

*St. Anthony
Youth Formation
Guidelines
K-8*



Dear Parents,

We are very excited to begin this new year of our Youth Formation program at St. Anthony Church. We as catechists and you as parents, along with the grace of God, form a partnership that models, in word and deed, the values of Christ and His Church.

According to the National Directory of Catechesis, "Christ taught his apostles what he received from the Father: "What I have heard from him I tell the world." The Apostles, in turn, were to echo this divine word faithfully and completely. This "echo" of the word of Gods is catechesis.

Catechesis is the right and responsibility of all Catholics. As parents, you accepted the responsibility to catechize your children when we brought them to be baptized. You are their first educators or catechists. You teach primarily by the witness of your Christian lives and by the love of your faith. The church promises to support you as you foster the child (ren)'s faith.

"Parish life itself is an aid to you because it is at the Eucharist that we are nourished by Christ himself. Our parish community, the beauty of worship, and the example of generous love and service of parishioners strengthen parents in faith" according the National Directory of Catechesis.

Here are some other suggestions to help you at home. Pray each day as a family; schedule a special time to read and discuss lessons bring home each week. Also, take time to talk with your child about Jesus and His place in our lives, and, most of all, participate fully in the Sunday Eucharist.

We are looking forward to working with you in the spiritual formation of your children. Together we can give our children the gift of peace in knowing God's love is there to draw on their entire lives.

May God bless you and your families in this endeavor.

Yours in Christ,
Katie Blinstrubas
Director of Youth Formation

K-8 Program Schedule

1st Grade - Mondays

3:45 – 4:45

5:00 – 6:00

6:15 – 7:15

2nd Grade - Mondays

3:45 – 4:45

5:00 – 6:00

6:15 – 7:15

4th Grade – M/T/W

M – 3:45 – 5:15

M – 5:30 – 7:00

T – 5:00 – 6:30

W – 5:30 – 7:00

5th Grade – M/T/W

M – 3:45 – 5:15

M – 5:30 – 7:00

T – 5:00 – 6:30

W – 5:30 – 7:00

6th Grade – T/W/F

T – 5:00 – 6:30

W – 5:30 – 7:00

F – 3:00 – 4:30

7th Grade – T/W/F

T – 5:00 – 6:30

W – 5:30 – 7:00

F – 3:00 – 4:30

8th Grade – T/W/F

T – 5:00 – 6:30

W – 5:30 – 7:00

F – 3:00 – 4:30

3rd grade meets Saturday 9:00 – 10:15 in the Parish Center

Kindergarten meets Monday 3:45 – 4:45

Kindergarten will only be scheduled if five or more students are registered.

All classes are held in the Parish Center.

Promptness is important. Please check class time and location on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the Church.



Registration

Registration begins in April and ends June 30th. There will be a late fee for registrations received after June 30th.

It is important to keep in mind that we try to keep the class sizes small, ideally 12 students. If you need a certain time slot, please register early. Classes will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Please look carefully at your child's schedule. There can be no switching classes after the year has started.

Once again the finance committee has set the fees for Youth Formation program, based on our budget. Our budget includes salaries, books, retreats, children's liturgy, crafts, Christmas Pageant, Living Stations, spring play, staff training, meetings, need based tuition, office expenses, basketball, speakers, etc. St. Anthony Church supports over 50% of the cost for 1 child.



Curriculum

Our program uses Phlaum's *Gospel Weeklies* for grades 1-8. This series is a lectionary-based catechesis. The Lectionary is the Church's book of scripture readings, organized for reading aloud at worship. *Gospel Weeklies* build on the foundation of the Sunday Gospel a comprehensive instruction of Catholic doctrine, liturgy and sacraments, the commandments of old and new law, and prayer.

Each parent is given benchmarks developed by the Archdiocese of Hartford. These benchmarks address what every child should know in his/her grade.

Homework and Assessment

Each week you as parents should discuss the lesson with your children. Take time to look at the *Gospels Weeklies* booklet with them.

At the end of each eight week cycle, a review/assessment will be given in class.

Retreats

Grade level retreats are scheduled at various times. Please check you child's calendar, the bulletin, or the St. Anthony website for these events.

Retreats are in the Church Hall at varied times. If there is a funeral, the retreat will be rescheduled, if possible.

Ministry Projects

To reinforce to concepts of Catholic Social teaching and Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, each class will be involved in at least one ministry project. The catechists and the Youth Formation Office will work together to implement these projects.

Attendance Policy

It is important that attendance is consistent since we only meet once a week.

A call will be made to the parents after multiple absences when no notification of absence has been made. More than 6 unexplained absences require a meeting with the DYF, parent and child.

It is expected that families attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days as well as at least 2 parish spiritual events...

Students in 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th grades and students in our High School program must sign an attendance sheet and hand it to a priest or deacon after Mass.



Behavior Guidelines

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart with all your soul, and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

With Christ's words in mind we expect our students to:

- † Respect for everyone by using well mannered language with considerate attitude.
- † Respect for each other and all parish property.
- † To be open about learning about the faith.
- † Be polite and respectful to all teachers and staff.
- † Be quiet and attentive once the class begins.
- † To bring all books and other material needed for class each week and do all homework assignments.
- † Any lost textbook will be charged the replacement cost. All un-reviewed work will have to be completed.
- † To review material and be prepared for tests and quizzes.
- † To remove all hats while entering the building.
- † Respect themselves by wearing modest clothing, having appropriate shirt designs with nothing offensive.
- † No electronic devices (phone, mp3 players, etc.) are allowed in classes.

We are proud of the behavior of the young people who have gone through our program. However, we would like to remind you that proper behavior and conduct is

expected. Any recurring behavior or conduct problem will be addressed with the parents and the DYF.

THREE STRIKE SYSTEM: Behavior problems or inattentiveness will be handled with the following *Three Strike* system:

1. The teacher/leader will speak to the candidate directly as to the problem and what must be done in order to correct the situation. Behavior Log filled out. (STRIKE 1)
2. If the situation continues, the teacher/leader will notify the DYF who will meet with the candidate, his/her parent(s), and the teacher/leader (if possible) to discuss what must be done in order to correct the situation. (STRIKE 2)
3. If the situation continues, the teacher/leader will notify the DYF, who in turn, will notify the Pastor and request that the student be removed from the program. (Strike 3)

Behavior Log

This will be filled out by the student at the time of the disruption and mailed to the parent. It must be signed by both a parent and the student. This makes the child accountable for his/her behavior. It also alerts parents to any unacceptable behavior. The behavior log will be returned to the teacher the following class.

Snow Closings

All Classes

Snow Day cancellations are announced on: WATR or TV Channels 3 and 8. We will also leave a message on the Youth Formation voice mail. 758-4848

All Teachers will be called by RE office or Lead Teacher. Also, an announcement will be made via message on Youth Formation answering machine.

Week Day Classes:

If Region 16 schools are canceled or let out early, Faith Formation classes are canceled. If conditions deteriorate after school hours, parents will be notified by teachers or Youth Formation Office. If time allows, we will ask the schools to make an announcement.

Snow day lessons are to be made up at home.

Arrival and departure for Students

Parish Center Drop Off

Please do not drop children to class any earlier than 10 minutes before class. Our catechists need time to set up for class.

All students are expected to proceed directly to their class and not linger outside or roam the building. Beginning the week before classes begin, please check on the bulletin boards in the back of the Church or in the Parish Center for the specific location of your class.

Please walk your children to his/her class in the Parish Center or down the stairs to the lower level classroom. *For safety's sake, do not drop off in the parking lot.*

Parish Center Pick Up

There are three dismissal points: 1) Rooms Prudence and Fortitude will be dismissed from the main entrance to the Parish Center; 2) Faith will be dismissed from the courtyard gate near the handicap ramp; 3) Hope will dismiss for its side door. 4) Classes in Charity and Temperance will be dismissed via the stairs to the lower level. Catechists will escort the children to their assigned exit. Parents are not to wait in the hall of the Parish

Center or knock on doors to let teacher know they are there. **For the safety of the children, please come to the catechist to pick up your child; children will not be released to a car in the parking lot. Orderliness is important to ensure students are safely and properly dismissed.**

Please park in a lined parking space—do not line up or park at the curb in front of the Parish Center. This causes traffic problems and is a safety issue.

If someone other than the parent needs to pick-up child a note MUST be brought in by child prior to class. If a child needs to leave early they must submit a written note prior to class to the teacher. Room parent walks child to side door at proper time.

If a child's parent comes to pick up child without prior notification they will need to notify the Youth Formation Office FIRST and then proceed to the classroom with a note saying I.D. had been verified.

YOUTH FORMATION CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to reach with us, please leave a message at the Youth Formation Office, 758-4848

Joe Carrah, ext 14;

Email: faithformation@stanthonychurch.comcastbiz.net

Katie Blinstrubas, ext 13;

Email: stanthonyre@comcast.net

Carmelina Calabrese, ext. 19. Email:

stanthonyre3@comcast.net

You may e-mail Katie at and Carmelina at

stanthonyre3@comcast.net

See bulletin for office hours.

Please sign and return to your child's catechist:

I have received and read the St. Anthony Faith Formation Parent Handbook

Parent Signature

Date

Child(ren)'s name(s)

Cut on dotted line