

September 1, 2016

Dear Parents of St. Anna's parish,

Welcome to new school year at St. Anna's School of Religion! As parents you know the difficulties and the joys of parenthood. The parents who are your children's teachers have volunteered to assist you in your efforts to hand on the faith and experience the joy that brings!

Since you know your children better than their catechists do and have more than 1 ½ hours with them a week you, as their parent, are poised to be the "first and best" teachers of your children in the practice of faith. But as church we are in this together; our School of Religion is here to *assist* you and your family!

In the era when I was conceived the practice of going to Confession every other week and going to Mass weekly was the norm for 85% or more of U.S. Catholics. My, how the times have changed! We offer class, following the Public School year calendar, from 10:15 to 11:45 A.M. on Sunday mornings. Obviously a 1 ½ hour class once a week is no match for the onslaught of more secular ideas and opinions that flood your children's consciousness throughout the week. That is why I strongly urge you to vocalize your practice of living faithfully: sharing openly your prayer life, telling your child—at their level of understanding, of course---about your relationship with the Lord and, perhaps, with his saints and please prioritize your worship together as family.

These are challenging times for Christians, and I suspect this will be increasingly true for our young as they grow older. It has become popular to criticize and even ridicule the Church the Lord built and has promised to be with always. Still realize our faith is a gift from God for Jesus said "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you to go and bear fruit that will last." We are in this effort to serve our God and your child together.

Parents as often as you can, while your children are in class, I encourage you to spend Sunday mornings with other parents by participating in our Adult Education class or getting to know one another over coffee in the library. I am hoping this time with your parish family will strengthen your faith and renew your spirit. Our Father is raising us, His older children, to love Him first and one another as we love ourselves.....so let God and the rest of your family love you and all will be well..... Peace, Fr. Dan

PS: I recently learned at the Catechists Workshop of some ways to easily coordinate teaching with you, as parents, and our School of Religion using emails...stay tuned!

LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Pastor:

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Director of Religious Education:

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School of Religion Advisory Board:

Mrs. Jeanette Casey, Mrs. Ginny Harlan,
Mrs. Rebecca Miller, Mrs. Julie Mitchell,
Mr. Chris Penvose, Mrs. Senta Penvose,
Mr. Frank Roginski, Mr. Marshall Tanner,
Mrs. Krista Willis

Program Coordinators:

Adult Faith Formation: Don Nye
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RCIA: Deb Farabaugh, Don Nye

High School Youth Ministry:

Delilah Barron David Quintanilla
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Middle School Youth Ministry:

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Youth Group web site: www.st-annas.com/sayg

Pope Francis Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love;
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.



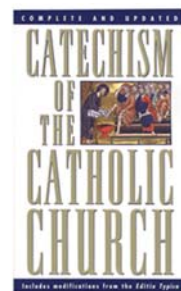
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Mrs. Kerri Brooks Mrs. Cathy Craven
Kindergarten:	Mrs. Haley Herrick Mrs. Freda Hamryka
Grade 1:	Mrs. Dana Moore Mrs. Beth Matthews
Grade 2:	Mrs. Ginny Harlan Mrs. Mary Lynne Reinagel
Grade 3:	Mrs. Angie McElveen Mr. Tim McElveen
Grade 4:	Mrs. Larissa Daniel Mrs. Bridget Adamson
Grade 5:	Mrs. Jeanette Casey Ms. Tish Fenn
Grade 6:	Mrs. Dorota Hang Mrs. Joy Tuschl
Grade 7:	Mr. Chris Penvose Mr. Antoine Bardy
Grade 8:	Mrs. Becki Bennett Mr. Bill Bennett
Grade 9 Confirmation:	Mr. Russ Hamryk Ms. Yarixca Roman
High School:	Ms. Betsy Marshall Mr. Ace Willis
Grade 10 Confirmation:	Mr. David Smith

SCHOOL OF RELIGION MISSION STATEMENT

A ministry focused on providing an educational process Rooted in the Traditions and Scripture of the Catholic Church. This process includes religious knowledge and encourages participation. This is done through modeling the practical application of knowledge and faith. This foundation allows the Good News to personally develop in each student and family, with continuous opportunity for growth in knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ. This is provided in a community of believers who responsibly become involved in the life and work of the community through worship, service, message and witness.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION CURRICULUM

Pre-Kindergarten:	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Grades K—6:	<i>We Believe; Catholic Identity Edition</i> Sadlier Religion Publishers
Grades 7 :	<i>We Live Our Faith; As Disciples of Jesus</i> Sadlier Religion Publishers
Grade 8:	<i>Theology of the Body; Middle School edition</i> Ascension Press
Grade 9:	<i>Decision Point</i> Dynamic Catholic
High School:	<i>You Cat</i> Ignatius Press
Confirmation:	<i>Decision Point</i> Dynamic Catholic



THE GOALS OF THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION
AT ST. ANNA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

School of Religion Calendar 2016-2017

With Jesus as our role model, we strive to live Catholic, Christian lives daily. With the help of God, our Father, and the strengthening of the Holy Spirit, the Religious Education Program at St. Anna's guides us in this mission.

1. Understanding that the parents are the first and foremost Religious educators of their children, St. Anna's provides a program of formal religious education for the children and youth of the parish.
2. To support the parents in their role as primary educators of their children.
3. To offer sacramental preparation to children and youth.
4. To help the children and youth discover the richness and Challenges of Scripture and the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.
5. To build a strong Catholic identity among the children and youth of the parish.
6. To allow the children and youth to experience Church as community.
7. To expose the students to the liturgical and sacramental richness that is part of the Catholic tradition.
8. To motivate children and youth to live lives rooted in charity and justice based on the moral teachings of the church.
9. To deepen the prayer life of the children and youth.
10. To develop and offer programs that meet the diverse spiritual needs of the adults of the parish.



Sept. 11	Class
Sept. 18	Class. Parent meeting in Parish Hall. 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 25	Class
Oct. 2	Class. Child Protection program for grade K.
Oct. 9	NO CLASS. Walton County Intercession.
Oct. 16	Class. Child Protection Program. Grade 3 & 6.
Oct. 23	Class. Child Protection Program. Grade 9
Oct. 30	Class. All Saints Celebration
Nov. 6	Class
Nov. 13	Class
Nov. 20	Class
Nov. 27	NO CLASS. Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 4	Class
Dec. 11	Class
Dec. 18	Class
Dec. 25	NO CLASS. Christmas Break
Jan. 1	NO CLASS. New Year's Break
Jan. 8	Class
Jan 15	Class
Jan. 22	Class
Jan. 29	Class
Feb. 5	Class
Feb. 12	Class
Feb. 19	NO CLASS. Walton County Intercession.
Feb. 26	Class
March 5	Class
March 12	Class
March 19	Class
March 26	Class
April 2	NO CLASS. Spring Break for all districts.
April 9	Class
April 16	NO CLASS. Easter Sunday
April 23	Class
April 30	Class
May 7	Sacrament of First Holy Communion
May 24	Sacrament of Confirmation

SACRAMENTAL POLICIES

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First grade religious education is required before a child can enter the second grade sacramental preparation year.

A child is required to have a consistent* first and second grade religious education attendance record before he/she can begin preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. (*As per the Archdiocesan guidelines; a minimum of 80% of classes).

CONFIRMATION

Youth seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation must have attended a Catholic School or Religious Education program and successfully completed the 7th and 8th grade.

St. Anna's has a two year Confirmation preparation program which begins in the 9th grade and concludes in the spring of the 10th grade. Students must have successfully completed both 9th and 10th grade to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The requirements needing to be met by the Confirmation candidate will be explained at a parent/candidate meeting prior to the first Confirmation preparation class

ADDITIONAL SACRAMENTAL POLICIES

Children must be baptized prior to receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion & Confirmation. A copy of the Baptismal certificate must be turned in to the DRE if the child was not baptized at St. Anna's.

Parents of children above grade 2 who have not received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion should contact the DRE.

BOOKS AND MATERIALS FEE

The fee charged for School of Religion classes at St. Anna's is a books and materials fee. This fee helps to cover the cost of the books used by the students as well as any additional materials used. The fees are as follows:

\$35.00 for one child in the program
\$60.00 for two children in the program
\$75.00 for three or more children in the program.

Payment of this fee is expected at the time of registration. No child of St. Anna's will be denied the opportunity to learn about their faith. For financial assistance, please contact Deborah Farabaugh.

POLICIES OF THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Students arriving before 10:10 a.m. should wait in the Parish Hall until 10:10 a.m. when they are free to go to the classrooms. Class begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. Any student arriving after 10:25 a.m. will be considered tardy which will be indicated on the attendance sheet. The DRE will contact the parents when a student has been tardy three times.

If for some serious reason a student can not attend Religious Education classes, home schooling is permitted. The parents must contact the DRE to request the home schooling option. Parents must follow the guidelines outlined by the Archdiocese of Atlanta for the home schooling of their child. This will be explained to the parents by the DRE.

FIRE EMERGENCY

Each classroom has an emergency evacuation plan posted inside the doorway. Catechist will be aware of this steps to take in the event of a fire. Periodic fire drills will take place during the Religious Education year.

SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of sudden, severe weather & an emergency cancellation of classes, the DRE will contact the catechists. Catechists will then call the children in their class to make them aware of the cancellation.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

All students whose parents are registered parishioners of St. Anna's and who attend grades 1—10 in a public school are required to attend the religious education classes in the School of Religion. Parents who home school their children should contact the DRE to learn the home school guidelines of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and a Kindergarten class are provided for children from the age of 4 to kindergarten age. A High School class is also provided for students in grades 11 and 12.

It is expected that families will make a commitment to regular attendance at all classes. Good attendance makes it possible to grasp religious concepts and to foster a sense of belonging in the parish community.

NOTE: Religious Education classes are NOT a substitute for Mass. Regular attendance at Mass is essential to the progress of forming faith.

If a child is absent from class, parents must contact the child's catechist for any missed assignments. If your child completes the work missed during an absence and turns the work into his/her catechist, the absence will be excused. The use of this option is meant to be limited. In extraordinary circumstances contact the DRE.

When a student is absent from class two weeks in a row, a telephone call or e-mail to the Religious Education office is expected. If a student misses 3 classes and no contact has been made by the parents, the DRE will contact the parents.

Under Archdiocesan guidelines, students must attend 80% of classes (no more than 5 unexcused absences) to receive credit for successfully completing the year. For extraordinary circumstances please contact the DRE.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL POLICY

The following policy for the arrival and dismissal of students in the School of Religion was adopted by the School of Religion Advisory Board for the protection of our children after several incidents in the parking lot. It is very important that parents review this policy, abide by it and reinforce it with your children. This policy was updated in July, 2015.

ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS:

Parents of students in Pre-K to grade 4: Parents must bring their children directly to the classroom (but not before 10:10 a.m.) Catechists will greet students at the classroom. Parents/students may use the front or back doorways to the School of Religion or enter from the Parish Hall.

Students in grade 5 to High School are to wait in the Parish Hall until 10:10 a.m. & then go directly to their classrooms. Class begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. Students may use either the front or back door of the School of Religion wing or enter from the Parish Hall.

DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

Parents of children in Pre-K to grade 4: Parents are to wait in the designated area of the Parish Hall at dismissal time. Catechists will bring the students directly to the designated area for parents to pick up. No child will be permitted to leave the Parish Hall without a parent. If you choose to have an older sibling pick up your younger child, you must make this arrangement with the catechist. No child will be dismissed to anyone other than the parents without parent authorization. Please be on time to pick up your children.

Parents of students in grade 5 to High School will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m. from class. Students may use either the front or back doors of the School of Religion wing or the Parish Hall to exit. Please make pick up arrangements with your child(ren). You may park in either the front parking lot or back parking lot letting your children know where you will be waiting for them. Please be aware of children in the parking lot at dismissal time. Families attending the 12:00 p.m. Mass, please make a plan with your child(ren) as to where to meet them after School of Religion class.