St. Anthony's Faith Formation Handbook

2026-2027



JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME."
Matthew 19:14

Judeochristianclarion.com/kids Corner

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Father Jim Pankiewicz, Pastor 309-697-0645
Karen Campbell, DRE Office Hours (Wednesdays 10-5 and Sundays 8-11:30)
309-264-9059 (cell, call or text any time)

Illness Protocols:

If your child is experiencing any signs of illness or has been exposed to anything contagious, please keep them at home.

Classes:
Grades K-8 meet Sundays (as per schedule) **after** the 9 am Mass (10-11:20 am)

Attendance:
When it is necessary for your child to miss a class, please contact the teacher or Karen Campbell (254-9059 text is fine, just tell me who you are). The teacher, with your assistance, will make every effort to keep your child current in his/her class.
It will be the responsibility of the parent to pick up the lesson that your child misses and teach it to them at home.
If your child misses two consecutive classes and we do not hear from you, the teacher will contact you. If there is a problem, please let me or Fr. Jim know so we can help you.

Weekend Mass is a very important part of our Catholic faith. Weekend Masses are on Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am and 11:30 am. Please take your children to Mass each week.

Special Dates to Remember:

- November 1 - All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
- November 26 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 8 - Immaculate Conception of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
- December 25 – Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)
- January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
- February 10 – Ash Wednesday
- March 21 – Palm Sunday

March 25 – Holy Thursday (Last Supper, Washing of Feet, Institution of the Eucharist)
March 26 – Good Friday (Death of Jesus on the Cross)
March 28 – Easter Sunday (Resurrection of Jesus)

Adoration:
Once a month, we have the opportunity to head over to the church for a time of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. One or two classes receive the sacrament of Reconciliation each month and we spend time in prayer. There is a short devotional as well. **Family members are welcome and encouraged to join us for this special time of prayer.** The dates are on the Faith Formation calendar.

Cancellation of Classes:
In the event of cancellation of classes due to weather, please check your "My Parish" app, the St. Anthony Facebook page and your e-mail. If the weather is extremely inclement, please exercise your own good judgement. We will make every effort to expedite a decision in case of emergencies.

Drop-off/Pick Up
All students will enter through the **FRONT DOORS** (Church side) of the building. Students attending 9 AM Mass will go to their classes at the end of Mass. Students not attending 9 AM Mass will be dropped near the front doors as usual.

Do not leave your child before the 9 AM Mass is over and the teachers have a chance to get to their classrooms. Many of our teachers attend 9 AM Mass and are not in the building to supervise students before Mass is over. You are welcome to park and come inside with your child until their teacher arrives.

K-2nd grade students will wait in their class until parents/authorized pick-up persons pick them up. 3rd-8th grades will go out the front (Church side) doors to be picked up. Any parents may alternatively park and come inside to pick up their children.

Lost and Found:
Items left behind or forgotten will be collected and kept in a box in my office. If not claimed within a reasonable time, they will be donated to Tony's Garage Sale.

Discipline:

1. Students should be in the classroom as soon as possible after the 9 am Mass.
2. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. While we respect the rights of the individual, we also respect the integrity of each teacher's classroom. A child who prevents others from learning is not helpful to the learning process.
    a. A disruptive child will be removed from the classroom, and his/her behavior will be discussed and a remedy sought.
    b. If the behavior is not remedied by the next class, the parents will be called.
    c. If there is no change, the child will be removed from the class setting or a parent will need to attend and supervise their child.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist:

In order to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, a child must attend Grades 1 and 2 on a regular basis or make other arrangements with the DRE.

This year, students will prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist at home using Dynamic Catholic's online program and will receive the sacraments when they are ready.

We also need Baptismal Certificates. If your child was not baptized at St. Anthony's, please bring me the original and I will make a copy for our records.

Confirmation:

****** Confirmation is a two-year process. This year is the second year of preparation for our 7th and 8th grade students. The focus this year will be on preparing spiritually for Confirmation and completing requirements.

Our mandatory Confirmation Retreat led by NET Ministry Leaders will be on Saturday, November 21st. If a student is unable to attend for an unavoidable reason, the student's family is responsible for finding another retreat in the area to attend. The DRE is willing to help but is not responsible for making other arrangements. Students should plan to attend our retreat if at all possible because it is designed especially for them. NET does wonderful retreats with an excellent

balance of learning, fun, prayer and fellowship. It will be worth the effort to attend. Sponsors are invited and encouraged to join us for lunch. This is an opportunity for sponsors and students to have a faith conversation while enjoying lunch. Parents are able to come if the sponsor is not available.

****Youth Group (Tonyz Teenz and Tweenz):**

Who can join?

Any student in MIDDLE or HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 5-12) may join. There is no cost to participate. However, there may be outside events or activities that students would have the option to participate in that may have a cost associated with it (example – if the youth attend a conference or other activity)

When does the group meet?

The dates and times vary depending on the activity but are usually Saturday evenings starting with 4:30 Mass and includes dinner.

Family Catechesis:

In addition to our teacher-led sessions, we offer an At Home program for those who prefer to teach their children at home. Our family catechesis program uses the same materials used in the classrooms with support from the Director of Religious Education (DRE) whenever needed. A recommended schedule is given at the beginning of the year, and online assessments are given at the end of each lesson and e-mailed to the DRE. Sacrament preparation lessons are included for those preparing for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and/or Confirmation.