



St. Andrew  
Parish School of Religion  
Handbook

2023-2024

Welcome to St. Andrew Parish School of Religion Program

*The Department of Religious Education is grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in the religious education of your children.*

### *Welcome Home*

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you and your family with a brief overview of:

- St. Andrew Parish School of Religion Program and Department of Religious Education
- General procedures used to keep weekly catechetical classes running smoothly and safely

### *Our Philosophy*

By their daily interactions, example and guidance, parents are the primary and most important teachers in the lives of their children. Our philosophy is to give our children the best examples to follow, especially when it matters the most. St. Andrew Religious Education is here to support whole families in the lifelong learning and practice of our Catholic faith.

### *The Mass*

We are a Eucharistic centered parish. Everything we do as a community at St. Andrew revolves around Jesus in the Eucharist. We know that Jesus offers us the lifesaving Gift of His love and friendship in the Eucharist at Mass. Our PSR classes take place on Sunday afternoon and evening, and our Youth Ministry program is on Sunday evenings so as not to interfere with our primary love for Jesus and ability to attend weekend Mass. We assume that our families attend Mass regularly and our catechists will teach with this in mind. If you have fallen into a practice of not going to Sunday Mass, or your family dynamic presents a challenge to this possibility, we would like to invite you to consider coming to Mass at St. Andrew this week. We welcome your return at any time. If you are new to St. Andrew or new again, and would like to sit with a friendly family, please call us. The Religious Education Office is happy to coordinate that for you.

*Peace be with you!*

## REGISTRATION

Registration is required for each student to attend PSR at St. Andrew Church. Registration forms include information specific to each individual child and updated sacramental records. All required forms can be found on the Parish Website.

## ENROLLMENT

Each family must complete one Enrollment Form per family, per year. Even if you are a returning family, please update emergency contact information and email preferences. All required forms can be found on the Parish Website.

## TUITION 2023-2024

Tuition is \$270.00 per student for active members of St. Andrew Parish, Tuition is \$335.00 per student for non-members.

## DISCOUNTS

Early Registration: \$50 per child for PIF Registrations received by August 18th

Tuition Assistance is available for those who need it. A catholic religious education will never be denied to your family. -Per Msgr. Moloney

## CLASS TIMES

St. Andrew Parish School of Religion (PSR) classes meet each Wednesday throughout the academic year from 4:30pm-5:45pm and 7-8:15pm for 8th Grade Theology.

7th Grade is required to register for 8th grade (contact Tina White for make-up instructions)

1st Grade is required to register for 2nd grade (contact Tina White for make-up instructions)

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD** Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based method of spiritual formation for children. Within a specifically prepared environment space for children called an atrium, this approach invites both children and adults to

encounter Christ in Scripture and liturgy. St. Andrew PSR students in K-1 receive an introduction to the Atrium and CGS, second grade students will meet in the atrium each week and prepare for First Communion in this sacred space.

## KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten PSR participates in a flipped model design for parish youth and catechesis, recognized as best-practices in service learning and evangelization by the Diocese. Trained adult catechists support and mentor Teen youth volunteers to lead this class. The result is the opportunity to build future Catholic Leaders and the amazing experience of learning all about God Who Created ME so Wonderful and World Around Us for our Kindergartners. Text references for Kindergarten are Sadlier, We Believe.

## ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Each grade level curriculum follows the Graded Course of Study as outlined by the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. Each catechist is formally trained and supported by the parish Department of Religious Education. Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 refer most primarily to Sadlier, We Believe to teach the Graded Course of Study or We Live our Faith. Each grade level uses a variety of teaching methods and strategies for catechesis that are age-appropriate and experiential, designed to support and build on what you are teaching your children at home.

## Parent Catechesis

We believe in lifelong learning. Join us for our many small group learning opportunities, including Parent Catechesis during PSR.

This year beginning October 4th we will be viewing the following programs from Augustine Institute followed by small group discussion in the Parish Hall from 4:45pm-5:45pm.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession

We will also be previewing topics from the National Eucharistic Revival and streaming select episodes from the hit series The Chosen.

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

**Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:** Catechists and Classroom Aides must arrive at least 15 minutes early and enter through Door 17.

Students arrive in the car line through Door 17 from 4:20- 4:30pm. Doors lock during PSR.

All classes are dismissed to their zone in the McCoy lot for pickup at 5:45pm. Teachers stay with their students until a parent arrives.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance at PSR class is expected. If a student is absent for any scheduled class a parent or guardian must contact the teacher and advise them of the reason.

## **DISCIPLINE / DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

Disrespect toward teachers, aides, other students, property or any inappropriate behavior or language will not be tolerated. Following classroom rules allows everyone to have an enjoyable PSR experience. Breaking any one of them will result in: 1. A verbal warning 2. Dismissal from the classroom If needed, a call will be made to the parent/legal guardian, who will then be requested to pick up the child immediately. If incidents persist, parents will be required to attend class with their student.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES / CELL PHONES**

Students bringing a cell phone or other electronic equipment with them to class must turn off the device and put it away until class is over. If a student is using one of these devices during class time or other specified activities, that item will be taken and returned to the student only after class is dismissed. Some classes may have all the students place their phones in a communal bin for the duration of class.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:**

1. Behave in a Christian manner at all times by showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students.
2. Actively participate in classroom activities and discussions.
3. Attend class regularly and complete any assignments or homework.
4. Follow directions at all times and obey classroom rules.
5. Avoid language that is rude, offensive or inappropriate.
6. Do not possess or be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or tobacco of any kind
7. Do not leave the building or premises without the permission of an authorized adult

## EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Bring your family to Mass on Sunday and participate in the life of the parish
2. Ensure that your children attend PSR on a regular basis on time.
3. Communicate any special needs or circumstances that may affect your child within the classroom.
4. Be an active part of your children's learning and be involved in the classroom at the Catechist's request.
5. Volunteer somewhere. Give of yourself in some way to the community. We would be happy to have you in PSR!

## EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHERS

1. Compliant with all Diocesan Safe Environment policies
2. Welcome each student on time
3. Complete catechist training and ongoing formation as presented by the DRE and Diocesan Office of Evangelization
4. Communicate weekly with parents