

St. Mary, Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph

Religious Education



Parent/Student Handbook 2024-2025

Personnel

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| Pastor | Father Paul Kwaku Ameyaw |
| Faith Formation Leader | Erin Schmelzer |
| 1st Grade | Sherie Tujetch |
| 2nd Grade..... | Julie Rastetter & Pat Kolker |
| 3rd Grade..... | Nancy Schroeder & need helper |
| 4th Grade..... | Stephanie Mueller & Beth Mescher |
| 5 th Grade | Need teacher & helper |
| 6th Grade | Erin Schmelzer & Gail Broxson |
| 7th Grade | Dave Rodenberg & Ben Bly |
| 8th - 12th Grade (Youth Ministry) | Katey Simon & Deacon Jim Pfaffly |

St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Religious Education Handbook, 2024-2025

Archdiocesan Mission Statement

We the Church of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, are God's people gathering together as a Eucharistic **community** to worship, sharing the **Word of God**, affirming traditional and emerging **leadership** roles and supporting **families** to model Catholic faith and morality for the next generation.

We commit ourselves to lifelong faith formation and to the service of humanity because we believe in the Risen Christ, in the wisdom and kindness of God, the Author of life and in the love the the Holy Spirit bestows.

Mission Statement of the St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Religious Education Program

The mission of the St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Religious Education Program is to guide individuals to:

St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Religious Education Program is called into being and sustained by the parents and the parishes of St. Mary, Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's for the purpose of educating the total child. Academically, Spiritually, Morally, Socially, Physically.

In fulfilling its mission, the children of St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Religious Education Program will continue to live the values of their Catholic faith enabling them to meet the changing demands of a global society.

The Role of Parents/Guardians

The church teaches that parents have the privilege and responsibility of being the primary educator of the faith of their children. This education and formation in faith occurs in many ways: by modeling faith in daily actions, modeling good moral judgments, sharing regular family prayer times, and attending Sunday Mass as a family.

The religious education program can only reinforce what is taught and modeled in the home. If interest in and encouragement for the program is shown in the home, then students will have that same enthusiasm for their faith, and will come to classes willingly.

During the brief time catechists have students for class, it is not possible to teach everything about our faith or to help them learn all their prayers. Therefore, it is essential that parents work with their children at home to learn these things and that there be dialogue between parents and children regarding what is being learned in the classroom.

The support of parents is evident in an all-encompassing way when they volunteer to help as a catechist, a classroom aide, or a volunteer. Please consider offering time in this way as an added support for the children.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacraments

The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1131).

The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. Because they are signs, they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it. That is why they are called sacraments of faith (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1123).

Parental Involvement in Sacramental Preparation

Parents/guardians are to be involved in the preparation of their children for the celebration of the sacraments. Therefore, St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Religious Education Program works towards following the directives of the archdiocese for the reception of the sacraments. These directives are designed to prepare and involve parents/guardians, sponsors, and the parish community in the preparation for sacraments, in particular with regard to Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Confirmation Program Attendance Policy

During the years the Sacrament of Confirmation is being administered it is expected students will attend Confirmation classes. Students who miss more than three sessions in one year will have to petition for continued participation.

Policies

Attendance

Regular attendance at the St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Faith Formation Program is essential for students to make progress both spiritually and morally. Parents are responsible for the regular and prompt attendance of their children. **In the case of absence, a phone call from the parent is necessary to let us know that your student will be absent.** This will help us ensure the safety of all students. If your student(s) will be absent please call the SMIC Parish Hall office and leave a message, 563-252-1577 or email Erin eschmelzer@smic.pvt.k12.ia.us.

Attendance at programs and classes is important to develop a sense of belonging to your parish family, for growth in your child's relationship with God, and for a gradual understanding of our Catholic faith.

Discipline

Students are expected to follow SMIC Faith Formation Policy.

If a student is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to leave. Parent/guardian will be contacted and the student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the lesson covered during his/her absence before re-entry into the next class.

Students are expected to participate in a cooperative and respectful manner in all religious education activities. Students are expected to show respect for other persons and property at all times. Disrespectful behavior will be reported to parents immediately.

It is the policy of St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Faith Formation Program and the Archdiocesan Board of Education to maintain an environment that is free from any type of harassment. (Definition of harassment: verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility of aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability).

It is the policy of St. Mary - St. Joseph - Immaculate Conception Faith Formation Program and the Archdiocesan Board of Education that weapons or any other dangerous objects are prohibited on the church grounds. Any weapon or dangerous object found in the possession of a student shall be confiscated, the parents of the student will be notified immediately, and the incident will be reported to the Board of Education to determine if further action is necessary.

Inclement Weather

On days when the Clayton Ridge Schools cancel classes, dismiss early because of inclement weather, or there is inclement weather during faith formation hours, there will be no religious education classes held. Please check your email, and or the parish Facebook page for cancellations.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

The Archdiocese of Dubuque implemented a Sexual Misconduct Policy on December 27, 1993. Sexual misconduct by personnel of the Archdiocese of Dubuque is contrary to Christian principles and Catholic moral teaching. All personnel of the Archdiocese must comply with applicable state and local laws regarding incidents of actual or suspected sexual misconduct, and with the following policies. All employees, catechists, and regular volunteers are to be given a policy and must sign the verification form.

Help for Victims of Sexual Abuse

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other Church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance Coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social service agencies, support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free 800-803-6758 or 866-319-4536 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the new "Policy for the Protection of Minors."

Faith Formation Class Schedule

2nd – 8th grade (6:00pm-7:15pm) Meet in church at 6:00pm.

9th – 12th grade (Youth Ministry) (6:00pm-7:45pm) Meet in church basement at 6:00pm

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| September | Wed 18 | Class (Youth Ministry will meet at Vet's Field behind Casey's) |
| | Wed 25 | Class |
| October | Wed 2 | Class |
| | Wed 9 | Class |
| | Wed 16 | No Class |
| | Wed 23 | Class |
| | Sun 27 | Youth Mass -Trick Your Trunk |
| November | Wed 6 | Class |
| | Wed 13 | Class |
| | Wed 20 | Class (6:00pm Mass and Family potluck) |
| | Wed 27 | No Class |
| December | Wed 4 | Class |
| | Wed 11 | Class (Reconciliation 3 rd -12 th grade) |
| | Wed 18 | Class |
| | Tue 24 | Youth Mass - Christmas Eve |

December 21 -January 3; Winter break

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| January | Wed 1 | No Class |
| | Wed 8 | Class |
| | Wed 15 | Class |
| | Wed 22 | Class |
| | Wed 29 | No Class |
| February | Wed 5 | Class |
| | Wed 12 | Class |
| | Wed 19 | Class |
| | Wed 26 | No Class |
| March | Wed 5 | Class Ash Wed - Service 6:15pm – Soup Supper |
| | Wed 12 | Class |
| | Wed 19 | Class |
| | Wed 26 | No Class |
| April | Wed 2 | Class |
| | Wed 9 | Class (2 nd grade First Reconciliation) |
| | Sat 12 | 2 nd grade Bread Making /First Communion practice 9am-noon |
| | Wed 16 | Class |
| | Fri 19 | Good Friday -Youth Ministry Live Passion |
| | Wed 23 | Class (community service night) (First Communion practice) |
| | Sun 27 | First Communion |
| Wed 30 | Last Class –May Crowning 6:00pm Mass – Family Potluck | |