

2024 – 2025 ST. ANNE PARISH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILY HANDBOOK



Found on: <https://www.holyspiritngm.org/children-s-faith-formation>

Phone Number: 630-554-1425

K – 5 Director:

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6 – 8 (D.A.S.H./Confirmation) Director:

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SESSION TIMES FOR 2024-2025

Grades K-5 & DASH 1 (6th): Meets on-campus weekly; mid-September through mid-May

Monday: 4:45 – 5:45pm **OR** 6:15 – 7:15pm **Tuesday:** 4:45 – 5:45pm **Wednesday:** 5:30 – 6:30pm

DASH 2 (7th)

Full Year on Monday 6 – 7:15pm (limited # of students)

Full Year on Tuesday 4:45 – 6pm (limited # of students)

Full Year Sunday 5 – 7pm (2 classes available)

1st Semester Sunday 5-7pm & 2nd Semester Remote (at home – with parent support)

DASH 3 (8th): Students will choose a day/time for 1st semester and 2nd semester.

Sunday 1st Semester 5:30-7pm & 2nd Semester 5-7pm

Monday 6-7:15pm

Wednesday 5:15-6:30pm

1st semester a remote option is available (*but not for 2nd semester*)

WHO WE ARE – OUR ROLE & PURPOSE

St. Anne Religious Education strives to catechize (educate) our youth about the Catholic faith, to develop and strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ, and provide a strong base for their life-long journey of discipleship. In accordance with Diocesan guidelines, preparation for the sacraments of Baptism (when applicable), First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation is integrated into the Religious Education curriculum.

Acknowledging parents as the primary educators of their children, we, the staff and volunteers, offer a partnership with families to echo the Catholic faith for children. In order to assist parents and guardians, we promise to provide: (1) a Diocesan approved curriculum and textbooks along with (2) other Christian resources that includes materials (crafts/storybooks/games), activities, and videos to enhance your child(ren)'s learning about our Catholic faith; (3) engagement with Scripture and prayer experiences (4) offered through St. Anne parishioner volunteers who we will prepare/train. (5) Throughout the year we will provide different family experiences to build community and encourage your faith life.

As a family participating in our Religious Education Program, we ask that enter into a covenant agreement with this parish that you will strive to make the faith formation of every member of your family a priority through the following actions:

- Attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation
- Regularly praying together as a family
- Assuring that RE/DASH classes are attended faithfully by the children and youth in your family
- Living your Catholic Christian faith beyond Sunday Mass

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Kindergarten religious education classes are encouraged but are not mandatory as part of the elementary curriculum and do not count as one of the two years toward First Communion preparation. Simple scripture stories, prayers, crafts, and activity leaflets from Our Sunday Visitor's *Allelu!* program are used to provide an introduction to Jesus and the basics of the faith.

GRADES 1-5 CURRICULUM

The RE lessons for grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 are based on the *Discover!* program and *The Catholic Children's Bible* from St. Mary's Press. Grade 2 uses *Go Seek Find* from St. Mary's Press to prepare students for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Through a combination of weekly attendance at Mass, prayer, regular attendance at RE classes, and review of the lessons at home, a student that is catechized in the RE Program throughout their elementary school years should finish 5th grade with a basic introduction to these foundational faith topics:

- * Revelation: basic teachings and Traditions of the Catholic Church; key stories of Scripture
- * Trinity: beliefs about God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creed; prayer
- * Jesus Christ: miracles, teachings, and life of Jesus (Paschal Mystery); Real Presence
- * The Church: hierarchy of the Church; liturgical year/seasons; Mary and the Saints; vocations
- * Morality: Ten Commandments; Great Commandment; Beatitudes; forming conscience; virtues
- * Sacraments: the who, what, when, where, and why of the 7 sacraments; grace; sacramentals
- * Kingdom of God: living as a disciple of Jesus in the world; heaven; Second Coming



D.A.S.H IS OUR JR. HIGH PROGRAM

The words that encompass DASH – Disciples Actively Striving for Holiness – gives the compass for all content, work/expectations given to our Jr. High students to develop as stronger disciples. Students are moving towards confirming, for themselves, their Baptism (which was chosen by you as parents) in Confirmation.

D.A.S.H was created specifically for St. Anne Jr. High students in 2015 to allow them to **learn information** but to do so in a group environment that allows interaction, connection, deeper conversation, and prayerful experiences. While a textbook is the backbone of all content, *students engaging in the Youth Ministry model on Sunday evenings are not just reading from the book.* [New for 2024-2025, weekday class options will be available, and these classes will be traditional textbook based experience.](#)

CURRICULUM for Jr. High is from St. Mary's Press *Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers* and the *Breakthrough Bible for Young Catholics*. The textbook is the backbone for all DASH levels. Lesson plans are geared toward the social and cognitive needs of students for their grade level.

The image about Discipleship process shows the ultimate dream for each student, each family: moving from “just belonging” to a church, to truly believing what it teaches, becoming an active member, and then living out that “beingness” of a disciple in everyday decisions. This is a lifelong process! DASH content touches especially on moving young adolescents from Belonging to Believing, while witnessing that “being” is possible by allowing our Catholic faith to be infused into all life choices/actions.

DASH 1 = (usually 6th grade) Their focus is the Old Testament, Catholic connections to the Old Testament, Liturgical Year, and precepts of the Catholic Church.

**Classes still meet weekly on weekdays*

DASH 2 = (usually 7th grade) Focusing on Jesus as our God who is human and our friend.

**Sessions on Sundays, Monday or Tuesday*

DASH 3 = (usually 8th grade) Strengthening, or starting, personal understanding of how to be a disciple for Jesus in the Catholic Church to personally desire the grace of Confirmation.

**Sessions on Sundays, Monday or Wednesday*

Discipleship Process

Being

- Sharing Christ
- Fruits of the Spirit
- Have an emotional healthy spirituality
- Christ Likeness

Becoming

- Knowing Spiritual Gifts
- Serving in ministry

Believing

- Spiritual disciplines: Prayer, Reading God's Word, Silence, Stewardship
- Desire to know God more
- Understanding who we are in Christ

Belonging

God

- Becoming a child of God
- Connected and making connections
 - Interdependence
- Love for the family of God

His family



ATTENDANCE POLICY & GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

PRESENCE AT MASS:

For the 2024-2025 RE year, if you are not already going to weekly Mass, we hope and expect that you attend Mass as a family *at least* 50% of the time (2 out of 4 weekends a month). While this should be true for all families, for all those in immediate Sacrament Preparation years (1st, 2nd, DASH 2 and DASH 3) “attendance” will be taken, by use of children’s envelopes, to allow us to better reach out to families who need encouragement to live our Catholic identity to its fullest. If you are unable to attend Mass here at St. Anne, wherever you go to Mass get a bulletin and after Mass have the deacon or priest at that Mass sign it. Your child(ren) should then turn that in to their RE teacher.

ABSENCE/ILLNESS:

We expect that students will arrive on time and remain *for the entire session* so as to respect the group’s learning time **and miss only in cases of illness or emergency.**

If your child is ill and has missed school that day, or has a fever, please do not send them to RE/DASH. See below for guidelines regarding completing make-up work and/or how many absences are allowed.

Notification of absence is not required but is helpful especially for those in DASH.

If you want to let us know: call RE office at 630-554-1425 or e-mail your child’s DRE.

Grades K, 3, 4, and 5:

Consistent attendance and completion of make-up work for any absences is strongly encouraged.

Sacrament Preparation:

Per Diocesan Policy, a child must attend ***at least two consecutive years of faith formation prior to receiving a Sacrament.*** Thus, in order to receive Reconciliation and First Eucharist a child must be enrolled in RE for grades 1 & 2; and for Confirmation be enrolled for grades 6 – 8 (DASH 1 - 3).

Grades 1 & 2:

While occasional absences may be necessary due to illness or other life events, these grade levels ***require completion of ALL content.*** So, if your child is absent, because of the curriculum given, they can and should complete a make-up lesson *for any* class missed.

For Grade 2, there are a few additional events to prepare your child, and you, for their upcoming Sacraments. (1) First Reconciliation Parent Meeting in October; (2) First Eucharist Parent Meeting in January; (3) Parent/Child First Eucharist Retreat in March; (4) Possible online parent courses or a book to read.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

If your child does not complete the required curriculum (in a timely manner as noted above or below for DASH) a conversation/meeting with your child’s grade level DRE will determine how to proceed for the following RE year. Please be aware that a possible consequence of these actions could be an extension of the preparation process (meaning a delay in a Sacrament.)



Because presence in class *is much better and more enjoyable*, this year we are trying a new policy. We are getting rid of the make-up work *per* absence **but allowing only 1 absence** equaling a total of 2 hours **per** semester for **D2** and **D3**, and for those in **DASH 1** up to 3 hours per semester. However, if your child missed a lesson that is quite essential, make-up work will be given or in DASH 3 a make-up session may be offered.

DASH LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

DASH 1: Presence at all on campus sessions. Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in a Ministry Project or other family service hours.

DASH 2: Presence at all on campus sessions and **completion of** all other assigned content relating to Confirmation preparation 2nd semester in Google Classroom **along with** a DASH Ministry project.

DASH 3: Presence at all on campus sessions and **completion of** all other assigned curriculum in Google Classroom.

Confirmation/disciple related items outside of curriculum:

- **Prayer experiences** (done daily – but monthly reflection)
- **Discipleship Project** (a year-long project)
- **Sponsor Conversations** (monthly with topics sent to sponsors)

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Homeschool

It is **strongly** encouraged that students in sacramental prep years be present on campus, however we are open to assisting families in 1st or 2nd grade who want/need to be homeschooled.

Homeschool content for DASH 1- 3:

Students in DASH 1 or DASH 2 who seek homeschool work need a parent who is willing to guide them through the content as curriculum work is robust to do on their own. A student's academic ability will determine if it takes more or less time to complete. **If your child has an IEP, parent help will be required to modify the content to meet their needs.** Homeschool content for DASH 1 and 2 will **not** match the content on campus. **Thus, switching between home to campus will not be an option.**

DASH 3: Other than the remote options provided 1st semester, homeschooling is **not** an option 2nd semester.

All homeschool families will be given the materials and lessons they need. All required activities must be completed and turned in for each lesson in order to advance to the next grade level.

Homeschool families are welcome to come to any special events held during class time. Please check in with your DRE to let us know you are present in the building so your child can be placed into a classroom that day.

The registration process and fee is the same for those who choose to participate in the Homeschool option as it is for students participating on campus.

Sacrament Preparation for Older Students

The sacramental preparation plan for Baptism (if needed), First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist for children in grades 3 – 9 who have had no prior religious education will be a two-year process. During both years, the child(ren) will attend regular RE/DASH classes with their age-mates. During the second year, they will attend separate sacrament preparation classes as well. Parents of these child(ren) may be asked to attend one or more parent sessions.

**Note: A child who begins religious education for the first time as an incoming 2nd grader will be placed into a 1st grade classroom in order to follow diocesan protocol.*

STUDENT Code of Behavior

- ❖ Bring your textbook, folder, Bible, and/or any other materials you need **for each class**. This applies to all grade levels.
- ❖ Use the restroom before class begins.
- ❖ Respect the church and parish center surroundings, as well as the property of others.
- ❖ Follow the directions given by any adult in the classrooms, hallways, and church.
- ❖ Follow all verbal and posted directives. Should we ever return to a mandate for mask-wearing, or social distancing, all directives must be followed to be on campus.
- ❖ During class time, cell phones should be placed on silent/do not disturb so as not to distract that child or the class. Students in DASH may be asked to use their cell phone during class instruction only on the website given (*such as Kahoot, Pear Deck, Socrative, et cetera.*) If an adult leader does not ask for phones to be out, they should be placed in child's bag.
- ❖ Be a good listener – pay attention to whomever is speaking and raise your hand and wait for your turn to speak.
- ❖ Respectfully participate in classroom discussions and activities.
- ❖ Show respect by keeping your hands/feet to yourself and using appropriate language.
- ❖ Fidgets and other similar devices must stay in your bag.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

All religious education and other programs for youth in the Diocese of Joliet actively seek to provide a supportive, caring environment in which all persons are safe from all forms of intimidation including bullying, which is unacceptable, unchristian, and strictly prohibited.

Please refer to the full “***DOJ Anti-Bullying Policy***,” found on our Parish Website, for more information about what constitutes bullying (including cyber bullying), and the disciplinary ramifications for participating in bullying.

PARENT NOTES

DISCIPLINE: If a student must be verbally warned multiple times about his/her behavior, the child may be moved to another seat, asked to take a “timeout,” or brought to the RE Office to speak to the Director. If a child’s behavior remains a concern and is brought to the office a second time, a parent will be called to discuss the situation and seek a solution. If the Director feels a situation warrants it, they may ask the student miss a class (an excused absence) to see how the class interacts without that child and know how to proceed in conversation.

GUESTS: For safety and legal reasons, students may not bring a guest with them to class.

FOOD: Due to allergy concerns and sanitation issues, please do NOT send food with your children to RE classes. **Note:** *Food may be offered at times at the discretion of the DRE to reinforce a lesson or concept. All choices will avoid any anaphylactic foods for the whole group.*

EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS

If school is cancelled in Oswego District 308 due to inclement weather, then RE and DASH sessions are **usually** cancelled for that day as well.

Flocknote: We will use the Flocknote system to send a text to your primary phone number and a message to your primary email address(es) to inform you when classes are cancelled due to inclement weather or emergency. ***Please be sure to inform us of any changes to your contact information.***

St. Anne Parish: Check the parish website at <http://stanneparish.org/>

2024-2025 SAFETY & SECURITY POLICY

Building

- ❖ Always enter and exit the Joachim Center through the main doors by the Parish Office. All side doors are for emergency use only. Do not open locked doors for others.
- ❖ Once classes have begun, only volunteers, students, and staff members will be allowed in the hallways.
- ❖ All adults must use the restrooms in the link between the parish center and the Church. The restrooms in the parish center hallways are for student use only.
- ❖ Anyone entering the building *during class time* will be asked to sign in and state their reason for being in the building and will be limited to the Parish Office, RE Office or the Chapel.
- ❖ Any parent/adult who needs to remain in the building during class time for special circumstances must get permission to do so from the Director of Religious Education.
- ❖ **Any parent or other authorized adult needing to take a child home early must report directly to the RE Office** rather than the classroom to sign out the child. A hallway monitor or aide will bring the child to the office.
- ❖ RE sessions *may* participate in an Evacuation (Fire) Drill, a Shelter in Place (Severe Weather) Drill, and/or a Lock-Down Drill during the year.



Drop-Off & Pick-Up for K - 5 & DASH 1 (Gr. 6)

- ❖ Be courteous, drive slowly, watch for pedestrians, and honor the parking cones.
- ❖ There is absolutely NO parking, waiting, or dropping students off along the curb or ***under the canopy to the church***. You must always park in a legal parking space.
- ❖ **ALL students must be walked into the Parish Center (Joachim Building) and to their classroom by a parent or other authorized adult. No child is to be dropped off at the curb or in the vestibule.**
- ❖ **Do NOT leave your child in a classroom unattended.** Wait with your child until a catechist or aide is present.
- ❖ Hallway monitors will open the hallway doors at the conclusion of each session. Please pick up your youngest child first and then proceed to your oldest child.
- ❖ Catechists/aides will not release a student at the end of class until a parent or other authorized adult comes to the classroom to get the child.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up for DASH 2 & 3 (Gr. 7 & 8)

- ❖ Sunday DASH 2 & 3 families will follow a single line drop off directly in front of Joachim Center and per the direction of parking monitors.
- ❖ **Pick-up:** Students will be dismissed TO meet parents in the parking lots at the end of the session. ***If ANY safety issues occur, we will return to indoor pickup!***

FAMILY TEACHING OF PRAYERS/KNOWLEDGE

As you are the primary faith teacher for your child(ren), we ask that you ensure your child(ren) **know the specific prayers and concepts listed by grade level below**. Though often these topics are part of our grade level curriculum, we don't always have time to go over them to ensure proper memorization of key components and prayers of our Catholic faith – this is where your role, as primary educator, is most valuable!

With YOUR help, at the END of each year your child should know:

Kindergarten:

Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(Using your right hand, touch forehead, breast/chest, left shoulder, right shoulder)

1st grade: all the above plus

Our Father: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

2nd grade: all the above plus

Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Glory Be: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

3rd grade: all the above plus

Apostle's Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Holy Trinity: We believe in one God with three "persons":

- God the Father
- God the Son (Jesus)
- God the Holy Spirit

4th grade: all the above plus

Commandments:

(Students should know in order the Catholic wording which is different than Protestant wording and numbering.)

1. You shall honor no other god but me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Greatest Commandment: You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And then, you should love your neighbor as yourself.

The Beatitudes:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5th grade: all of the above plus

Sacraments: Students should be able to name and explain each of the seven sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Vocation: Holy Orders/Ordination, Matrimony/Marriage

DASH 1/ 6th grade:

Talk with your child after each class to ask what they covered that day and what key point they remember.

Concepts taught in this grade level include:

The knowledge of Salvation History through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as discovered through the covenant relationships found in the Old Testament. Cumulative knowledge at the end of the year should include the story and faith connection to each of the main figures of the Old Testament (Adam/Eve; Noah; Abraham; Moses; some Prophets).

The below items which are found on pg. 2116 of their Breakthrough Bible:

1) The Precepts of the Catholic Church:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the Holy Days of Obligation.
5. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
6. The faithful have the obligation of supporting the Church.

2) Knowing the **importance and colors of each** Liturgical season

3) Holy Days of Obligation – and what each means

DASH 2/ 7th grade: all the above plus

Concepts taught in this grade level include:

Understanding of God's revelation as found through the Incarnation in Jesus Christ and through his signs and wonders (miracles) and teachings (parables) in the New Testament. *Students should be able to know and name a few different miracles (Breakthrough Bible pg. 2087) and parables (Breakthrough Bible pg. 2088).*

The below items which are found on pg. 2115 of their Breakthrough Bible:

Theological Virtues of: Faith, Hope, Love

Cardinal Virtues of: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

Finally: Charity vs. Justice & awareness of the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

DASH 3/ 8th grade: all the above plus

Transubstantiation/Real Presence in the Eucharist

Works of Mercy: (pg. 2115 of Breakthrough Bible)

Corporal: Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked,
Visit the imprisoned, Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick, Bury the dead

Spiritual: Convert the sinner, Instruct the ignorant, Counsel the doubtful,
Comfort the sorrowful, Bear wrongs patiently, Forgive all injuries,
Pray for the living and the dead

Gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord

Fruits of the Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Self-Control, Gentleness, Love, Goodness, Faithfulness, Kindness, Generosity, Modesty, Chastity

The Nicene Creed: (which includes the 4 Marks of the Catholic Church)

*I believe in **one God**, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

*I believe in one Lord **Jesus Christ**, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

*I believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

*I believe in **one, holy, catholic and apostolic** Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ALL FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO TEACH/PRAY the ROSARY with their child

Mysteries of the Rosary:

Joyful Mysteries: Monday & Saturday

The Annunciation
The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
The Birth of Jesus
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries: Tuesday & Friday

The Agony of Jesus in the Garden
The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion

Luminous Mysteries: Thursday

The Baptism of Jesus
The Wedding at Cana
The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
The Transfiguration of Jesus
The Last Supper

Glorious Mysteries: Wednesday & Sunday

The Resurrection of Jesus
The Ascension of Jesus
The Decent of Holy Spirit at Pentecost
The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
The Crowning of Mary