



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

The Diocese of Joliet requires a minimum of 30 hours of Faith Formation per year. Because we offer 28 weeks of classes, this allows for no more than four absences per year to successfully complete each grade level. Except for extreme cases to be discussed with the Director beforehand, students missing more than four classes per year will need to repeat the grade the following year. More than four absences in a level in which a sacrament is received that year (2nd grade, Confirmation II) will delay the reception of the sacrament. This applies to ALL absences for any reason.

Students are expected to be in the classroom before the bell rings (GRADES 1-6: 4:15 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 6:15 PM on Wednesday evenings; CONFIRMATION I & II: 7:15 PM for Wednesday evenings) and remain for the entire class. Students arriving after the bell will be marked tardy. Habitual tardiness will be discussed with the parent of guardian. Early dismissals and late arrivals are to be avoided. Students arriving later than 20 minutes after class starts or leaving earlier than 20 minutes before the end of class are considered absent for that day.

Diocesan requirements mandate that we keep accurate records of attendance. There have been instances where our attendance records have been subpoenaed for court cases, and during the most recent diocesan audit the lack of reported absences was called into question. Additionally, in case of emergency, it is imperative that we know which students are present during class times. A parent or guardian **MUST** call in to the Attendance Line **PRIOR** to class if their child is going to be absent. Failure to do so will count as a double absence.

Continued attendance from year to year is expected. Students who have missed more than one year of religious education will be assessed to determine proper placement and may not be necessarily placed in their current public school grade level. Junior high students missing two or more years may not be placed in the Confirmation program pending assessment.

HOMEWORK

With few exceptions, homework is assigned each week and must be completed by the next class. If a student misses class for any reason, the homework should be downloaded from the Religious Education page of the parish website and the completed work brought to the next class. Catechists will be tracking homework completion and accuracy with the resulting grade recorded on the student's evaluation.

A completed Trinity Pledge is also a weekly expectation for Religious Education.

Two separate Trinity Pledge forms have been developed - one for 2nd and 3rd grade and another for 4th grade through Confirmation II. First grade students do not complete the reflection form.

Students should bring their completed forms to class next week to review and have the opportunity to share their scripture reflections with each other. Websites where the scriptures for the weekend can be found are included on each of the reflection forms. An online study guide is sent home in the weekly parent update. It includes the scriptures for the upcoming weekend, and Father Milota provides a summary and reflection of the scriptures in this study guide as well.

All students in Grades 2- Confirmation II are expected to complete the form each week. As with the chapter homework, the completed reflection will be graded and recorded, and will be reflected in the student's evaluation. If you were unable to attend Mass on a weekend, you may use the scripture resources provided on the form or in the weekly parent update to complete your weekend scripture reflection. This scripture reflection is a tool for students to reflect on the scripture either individually or with their family and think about how they can apply the message in their lives during the week.

Absence from class is not an excuse from completing the assignment. Additional reflection forms are always available to download from the RE page of the parish website or from the weekly parent update.

MASS ATTENDANCE

Students in all grade levels are expected to attend Sunday Mass each week.

PAPERWORK/ PARENT MEETINGS

Any necessary paperwork for sacraments must be submitted by the due date. Extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the Director prior to the due date may allow for a possible extension.

Attendance at the parent (1st and 2nd grade) and parent/student (Conf. I & II) meetings is mandatory. If missing one of the mandatory meetings is due to unavoidable conflict, alternate arrangements must be made.