

2017/18 Religious Education Class Dates

September 16th
September 30th
October 14th
October 28th
November 4th
November 18th
December 2nd
December 9th
January 13th
January 27th
February 10th
February 24th
March 10th
March 24th
April 7th
April 21^{st d}

Classes meet from 9:30 A.M. until 11:30 A.M.

First Holy Communion is May 5, 2018

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM

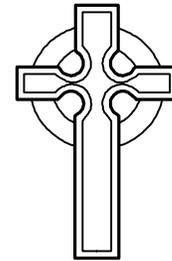
9:00 AM

11:00 AM

4:30 PM

2017/2018

Parent Handbook



**St. Celestine Parish
Religious Education**

**3020 North 76th Court
Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707**

Weekday Phone #708-452-0150

Saturday Phone #708-453-8234

**Access all Religious Education
information at our website:**

stcelestineparish.org

Catechetical Purpose: Our purpose is to help our students build their connections to God through Prayer, to incorporate God into their everyday lives and to recognize opportunities to enhance their relationship with God.

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2017/18 Religious Education Program. Thank you for making your child's spiritual journey a priority.

Our staff is here to support your efforts as the primary teacher of your child. The St. Celestine Religious Education program exists for students in grades 1-8 who during the week attend a public or home school. Through the combination of your child's family experience, the classroom experience and participation in the St. Celestine faith community, your child's faith will develop and grow.

Our teachers commit an incredible amount of time, talent and energy to provide the best environment for your child to experience Jesus in their lives. Please help your child's teacher by talking with your child about their class, helping them with their Religious Education homework, and by accompanying them to mass on the weekend.

Whether you are new to our program or seasoned veterans your child is of the utmost importance to us. If you have any questions or comments at anytime please do not hesitate to call the **Religious Education Office at 708-452-0150**

May you and your families continue to be blessed with God's love!

God's Peace,

Julie McGuire
Coordinator of Religious Education

St. Celestine Parish
Religious Education Staff

Caroline Berger
Jamie Birmingham
Kimberly Burch
Lorena Garcia
Licely Guzman
Marely Guzman
Debbie Jankiewicz
Caitlyn Joost
Mary Joost
Mike Miller
Mary Mullen
Maxine Niemeier-Poore
Marge and Tony Schiavone
Jacquelyn Schweitzer
Colleen Sheahan

Parish Priests

Rev. Paul Cao - Pastor
Rev. Andre Beltran - Associate
Rev. Jeffrey Grob - Resident priest
Rev. Filbert Ngwila - Resident priest

Parish Deacons

Dennis Colgan
Mike DeLarco
Miguel Negron

Religious Education Office
708-452-0150 Monday - Friday

708-453-8234 to report an absence
on Saturday mornings only.
(after 8:30am)

Religious Education And The Sacraments

Sacraments are a lifetime commitment to our faith and the community to which we belong. Through the Religious Education Program we work with you as parents, and invite the children of our parish to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. We are responsible for the preparation needed for the reception of these sacraments.

Evidence shows religion is very rarely a lasting value for children if their parents do not actively participate in activities related to their child's spiritual journey. Parents can participate by attending weekly liturgies at St. Celestine with their child, reviewing the work covered in the classroom and by attending scheduled parent/child activities.

After your child has attended two years of religious education, they will be invited to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They will also receive Holy Eucharist for the first time during the same year. During these two years of preparation our hope is that your child has established a relationship with Jesus, has a good understanding of the responsibility of loving others, has had the experience of making choices, has had the experience of judging his/her actions, and has had the experience of forgiving others and being forgiven by his/her parents and friends. We also expect your child to have a sense of our faith community by attending weekly liturgies.

Students are encouraged to participate in the Religious Education classes continually through 8th grade, after the reception of Holy Eucharist. Students from both our Parish Religious Education Program and our Parish Day School who have completed the 8th grade will be invited to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students are Confirmed as High School Sophomores.

Information regarding the Confirmation program, will be mailed to your home in the fall of the student's Freshman year.

For Your Information

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is essential and required for all eight years of your child's Religious Education. More than 4 absences during the school year is considered excessive and could result in a child repeating the current grade level.

We ask that all outside appointments such as doctor, dentist, etc. be made either after class time or on the Saturdays when we are not in session. Many of our students participate in sport programs and extra curricular programs on Saturdays. Please inform your child's coach or instructor about their commitment to the Religious Education Program.

If for any reason, your child must leave early on a class day, a note from the parent is required. **Any child leaving the building must be picked up and signed out from the school office.** No one is allowed to go to the classroom to pick up a child.

Reporting an Absence

In the case of an absence, the school office must be notified. Please call 708-453-8234 between 8:30 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. on the morning of class. This number should be used only on the day of class. Work missed because of an absence must be made up by the student.

Tardiness

A student will be marked tardy if he/she arrives after 9:35 A.M. If a student arrives late they must report to the school office. Parents will be notified of excessive tardiness.

Parent Information

Please notify the office of any changes in address or telephone numbers that occur during the school year.

If a change happens in the family during the year due to separation or divorce it would help us to better respond to your child if we are notified. In child custody

situations it is important that our office be informed as to who is the custodial parent.

Communicating With Parents

The usual method for communicating classroom and program information is through the use of letters or notices sent home with your child. Please check your child's folders after each class for these notices. Sometimes emails will be sent with information

Homework

Homework provides parents a realistic idea about what their child is learning in the classroom.

Your child's teacher most often assigns some type of homework to be completed for the next class. All of the assignments are to be completed and handed in at the next class.

Student participation in the classroom is essential. The student should be prepared by bringing their books, folders, and homework to each class. If your child loses their book during the year, they will be required to purchase a new one.

Student Progress Reports

Students in levels 1-8 receive progress reports twice during the school year. These reports provide parents with a view of the student's progress throughout the year.

Discipline

We take your child's right to Religious Education very seriously. We intend to create an environment for every child to learn. If we find that a student disrupts the class or does not cooperate with their teacher, we will contact the parents. Serious problems will require a conference with the parent and the child.

Students should not bring any type of toy to class. Toys are disruptive to both the student and the other children in the classroom.

Candy and gum chewing are not allowed in class unless supervised by your child's teacher.

Students may wear baseball caps to the school building, but must remove them before entering the building.

No pagers or cellular telephones are to be brought to class.

Severe Weather and Emergency School Closing

With the exception of a breakdown in the operating of the facilities, an extreme emergency condition, or severe weather, Religious Education classes will be in session according to the class calendar.

If we must cancel a class due to any of the reasons listed above, you will receive a phone call from your child's teacher before 9:00 A.M. the morning of that particular class.

Tuition Payments

Tuition payments for families using the 2x per year plan are due on:

**October 14, 2017
January 27, 2018**

Tuition balances can be obtained by calling the RE Office at 708-452-0150

As members of our St. Celestine Parish Community we all have a responsibility for actively supporting the work of our entire parish. Our parish community supports the Religious Education Program through the generous financial subsidy they provide to us. We ask you to participate by contributing financially, using your Sunday envelopes.

Thank you.