

ST. PETER'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK 2011-2012



“Let the children come to me...”

-Luke 18:16

Mission Statement

St. Peter's Parish Religious Education, in faithfulness to God and the Catholic Church, and under the leadership of our pastor, endeavors to guide the children and teens of St. Peter's toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and God the Father. We seek to provide for young people and their families, the tools of knowledge and faith to live out their commitment to God, and a foundation of Catholic truth on which to build the rest of their lives.

We will accomplish this by:

- Providing a solid catechesis for grades 1 – 9 in the pillars of our faith:
Creed, Sacraments, Commandments, and Prayer;
- Assisting parents in the crucial task of teaching the faith at home;
- Preparing students for the sacraments of 1st Communion, 1st Reconciliation, and Confirmation, as well as providing ongoing opportunities for study and discipleship after Confirmation.

This is our mission, which by God's grace will serve Him and bring close to Him the young people of St. Peter's.

Dear parents/guardians,

Thank you for enrolling your son or daughter in the religious education program at St. Peter's. By doing so you show that you are committed to his or her spiritual formation, and that you seek our partnership in passing on the truths of the Catholic faith. We look forward to working and praying with you and your family throughout this year.

Please keep this handbook as your guide to important dates including classes, Holy Days of Obligation, and parish events.

If you have any questions regarding these materials, or about the REP, Confirmation or youth ministry programs, please call Phil Lawson at 344-6115.

Note if you need to reach the REP Office on Wednesday nights the phone # is 341-1329.

You will be in our prayers throughout this year, and we hope you will keep this program and all the students in yours as well!

Sincerely in Christ,

Phil Lawson, MTS
Director of Catechesis & Evangelization

Father Arul Joseph
Pastor

www.saintpetercatholic.com

Confirmation Program

- **REP Students** are to attend all scheduled classes. Students are also to attend the scheduled weekend retreat as part of their preparation.
- **9th Graders** will meet in St. Peter's School each Wednesday from 630-745PM, as listed on the calendar.
- **Full Participation in Confirmation Retreat** is required for all Confirmation students.
- **Full participation in the sacramental life of the parish.** Youth who expect to be Confirmed must show their sincerity by fulfilling all their Christian obligations, including attending Mass each weekend & Holy Days. It is also recommended that they make frequent use of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Service Hours:** A hallmark in the life of the Christian is service. Students are expected to concretely exhibit this as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- **Post-Confirmation:** Your faith life begins anew with Confirmation, hence classes are offered the 1st 2 Wednesdays of each month to further assist your growth in Christ.
- **Parent Meeting:** Held in the Spring for 8th Grade Parents.

Elementary REP Grades 1-8

Attendance: Attendance of all classes as well as retreats, and Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, is expected. If, however, a child should be unable to attend a class due to illness, please call the parish office (344-6115) **before 6:00 PM** on the night of class that will be missed. The student will be responsible for the material missed that evening; please speak with the DRE if you would like assistance in studying the text and completing the assignments at home.

Parent attendance of classes: All parents are encouraged to observe classes. Not only does this show your children you support them in their religious studies and like to know how their classes are going, but it will also help you to keep the learning going on at home when you see how the catechist approaches the material. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** We must limit class visitation to parents and legal guardians. Your cooperation is appreciated.

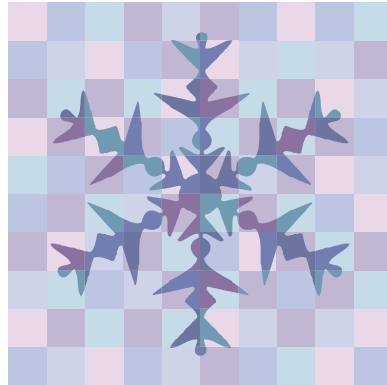
Homework: It is typical for some small assignment to be given to the young people to be completed at home. This is an excellent opportunity for you to work with your child.

NOTE: We must have a Baptismal Certificate on file for all 1st & 2nd grade students. If your son or daughter was Baptized at a parish other than St. Peter's please obtain a copy of the certificate for our records. Thank you!

Inclement Weather Cancellations

The following policy is in place concerning inclement weather cancellations:

- Automatically cancelled when Stevens Point Public Schools are closed.
- In other situations, a decision is made by 3:00PM regarding cancellations. Please listen to local media for information or contact the parish office 344-6115 after 3PM during inclement weather.



Fundraising

As you know, the fees for REP do not cover the cost of the program. In addition, up to 25% of our families are unable to pay the full tuition, and approximately 10% are unable to pay anything.

Hence, it is necessary to raise funds through other means. The most fruitful and least time-consuming program we have found is selling candles through “Home & Garden Party.” This has been successful enough to allow us to discontinue the other past fundraisers in favor of this single one. After all, our mission is to teach the faith not spend all our time fundraising.

This will again take place in October & November allowing for people to use the candles as Christmas presents. The goal is for each family to sell 10 candles. Your help is greatly appreciated. Success prevents us from having to raise the REP fees which have remained unchanged for quite a few years now.

Drop Off/Pick Up of Children

Regular Class Nights: All students enter and exit through the main doors on First Street. Parents are also welcome to meet their children in the school hallway at the end of classes.

Adult Education

Since parents are “primary educators of their children in the faith” we want to assist you in that regard.

“Family Catechesis therefore precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis. Furthermore, in places where widespread unbelief or invasive secularism makes real religious growth practically impossible, ‘the Church of the home’ remains the one place where children and young people can receive an authentic catechesis. Thus there cannot be too great an effort on the part of Christian parents to prepare for this ministry of being their own children’s catechists and to carry it out with tireless zeal.” -Bl. Pope John Paul II

Every year, St. Peter’s offers numerous opportunities to enrich your understanding of the faith.

Watch for offerings to be advertised throughout the year!

To help the young people better understand the connection between the Mass and the Faith they are learning in REP, each week a half-sheet, like the one below is sent home with them. They are to fill it out each week and we ask that you sign it. They then bring it to class with them.

St. Peter's REP

Name _____

Date: _____

Grade: _____

For Grades 1-4:

What intention did you bring to Jesus at Mass this past Sunday? Who or what, in particular, did you pray for?

For Grades 5-8:

What struck you from the readings at Mass this past Sunday? Or what part of Fr. Louis' homily made an impact on you and your life?

Parent Signature: _____

Precepts of the Church

The following list of specific duties, considered to be the "indispensable minimum" expected of all Catholics, comes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2042-2043):

1. "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation."
2. "You shall confess your sins at least once a year."
3. "You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season."
4. "You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation."
5. "You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence."

"The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities."

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

“Be frequent adorers of the Holy Eucharist!”—Pope John Paul II

Each Wednesday of REP, the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed in the Church for people to pray. What a wonderful opportunity to pray for your children before Our Lord!



REP Fees:

Grades 1-8

\$50 per student

\$125 max per family

Confirmation:

\$50 per student. (\$25 for retreat/\$25 for class)

For Registrations received after August 31st. The fees are \$70 per student & \$150 per family.