

Sacred Heart Parish 2023 - 2024

Confirmation Student Handbook

Goals: Our parish religious formation program calls people to:

1. Be people of prayer; personal, communal, and liturgical.
2. Be informed Catholics, grow in knowledge of faith
3. Summon people to continually listen to God's call for conversion.
4. Challenge people to be people who can witness their faith through service.
5. Introduce people to the faith community that they help to shape, through participation.
6. Participate in liturgical celebrations and prayer.

Attendance:

Confirmation class is on Wednesday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. We will meet in the new addition in the basement of the Church. Father Paul is our lead teacher. We will work together throughout the year. We ask that you arrive on time. We do not have a lot of time to cover all of information, so we appreciate the extra effort from you to be on time to class.

Structure & Standards

The Confirmation session is comprised of students in the 10th grade. You must have completed both Baptism and received First Communion prior to the Confirmation sessions.

Calendar: Wednesday nights in 2023 7-9 p.m. (For 6 or 7 weeks)

Father Paul will give us dates closer to sessions.

1. Attendance. You must attend each class and arrive on time. Contact Father directly if you need to be absent from a session.
2. Confirmation Candidate and sponsor must be present at all sessions. Parents should not be the proxy or sponsor.
3. Community Hours. You will be helping out at the Fall Festival and Fish Fry this year. You will be taking ownership of several projects. Each candidate needs 15 hours before Confirmation. Have Fun!

Each of you will be provided with student books Moving In The Spirit and The Catholic Answer Bible. Assignments and special notes about date changes will be e-mailed or sent in a newsletter.

Sessions

Sessions begin and end with prayer. This is vital to the Catholic faith and we feel strongly that this element will lend to our success this year. We feel that the more you see how your faith can be applied in the world, the stronger a Catholic you will be.

The materials we use in our religious education programs are approved for use in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Feel free to contact our office any time you would like to review our materials.

Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation

Students may ask to be confirmed in our archdiocese when they reach the age of 15. Student must attend mass. Class will be held in Newman Hall.

Students who choose to be confirmed at Sacred Heart Parish are expected to be part of the religious education program or Catholic school from grade one through grade ten. If a student moves from another parish, she/he needs to have a letter from that parish stating his/her involvement in religious formation classes.

Students are expected to:

- *be involved in service project
- *take part in a retreat
- *Be part of the Confirmation classes
- * Meet with their Confirmation sponsors

Tuition and Book Fees:

Families need to be registered in the religious education program for the children to attend classes.

The tuition portion of the religious education classes helps defray the cost of catechist stipends, CRE salary, electricity, heat, and water, janitorial service, supplies for classrooms, in-services and other materials used in the operation of our program.

Remember the religious education program is subsidized by the parish. We need everyone to pay their tuition.

Note:

If paying the tuition is a hardship for your family, this parish has some scholarship money available.

To qualify for scholarship:

- 1. You must make a written application for tuition assistance. Forms are available in the religious education office.**
- 2. You must make an honest attempt to pay at least part of the tuition.**
- 3. You must pay the materials fee.**

******Policy developed by the Sacred Heart Parish****
Board of Education January 2007**

Tuition from previous years must be paid, or a payment plan must be set up, before families will be allowed to register for religious education classes the next year.

Field Trips**

If a field trip is planned, parental permission forms are to be signed and returned prior to departure. *I have permission forms available.*

Any student without a signed permission form will not be allowed on the field trip. Adult chaperones and drivers are needed.

Helping Victims of Sexual Abuse

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other Church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social service agencies and support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free (800) 803-6758 or (866) 319-4636 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the new "Policy for the Protection of Minors."

Discipline

Students are expected to act with respect and good behavior in classrooms. Parents/guardians need to talk with your students about proper behavior and good manners in religious education classes. The policy that has been established concerning discipline follows:

- 1. After the first incident of misbehavior, the CRE will schedule a conference with the student, catechist and her/his parents/guardians to determine what can be done to avoid any future problems and to clearly establish the consequences of any further misbehavior.*
- 2. After the second incident, the student will be placed in the home schooling program for the remainder of the year. The student will be readmitted the following year if the student shows an ability to obey the rules.*
- 3. If this happens during a sacramental year, it will be necessary for the parents/guardians and the student to meet with the CRE individually to complete the preparation for the sacrament.*

Behaviors that will not be allowed in the classroom:

- *being disrespectful to teacher*
- *disrupting the class*
- *fighting or behavior that endangers self or others*
- *language not reflecting Christian values, for example obscenity, profanity, insulting, or abusive language*
- *insults to the church, its teachings, its leaders, and those things it holds sacred*
- *vandalizing classroom and property*

Harassment and bullying: Teasing and pestering another person are not Christian behaviors and are not acceptable.

The following are some examples of harassment:

- *name calling*
- *insults*
- *taking or damaging another's belongings*
- *physically threatening behaviors*
- *unkind comments*
- *pestering, pulling clothes or hair*
- *comments about someone's body*

Candidates, you have been studying and living your faith since you were born. First your parents/guardians were your catechists and while they continue teaching you about your faith, through word and example, you have also been formally learning about it for the past few years. Now, you are ready to make a decision about Confirmation.

It is a year of study as well as prayer and reflection. Father Paul C. Baldwin will be talking about the importance of the sacrament and helping you come to a greater understanding of what it means.

It is also a year of service. You are called to reach out to others. Each candidate is required to give 15 hours of service. We will be planning a large group retreat. It will need to be about 4-6 hours long. You will also need to do 15 hours of individual service for the parish.

You must attend a Retreat and choose a sponsor to guide you. A parent may not be your sponsor.

Know that you may always contact me in person or by phone.

Please keep the lines of communication open so we can make our program the VERY best it can be.

God Bless!

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