minutes before the end of session. There will be 2 parallel car lines adjacent to the school sidewalk, and 2 overflow lines as necessary. Traffic cones are in place to help align the car lines as they are formed.

At dismissal, staff members will bring all children to the north door (Door #1) and will provide escort to help children find their vehicles. **Cones will block traffic until all children are safely inside their vehicles. Please turn on your headlights when your children are in your car.**

Cones will be removed so one car line at a time may safely exit the lot. Those arriving after the center barrier has gone up must wait in the church lot until the barrier is removed, at which time they may then pull up to Door #1 for pick up.

Early dismissal requests

Children will not be released early from class unless the parent notifies the Office by sending a note with the child. Parent or guardian must pick up the child at the **Religious Education Office** – **Not from the classroom or parking lot.** Walkers will need a permission slip signed by a parent with the information about walking home.

Weather Cancellations

Religious Education Classes will be cancelled on any day the Valparaiso public schools are closed. School closures due to inclement weather will be listed on www.stpaulre.org and www.cancellations.com. You will also be notified by phone at the Weather Emergency number that you provided at registration.

St. Paul Catholic Church Religious Education

1755 W. Harrison Blvd
Valparaiso, In. 46385
Phone: (219) 464-8502
Fax: (219) 531-6854
www.stpaulre.org
stpaulre1755@gmail.com

Program Policy

St. Paul Parish Religious Education Program is available to assist parents in presenting the Catholic-Christian faith to children. The Religious Education Program helps students grow, not only in knowledge of what their faith involves, but also in the practice and celebration of their faith and in their relationship with a loving God.

In our teaching we are cognizant of the developmental nature of faith, and the developmental needs of those whom we serve. The Parish Religious Education Program is the forum for faith formation of children and adolescents. It provides catechesis for children in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Classes meet in the St. Paul Education Center.

Session Times:

Monday	4:15 - 5:30	Grades K- 8
Monday	6:00 - 7:15	Grades 1- 8
Tuesday	4:15 - 5:30	Grades K- 8
Wednesday	6:30 - 7:45	Grades 1- 8

SACRAMENT PREPARATION CLASSES

**Tuesdays 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am – 11:15 am**

Sacrament Program

The Bishops have this to say about the requirements for sacrament reception: "Parents have a RIGHT and DUTY to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Catechesis aims to help parents grow in understanding and appreciation of the sacraments and participate readily in catechizing their children." (NCD #122) Requirements for reception of the sacraments are quite basic and upheld by the pastor.

- 1. Regular class attendance in one consecutive Religious Education academic year directly prior to the reception of a sacrament, or its equivalent, is required.**
- 2. Active participation in the Church community, including regular attendance at Sunday liturgy, is mandatory.**
- 3. Attendance at Sacrament preparation sessions leading to reception of the Sacrament are mandatory. Parent(s) are obliged to attend parent meetings as well.**

First Reconciliation (confession) children are formally invited to prepare for this sacrament in Grade 2. *Attendance at Religious Education after reception is mandatory.*

First Communion children are formally invited to prepare for this sacrament in Grade 3. This is only after the preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation the year prior. *Attendance at Religious Education after 1st Communion is expected.*

Confirmation candidates are formally prepared to celebrate this sacrament by attending formal catechesis and by attending classes specifically provided for this preparation. High School students participate in the Life Teen formation program on Sunday evenings. The St. Paul Youth Minister oversees the Life Teen program and can be reached at 219-465-7762.

Admission

to the

Religious Education Program

Admission to the RE Program is open to families who are registered and contributing members of St. Paul Parish.

Exceptions to this policy may be made for those who for a good reason that is beyond their control cannot attend the RE Program within their own parish. The decision on exceptions and conditions will be made by the DRE in consultation with the Pastor of St. Paul's.

Entry into the RE Program is accomplished by filling out and returning the necessary forms. If your child(ren) are transferring to the St. Paul RE program, please contact the RE Program last attended and obtain a **Certificate of Transfer** for our records. If your child(ren) were not baptized here at St. Paul, please provide us with a copy of their baptismal record.

Finances

Fees are determined annually, are used for texts, teacher manuals and professional publications, formation classes and in-

services for staff, supplies and education materials.

We ask that fees be paid as soon as you are able.

No child will be denied participation in the St. Paul Religious Education program because of a family's inability to pay. Please let the office know if this is your circumstance. *If you are unable to pay, please consider volunteering your time to the operation of the Religious Education program.*

Attendance

****Please note the Religious Education calendar with the dates of classes.***

Students should attend classes on a regular basis. Attendance at ALL classes is extremely important to the development of lessons. Parents must telephone (464-8502) or provide the office with a message about an absence. (For your convenience, voice mail will record parental reports of an absence if no one is in the Office.) By cooperating with this policy, an absence would be considered "excused." We will phone home about any "unexcused" absences.

It is important to keep in mind that although parents are the primary educators of their children, it is for the faith sharing community experience that students attend St. Paul Religious Education. Any missed assignments will need to be made up. An accumulation of 3 or more "unexcused" absences will result in a meeting with the DRE to discuss your family's personal catechesis needs.

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