

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY HANDBOOK

St. Joan of Arc Parish 2024-2025

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

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

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 on off the Front Street Entrance (Lower Ramp next to Door 3). Class will include assignments that are required to be completed and turned in to the respective RE teacher. Please check the Parish Website 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 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.

2023-2024 SJA Religious Education FAQ's

WHEN & WHERE: On September 4th, 2024 at **6:00pm** you will come to the **NORTH LOT** (Front Street) of SJA and attend the mandatory parent meeting in the PAR. Classes will begin the following week on Wednesday - September 11th, 2024. All materials including curriculum will be handed out on the first day of class. A schedule is available on the St. Joan of Arc website under Calendar.

LOGISTICS: Classes are all in-person. Children will be dropped off at the **NORTH LOT DOOR 3 – TAKE LOWER RAMP TO PAR**. Class begins at **(4:30pm)** and end at **(5:45pm)**, **both drop-off and pick-up** will be on the **NORTH LOT** (Front Street entrance – ramp leading downstairs to the right of door 3).

EXPECTATIONS: You are expected to arrive on time with all your students' class materials. 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 complete the content for the missed class period. A total of 2 absences are allowed before a meeting with the RE director will be required to address the purpose for non-attendance.

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
- 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. A child must be in religious education a minimum of 2 consecutive years to receive any Sacraments.

TEXTBOOKS

This year grades K-1 and 3-8 are again using the Blest Are We series from RCL Benzinger. This series takes our students on an immersive and memorable journey through the Catholic Faith and the person and life of Jesus Christ. 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 in the first class of the year, September 11th 2024.

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 when classes begin.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 HERE

Family Name: _____

Date:

