

Holy Family Parish



Religious Education Handbook 2019-2020

*Every religious tradition has known
that the way to teach the young
is to immerse them in the
practice of the group's way of life.*

- *Gabriel Moran*
World renowned Religious Education scholar

Holy Family Parish

Religious Education Office

600 Brook Forest Ave., Shorewood, IL 60404

815-730-8691 www.RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org

July, 2019

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Holy Family Parish Religious Education Program.

This handbook is designed to assist you in planning for the Religious Education of your child. As active participants, we need you to be informed of the policies and direction of the Religious Education program at Holy Family Parish.

Our primary focus is always to instill in your child that Christ is present in them always. Once the children have this understanding, they will live out the values of the Gospel and become the Body of Christ for a lifetime. Religious Education is a lifelong journey that is never completed. Especially in these unsteady times, we find ourselves turning to God and the Church for support. Know that the Holy Family community is here for you.

It is important for you to read this handbook and become familiar with the policies of the Religious Education Program of Holy Family Parish. The handbook contains relevant information and the yearly calendar. Our regular emails keep you up-to-date and informed about the Religious Education program. You can also receive information through our website at www.holyfamilyshorewood.org under the *Religious Education* tab.

As you already know, you are the primary educator of our faith. We can only support what is practiced at home. Our efforts can only be enhanced and reinforced when you attend weekly mass and encourage family communication and participation within the life of the Church.

Thank you for saying yes to the responsibility of Religious Education within your family. I am looking forward to ministering to you and your family at Holy Family Parish.

With Christ's Peace,

Leslie Krauledis

Leslie Krauledis
Director of Religious Education



Parish Mission Statement

*Nourished by God's Word and Sacrament,
as one family,
we are called upon to share our faith
in Jesus Christ and
reach out to those in need.*

Religious Education Mission Statement

*Holy Family Religious Education Program strives
to inspire our children to have a love for God,
a desire to learn about their faith,
and an awareness of the needs of others.*

P U R P O S E

The primary task of Religious Education is to build a loving, caring and sharing Christian community. We seek to develop the faith and love of Christ within your children. In accordance with the National Directory for Catechesis (NDC), we remind parents and guardians that Christian community begins in their own homes first and foremost. The NDC says "*Because it is the church of the home, the family provides a unique focus for catechesis. It is a place in which the word of God is received and from which it is extended. Within the Christian family, **parents are the primary educators in the faith** and the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children."*

YOU are the primary Religious Educators of your children through your example and daily life. Parents and guardians (to be called Parents from this point forward) should understand that Christian formation is not limited to preparation of a sacrament, rather must continue as long as one lives - what we refer to as a lifelong journey. This includes instruction in basic doctrine, scripture, and worship and relating all these to daily living. Catechesis is based on a word meaning "to echo". Within this process of education and formation, children are taught the essentials of Catholic doctrine and are formed as disciples of Jesus. **So, as parents and guardians, go forth "to echo" your faith.**

P O L I C I E S

REGISTRATION

Registration for Religious Education classes (to be called RE from this point forward) will be held sometime between May and September. Registration information will be sent home to families previously enrolled, and forms will be available on the parish website. Copies of baptismal and other sacramental certificates, along with sacrament dates, need to be provided to the RE office at the time of registration or shortly thereafter. Any families that have outstanding fees will not be allowed to register until all fees have been settled. All families are expected to be registered parishioners of Holy Family Parish.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL

Our records must be kept up-to-date in case of emergencies. The Religious Education Office must be notified immediately of any change of address, and/or change of phone number at home, cell or work. Email addresses must also be kept up-to-date to receive notifications.

CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Holy Family Parish Religious Education Program presumes that both parents of a child have equal access to the child, even if the parents are divorced or separated. Thus, unless informed otherwise in writing and with adequate evidence that a parent is not permitted to have unqualified access to the child, the catechetical program will permit either parent to have access to the child while at the catechetical site, and will release the child from the

site to either parent. In the case of disputed custody arrangements, divorced and/or separated parents should file a court certified copy of the custody section of the divorce decree (or separation agreement) when the child is enrolled in the program. Legal guardians must also provide the appropriate documentation to the Holy Family Religious Education office.

FEES

Please refer to the Faith and Financial Agreement information contained in the registration packet. This information is also available online at www.holyfamilyshorewood.org under the Religious Education tab.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

The RE office should be informed in advance of withdrawals from the program so that proper arrangements can be made. If you have registered for this year, a \$30.00 withdrawal fee will be charged for anyone withdrawing before classes begin. Any other payments made will be refunded by check within one month. If withdrawing from September (the first day of class) through October, a \$30.00 withdrawal fee will be charged and 75% of the tuition fee will be returned if already paid. Materials fee cannot be refunded after classes begin. All other withdrawing fees will be prorated by the RE Office. There is always a \$30.00 withdrawal fee charged.

TRANSFERS

Children transferring into the Holy Family Parish RE program are required to provide previous RE information. Copies of baptismal and other sacramental certificates, along with sacrament dates, must be given to the RE office at the time of registration. Written program information must be provided to Holy Family Parish at the time of registration from all previous RE or Catholic school programs. (See the Director of RE for specifics.) Children transferring out of Holy Family Parish will be provided with program information upon request after all fees have been settled.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Basic sacramental information must be provided at the time of registration or sometime at the beginning of the year. If sacraments were received at Holy Family Parish, only dates are needed. If sacraments were received at other churches, then certificates must be provided. Each child must meet the preparation of sacramental requirements before receiving the sacrament. *The church of the child's Baptism holds the records for all sacraments.* Therefore, Holy Family Parish will provide that church with appropriate information at the time of sacraments. For more information on Sacraments and preparation, see the Sacramental Program section.

SCHEDULE/CLASSROOMS

Classes are held on Sunday from 8:00am-9:10am and 9:40am-10:50am, Monday from 4:45pm-6:00pm and 6:30pm-7:45pm, and Wednesday and Thursday from 6:00pm – 7:15pm. **Each family receives a RE calendar with their registration information and their classroom assignments the first week of class. Assignments are also emailed to the families right before the RE year begins. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR 1ST CHOICE UNLESS WE CONTACT YOU. Please refer to the calendar inside the Family Packet as that is the most current calendar and place it where it is easily accessible. You will receive an email if schedule changes occur.**

There is a minimum of 6 students required for each class. If there are less than 6 students, you will be asked to choose another session. IF WE DO NOT HAVE A CATECHIST TO TEACH A CLASS, you will be asked to choose another session. There will be NO change fee for these circumstances. No one is allowed in the classrooms before class begins or until the doors are opened by a catechist or the RE Staff. We are responsible for the children only during the regularly scheduled class sessions per the RE calendar. We do not switch students once they have been assigned a class. Classes, where necessary, are split allowing for the many factors involved based on numbers, gender, special needs, etc. This responsibility remains at the discretion of the DRE only.

We make every effort to accommodate the many extra-curricular activities of our students. Our class schedule between September and April is compact.

We expect all parents to be responsible enough to understand that Religious Education should take precedence over other activities.

Therefore, we expect **ALL** students to attend class from September through our final class week. If you need a letter for an activity documenting your child's participation in RE stating your date and time of class, please let us know. No student should be punished for attending RE class if they miss a game or practice.

Bathroom breaks for grades K - 2 are automatically worked into the schedule for the students. Bathroom breaks for grades 3 – 8 are permitted as needed.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Dismissal procedures are as follows: **Sundays:** students in grades 5th thru 8th are allowed to leave the building with younger siblings and walk to your car. Grades 1st thru 4th will need to be picked up by a parent in the gym. Please be aware of the traffic in and out of the parking lot on Sunday mornings. Please do NOT block parking lanes and be very careful of parishioners walking to and from their cars. **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:** students will be called for dismissal starting with 8th grade and working down to 1st grade. Cars are to line up in the east parking lot with 8th grade closest to the school. Please follow the diagram on the back of your car pick up sign. A parent may come in to pick up their child at dismissal, but the child will not be dismissed until all other students have been picked up through the car line. Parents are welcome to wait in the lobby. Early dismissals must be done 15 minutes before class is over. **If you are carpooling, please make a copy of**

your sign and to give to your carpool partner. We do not accept responsibility for those children who are not picked up punctually, children who walk home, or children who are part of a carpool. Dismissal Parking Parents are volunteers and we are extremely lucky to have these people endure the weather week after week ***to insure the safety of our children. We ask your cooperation and patience with the dismissal procedures.***

CLASS CHANGE

Each student is allowed to CHANGE their day and/or time for a \$30.00 fee per family. Switching classes during the same week is not allowed. You can change your day/time for **no charge thru August 22nd.** No phone requests will be honored – only emails requests at RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org.

HOME SCHOOLING

We strongly encourage all students to enroll and participate in a classroom model for RE. However, circumstances do happen in which a child can be Home Schooled. Home Schooling families are expected to turn in the classwork on a regular basis and attend scheduled meetings. Home Schooling can only occur in grades 3 through 6.

ATTENDANCE

Children will be allowed into the school lobby but cannot go to their classroom until class begins. Your child is expected to attend all the classes for the entire year. A child may be excused for serious reasons only. Please call or email the RE Office to report any extended absences. Students in grade 1 through 6 with 3 absences or more for one year will have their progress reviewed by the catechist and the Director of Religious Education. Students in grade 7 and 8 will be allowed 2 absences per year. The Director of RE will contact the parents if necessary. Multiple absences may result in the child repeating the grade so that proper sacramental preparation is completed. **ABSENCES ARE COUNTED FROM THE 1ST DAY CLASSES BEGIN.**

TARDINESS

Any child who is tardy must stop at the FRONT OFFICE WINDOW and give their name and grade to the attendant.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Early dismissals must be handled through the RE office. Please provide a note for the catechist and the RE office. The RE office must be notified prior to class time of the early dismissal time and reason. *A parent or guardian must come into the school lobby to pick up the student.* Your child will meet you in the school lobby. Early dismissals will be allowed only up to 15 minutes before the class ends.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

We have initiated an *automated emergency calling system* through **ONE CALL NOW** for Religious Education. In case of an emergency closing due to weather or another unforeseen circumstance, you will be notified of our closing. Only one phone number per

family will be called. The cell, home, or work number you indicated on your registration information will be the only number called.

If Religious Education classes are forced to end early for some reason beyond expectation, you will be notified by phone regarding the situation and in what manner dismissal would be conducted.

CATECHETICAL CONTENT/TEXTBOOKS/HOMEWORK

Each student is required to learn and understand certain facts and material that pertains to each particular grade. The Diocese of Joliet, as well as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have set certain requirements for each grade. All students should be bringing their **textbooks/bibles** to class every week. If a catechist reports that a child does not have their textbooks for consecutive classes, a new textbook will be issued to the child with a \$20.00 replacement charge.

A **Bible** must be purchased for 4th grade students. These Bibles will be used through 8th grade. If the Bible is lost, you will be charged a replacement fee of \$26.00.

Most grades should be doing some type of **homework**. **It is your responsibility to ensure that your child is bringing everything that is required for class each week.** Please be attentive to any special requests from your child's catechist when they are working on a special project. Some catechists supplement their class with additional materials approved by the RE office.

Students receive a drawstring **RE BOOK BAG** in grades K-1-4-7. Students should keep their bags and use them in grades 2-3-5-6-8. K and grade 1 receive a lime green bag and should be kept and used for grades 2 and 3. Grade 4 receives an orange bag and should be kept and used for grades 5 and 6. Grade 7 receives a forest green bag and should be kept and used for grade 8. If your child brings home a light blue bag, it is part of the TAKE-IT-HOME PROGRAM and should be returned to the catechist the following week.

A variety of **learning techniques** are utilized within the program. Prayer Services, DVD's, music, spiritual experiences, guided reflections, recorded scripture passages are all part of the curriculum. Any DVD's used always has a spiritual theme or purpose and can be contemporary films as well as classics. Especially at this time, when our students are very comfortable with all types of mass media, these movies or other types of media may take 2 class periods to view but discussion is always part of the experience. Special projects and additional curriculum materials may be added to each grade as needed or requested.

There is an expectation that certain **PRAYERS** are learned and memorized per each grade. A list is included in your parent packet that you will receive at the beginning of the year. The best way for any student to learn these prayers by heart is to read them each night before bedtime or at another time convenient to your family. Over time, these will be absorbed and retained for a lifetime.

In 4th grade and 5th grade a **special guest speaker** is brought in to address the class as a whole. Students are expected to attend the special class on the date assigned. Attendance is mandatory. In 6th and 7th grade there is a retreat experience called the "Happening" and "Cedo" respectively. Students are expected to attend on the date assigned. Attendance is mandatory.

DISCIPLINE/ATTIRE

Children are asked to be respectful of people and property while attending class and to cooperate with the catechist. Classroom attire should reflect the willingness to learn. If a serious problem arises, the child will be sent to the RE office and a parent or guardian will be called. Toys or sports equipment are not allowed. ***Cell phones, Ipods, Ipads, MP3 players, smart phones, etc. are not to be used during class time.*** Holy Family parish assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged items. If used, they will be confiscated and not released to the child until the parents or guardians meet with the Director of RE and/or the Pastor. Cheating on tests or papers, bullying, fighting and false accusations are not tolerated and the student may be asked to leave the program.

CONDUCT

Christian conduct is expected at all grade levels during Religious Education class times and while on the premises of Holy Family Parish. We expect all students to be respectful of themselves, their peers, catechists, volunteers, staff and the property of Holy Family Parish. If a student's behavior becomes extreme, there is a 3-step process we follow:

1. At the first incident the student will be reminded of expected behavior and the consequences of misbehavior. Class rules are to be honored and respected. Breaking of these rules disrupts the learning process.
2. After the second incident the student will be sent to the RE Office for a discussion with the Director.
3. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the student will be sent to the RE Office. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted.

If the student continues to be disruptive to the classroom environment, a consultation will take place with the Director and the Pastor. The Director and/or the Pastor retain the authority to make a decision which is best for all concerned.

LOSS OR DAMAGE

Holy Family Parish is a place of gathering, worship and parish activity. The facility is a ***shared*** space by many including students of the School, Religious Education, Parents, Parishioners and Staff members. It is to be expected that there is proper respect for the building, landscaping and classroom space.

Students who damage property will be asked to give restitution by payment or replacement. Catechists will report any incident to the Director regarding the damage to property.

HEALTH CONCERNS AND MEDICATION

Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the Director and through a written note to the Catechist and RE Office at the beginning of the year or during the registration process. It is the policy of the RE Office not to administer any medication to students during the RE class times. Students are not allowed to bring any medications to class during Religious Education classes. Exceptions can be made in special circumstances.

TESTING/COMPETENCY

Testing will occur in all grades at the discretion of the catechist. A basic understanding of our faith appropriate for each grade is expected of each student. Tests may be administered in different ways to accommodate the learning capacity of each student. Each student will not be advanced until they have a basic understanding of content. Testing for 7th grade will take place within the Confirmation preparation. The Confirmation test will be administered as many times as needed for each student to pass the test with a 75%. The tests are modified for students with an IEP, 504, or special needs. There will be no test at the end of 8th grade as there are many other responsibilities assigned for that year.

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

PARENT UPDATES

The Parent updates will be distributed periodically via email. This is our way to communicate with you and to keep you up to date on what is happening in the RE Office such as the calendar changes, date changes, reminders, Confirmation service and spiritual experiences opportunities and current information. Our RE schedule for the year is on the website. We will also use the Sunday bulletin for general information. If you have NOT received an email from us within a two week period, please check your spam folder.

We welcome phone contact (815-730-8691) whenever you have a question or concern. Please leave a message on the answering machine when we are not in the office. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Our email address: RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org

WEBSITE

The parish website is www.holyfamilyshorewood.org.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

Your attendance at general parent meetings and meetings for the various sacraments is required. Sacramental meetings may be for parents or parents and child; these are a prerequisite for your child's reception of any of the sacraments. Dates and times are listed on the sacramental calendar and reminders are sent through email. Please allow a minimum of 1 hour per parent meeting. Parent meetings are designed for ADULTS; however sometimes we ask that your child attend with you.

ALTAR SERVERS

All 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade RE children who have been baptized and have received Reconciliation and Eucharist are eligible to be altar servers at Holy Family Parish.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Reconciliation - Grade 2

First Eucharist - Grade 2

Intermediate Sacrament Preparation – Grade 3 thru 8

Confirmation Preparation - Grades 7 & 8

Confirmation - Grade 9 (fall of freshmen year)

SACRAMENTAL PREPAREDNESS

The reception of any sacrament must be a conscious choice for the person receiving the sacrament. If the student does not want to receive the sacrament or does not believe in the sacrament, the following procedures will take place.

- The catechist will meet with the student to discuss the sacrament and what the student is feeling about the sacrament.
- The catechist will bring their concerns and observations to the Director of Religious Education.
- The Director of Religious Education will have a discussion with the parents and/or the pastor. The catechist will need to be present for this discussion.
- The pastor will have a discussion with the parents. Following the discussion, the pastor has the final authority to delay reception of the sacrament until the student desires or shows desire and readiness to receive the sacrament.

The two year preparation period for the reception of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation is a diocesan policy. The policy was instituted in part to assure that the child/student understands the sacrament they are about to receive and their responsibility in that sacrament.

RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST(Communion)

Eucharist and Reconciliation are distinct sacraments. A proper understanding of each sacrament is taught to the children. Participation at regular Sunday Mass is essential in the children's understanding of these sacraments. The Director of RE along with the catechist and parent or guardian can decide if a child is not ready to receive either sacrament. Celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation takes place in November. Celebration of First Eucharist takes place in May. Parents are expected to take an active part in the preparation of the sacraments with their children. There are parent meetings and child/parent activities scheduled for Reconciliation and First Eucharist. **Practices for the sacrament are mandatory.** Weekly Mass attendance for 2nd grade is strongly encourage as they are learning the different parts of the Mass.

Intermediate Sacrament Preparation (ISP) formerly known as **Special Sacraments class** is designed to prepare students in grades 4 through 8 for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. This class meets separately from and in addition to the regular RE class appropriate for the students current grade level. Classes are held approximately twice a month to prepare for each sacrament. Students will be removed from their regular class for a portion of the time and prepared for First Reconciliation/First Communion. **All students in ISP for their sacrament year must be registered for regular RE class on Sunday 8:00am.** This applies only to the year in which they are making their Sacrament of Reconciliation/Communion. Parents are not required to bring the ISP students to an additional class. ISP families are to follow the Sacrament calendars and are expected to attend the parent meetings and practices as noted on the Sacrament calendars.

In order for you to be well informed, your attendance at PARENT MEETINGS is required. Please allow a minimum of 1 hour for each parent meeting scheduled. There is a two year requirement for preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Prayers and basic Catholic knowledge must be known before attending 2nd grade. Students will be routinely tested based on the learning abilities.

Please follow the dates and times on the sacramental calendar and the Sacramental Parent handbook for additional information.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a personal affirmation of Baptism. It is a public proclamation of full participation in the Parish community. Being a part of this community, being prayerful and respectful, performing service within the home, church and community and participating in Spiritual Experiences are essential elements in the catechesis of this sacrament. Preparation for Confirmation happens during the 7th and 8th grade School & RE years. Weekly mass attendance for 7th and 8th grade is expected and necessary to complete the required Homily Reports in both the 7th and 8th grade years. Reflection evenings held during 7th and 8th grade are mandatory.

There is at least one parent meeting scheduled for the sacrament of Confirmation going into the 7th grade year and one meeting scheduled at the beginning of the 8th grade year. The Confirmation Retreat held during the 7th and 8th grade years is mandatory. If a student cannot attend the retreat at Holy Family, they will be required to attend a Confirmation retreat at another parish. The Renew Night held in the fall after their 8th grade year is mandatory. The practice evening held the week before Confirmation is mandatory.

One of the hallmarks of a Christian community is the aspect of service. The concept of service begins with a parent encouraging the child to perform acts of kindness and compassion in the home and neighborhood. Parental involvement and assistance in this area is important and essential.

Confirmation service begins at the end of 6th grade with a KICK-OFF meeting in the spring. Homily reports begin in June of the year between 6th and 7th grade.

Please pay close attention to the explanations within the Confirmation packet for details. Please follow the dates and times on the sacramental calendar and the Sacramental Parent handbook for additional information. Service packets also contain updated information.

Toward the beginning of the 7th grade class each student will receive a *Confirmation Questionnaire*. Questionnaires are to be completed by the end of February/March and usually discussed and answered during class time. The questions concern basic faith concepts that were learned during the previous years of Religious Education. The questionnaire can be worked on and answered in groups in a classroom setting or in a family setting. The Confirmation test questions will be based directly from the questionnaire. The test can be taken as many times as needed to pass with a 75%. The Confirmation test will be administered in March/April. There will be no test at the end of 8th grade as there are many other responsibilities assigned for that year.

The reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation for Holy Family parish takes place during the fall of freshmen year in high school. All the actual requirements should be finished before the end of their 8th grade year – all classroom type work will be complete. See the Confirmation Packet for exact deadline dates. The students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Youth Ministry Program. Please check the parish bulletin for activities, times and places. The bulletin can be accessed thru the website. In the fall of their freshmen year, students will be required to attend a "Renew" night and Confirmation practice before Confirmation. There is also an evening for Parents/Students scheduled for August or September that is required attendance.

NON-SACRAMENTAL GRADES

Even as adults, our faith is an ongoing process to learn more about how we worship and why. So, we strongly urge the participation of children in the Religious Education program from grade 1 through grade 8. In every grade, the program takes a developmental approach to the sacraments, liturgy, prayer, scripture, and doctrine in their daily lives. There is a progressive development of initiating the children into a personal as well as communal relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate when we celebrate as a community.

V O L U N T E E R S

PARENTS

As parents and guardians, you play a special and integral part in the Religious Education of your child. Your participation is important to the success of the RE program. **Parents are asked to give of their time as a catechist, aide, or volunteer.** Our program is only as strong as the families who fully support it. Please consider giving your time in some fashion or saying yes when asked. Catechists and Co-catechists are required to be practicing

Catholics. Tuition credits are issued for adult volunteers. The amount of credit per family depends on the assigned volunteer position.

We are always in need of Catechists, Aides, and Volunteers. All our volunteers are members of the Holy Family Parish community who desire to share their own faith with your children. Our hope is for you to support what is done in the classroom by talking about our Catholic faith in your home. We ask for your continued prayers and support as the catechist and all our volunteers commit themselves to this special ministry.

LEAD CATECHIST or CO-CATECHIST (Teacher)

Our teachers in the Religious Education program are called catechists. The RE Office, in conjunction with the Diocese of Joliet, set the class curriculum for the year. Approved Publishers provide up-to-date lesson plans and activities appropriate for the different grade levels. Additional training and formation is provided through the parish as well as through the Joliet Diocese.

CLASSROOM AIDES

Aides assist the catechist each week with the normal classroom procedures and lesson.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Office help is always needed. There are multiple tasks on any given class day to help the RE Staff or the catechists.

HALL MONITOR

Hall monitors sit in the hallways and supervise the activities and safety of our children while they are in the classroom wings of our building.

PARKING ASSISTANT

We are lucky to have a well organized dismissal procedure. Having enough Parking Assistants to help the process is essential. Please consider giving your 15 minutes of time to help.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Religious Education Advisory Board is a group of parents and catechists who advise the Pastor and Director of Religious Education on policies and procedures. The general well-being and vision of the program are regular important topics discussed. The Board is constantly looking toward the future and what best meets the needs of our children and their relationship to Jesus and the Catholic faith.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

All Staff and Volunteers in the RE Program at Holy Family Parish are required by the Diocese of Joliet to attend the "Protecting God's Children" workshop in addition to a Criminal

Background check. This must be completed before you can begin any work or volunteering with children. The workshop will be offered at Holy Family Parish as well as neighboring parishes. Once you have taken this workshop, your certificate can be transferred to any Catholic church in the United States. All staff members and volunteers are required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read and understand the conduct policies established by the Diocese of Joliet.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT INSTRUCTION

The Diocese of Joliet has instructed all parishes to initiate the *Safe Environment Instruction* program to all grades. This program is a way for your child to help them recognize improper touch, understand that they can say "no" and tell a trusted adult. The instruction is gentle and will help your child learn about these unpleasant realities in a positive way. As of this date, all our public schools initiate the Safe Environment program in their day schools so we do not have a separate program in Religious Education.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The faith of children is modeled by that of their parents or guardians. You are invited to participate in our program in any way that you can. We value you as a vital and important part of our program and we know that we can count on your support, encouragement and assistance with the following:

1. Spend some time with your child each week discussing the lesson.
2. Review their prayers at home by saying them at meals or bedtime.
3. Pray with your child. Teach your child how to pray in their own words as well as learning traditional Catholic prayers.
4. Attend weekly Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday morning and Holy Days.
5. Attend parent meetings as required.
6. Assist children with completion of homework assignments.
7. Use the experiences of daily family living to develop Christian values.
8. Set an example that Religious Education is an ongoing journey throughout our entire life.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered to adults who have not received their sacraments or are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. These adult sessions are held separately in an informal manner. The traditional school model is not used for the adults. If you are interested, please call 815-531-3762 and talk to Peni Heffernan.

CURRICULUM

Holy Family Parish catechetical program provides for the education, formation, and sacramental preparation for children, teens and families of the parish in accordance with guidelines and recommendations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All text books has been approved by the USCCB.

GRADES K, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Loyola Press is the publisher used for these grade level textbooks. The series is called *Finding God*. Scripture, doctrine and liturgical experiences are interwoven throughout each grade level. This balanced approach ensures that our children and teens come to know, love, and live the rich Catholic heritage of our faith. In 4th grade, students begin to study the bible. Because it is so interactive, we use the St. Mary's Press Catholic *Youth Bible* and *Breakthrough Bible*.

GRADE 2 and INTERMEDIATE SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Loyola Press is the publisher used for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Communion) sacramental preparation. The series is called *God's Gift*. This series concentrates on preparation for Reconciliation and Communion appropriate to their age and understanding.

GRADE 8

Our Sunday Visitor is the publisher for one of the textbooks used in 8th grade. The series is called *Alive in Christ – Morality*. This textbook centers around the moral, ethical and decision making questions appropriate for 8th grade students. We also use *Confirmed in the Spirit* through Loyola Press. This textbook details the actual Rite of Confirmation and the meaning of the different components of the Sacrament. There is supplemental material added throughout the 8th grade year.

The doctrines contained in the textbooks are drawn from the four pillars of faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Faith*. This substance is presented developmentally so our students recognize the way we believe, worship, pray, live and study scripture. Children now are accustom to different types of instructional methods. CD's as well as grade appropriate DVD's are included in each year of Religious Education. Class discussions occur after DVD's are shown.

Textbooks along with a folder and drawstring bag are presented at the initial class day. Children are expected to bring all appropriate material needed for their particular grade level.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

RE email address: RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – 4:00pm

Sunday – 7:00am, 8:30am

10:15am, noon

Monday thru Saturday

Daily Mass - 8:15am

600 Brook Forest Ave.

Shorewood, IL 60404

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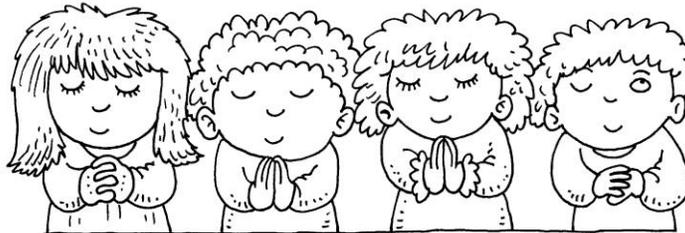
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Rev. John Phan, Pastor

Rev. Nestor Sanchez, Parochial Vicar

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Parish website: www.holyfamilyshorewood.org



A Life Blessing

Take my feet
and bless them.

Take my hands
and bless them.

Take my lips
and bless them.

May I walk only in your Way.
May my touch be ever Gentle.
May my voice always speak your Word.
May my heart beat out your Rhythm.
May my life be given to You.

May all I do ...
bring glory to your Holy Name.

Susan Hardwick
England

taken from: "600 Blessings and Prayers
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