

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY HANDBOOK

St. Joan of Arc Parish 2023-2024

PASTOR: Rev. Gabriel Baltes, O.S.B.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Mr. Chase Stevens 630-353-4550
cstevens@sjalisle.org

This year all RE CLASSES will be offered in person.

Please see the calendar for exact dates/times/locations of weekly classes.

St Joan of Arc School teachers will facilitate all classes. Each grade level will meet in person on Wednesday's at St. Joan of Arc School (Door 6). Class will include assignments that are required to be completed and turned in to the respective RE teacher. Please check the Class Calendar for each week's schedule. Please keep in mind that changes can be made to the schedule and you will be notified via e-mail if that were the case. If you have questions about how the program will run, please see the next page for a full FAQ that we have created to answer those questions.

Teachers:

Kindergarten & First Grade

Second Grade

Third & Fourth Grade

Fifth & Sixth Grade

Seventh & Eighth Grade

Mrs. Angela Suwanski

Mrs. Colleen Clark

Mrs. Judy Letsinger

Mrs. Kim Graves

Mr. Chase Stevens & Mr. Alex Gervacio (DYM)

2023-2024 SJA Religious Education FAQ's

WHEN & WHERE: On September 20th, 2023 at **4:30pm** you will come to the **SOUTH** lot of SJA and attend the mandatory parent meeting in the Church, collect your children's materials and be ready to provide medical information. Classes will begin the following week on September 27th, 2023. A schedule is available on the St. Joan of Arc website under Faith Formation – Religious Education – Calendar. Drop-off (**4:30pm**) and Pickup (**5:45pm**) will be on the **SOUTH lot** (division street) **DOOR 6** (left of the St. Joan of Arc Statue).

LOGISTICS: Classes are all in-person this year. Children will be dropped off at the **SOUTH LOT DOOR 6**. There will be a registration table where you must check-in your student by **4:20pm**, **class will start at 4:30pm**. You will check out your student around **5:40 – 5:45pm**.

EXPECTATIONS: You are expected to arrive **ON TIME** and be **IN CLASS** no later than your class starting time. You should bring all materials needed. Please come to class dressed appropriately. **If your child will be absent for class, you must call the RE Office to report them absent 24 to 48 hours in advance.** Your children will be required to make up what they miss and the work will need to be turned in to receive credit.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

At the very heart of your child's religious education are you, the parents. Parents are the primary religious educators of their children through their lives and examples every day. Your teaching, support, example, attitude, and the values you impart are fundamental to your child. As Christian parents, you are asked to support our Religious Education program in the following ways:

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, and go to Confession frequently (see bulletin or website for times).
2. Discuss the Sunday readings with your children before/after attending Mass and help them reflect on them.
3. Help your child learn how to pray by praying regularly with them.
4. Please see that your children participate weekly in Religious Education.
5. Show interest in what your child is learning by sitting down with them at home to review the lessons, discuss them, and share with your family!
6. Help your child/children be conscientious about any homework given to them each week.
7. Foster an attitude of respect and cooperation within your child for Religious Education, the staff, and teachers.
8. Emails and letters to parents will be sent home regularly. Please read them all as they contain important information and upcoming events.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS and PARTICIPATION

Regular participation is expected. If you are absent or miss assignments for more than TWO weeks throughout the year, you will need to repeat that RE year.

Parents:

- Make sure your child is on time and ready to work
- Make sure your child has ALL his or/her supplies (writing utensil, textbook, folder)
- Make sure your child has gone to the bathroom before class begins

MASS ATTENDANCE

"Lifting up the mind toward God is an expression of our adoration of God: prayer of praise and thanksgiving, intercession, and petition. Prayer is an indispensable condition for being able to obey God's commandments"
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2098).

Mass is essential to coming to know God and growing in our relationship with Him. Parents, as the primary

educators of their children, show by example their commitment to weekly participation in the Sunday Eucharist.

CONTINUITY

Parents are reminded that their children or child should be enrolled in the Religious Education Program the entire nine years. Acceptance into the Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation Programs is based upon regular attendance of the student in the Religious Formation Program. If a child misses a year of RE, extra catch-up classes will be required. First Grade and Second grade are required for Reconciliation and Eucharist, and 6th-8th Grades are required for Confirmation.

TEXTBOOKS

This year grades K-1 and 3-8 are again using the Spirit of Truth series from Sophia Press. This series takes our students on an immersive and memorable journey through the Catholic Faith and Sacred Art. We are using a “rolling curriculum schedule” for grades K-8. Grades K-1 will be using grade 1 curricula, 3/4 will be using the grade 4 curricula, grades 5/6 will be using grade 6 curricula and grades 7/8 will be using the grade 8 curricula this year. We will also be preparing our grade 8 students for Confirmation in the Spring of 2024. Our engaging session plans and activities will enable our teachers to make the lessons exciting, unique, engaging, and fun for all ages. The St. Joan of Arc schoolchildren are also using this series. Our Second graders will be using the Blessed series from Dynamic Catholic. We have found this series wonderfully prepares our Second Graders for the two very important Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion that they receive this year.

MATERIAL PICK-UP

RE Material pick up will take place September 20th 2023 after the mandatory parent meeting from 4:30 - 6pm in the Church at St. Joan of Arc. Please plan to come that day and pick up anything your children or child will need for their 2023-2024 RE year. We look forward to seeing you there.

CONTACT US

If you have any other questions about the program, please contact Chase Stevens at 630-353-4550 or cstevens@sjalisle.org. We are happy to assist you. During the year, if you or your child has a question regarding their assignment or an in person class we ask that you please contact your child's teacher directly. You will be given their contact information at Material Pick-Up.

PLEASE SIGN AND KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR FAMILY RECORDS

Family Name _____

In keeping with the Dallas Charter, it is necessary for our parish to comply with the Bishop's directives and respond to their audit. To help us with their audit, please sign and return this form.

I will review and read the following (*all are found on our SJA website under "Youth Protection"*):

- ✓ Family Handbook
- ✓ The Policy Regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors
- ✓ The Standards of Behavior for Those Working with Minors
- ✓ Parent Guide-Understanding and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse
- ✓ Internet Safety for Children and Teens

I understand that our family is responsible to become familiar with the contents of the above documents and agree to abide by and to conduct ourselves in complete accord with the policies and guidelines.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS COPY TO RE OFFICE

Family Name: _____

Date: _____

