

Shepherd of the Hills Catholic Parish

1-8 Religious Education Handbook

Mission Statement

Shepherd of the Hills Parish Community and parents form a partnership in which the entire community, centered in the Eucharist, shares responsibility for the faith formation of our young people. As partners in this mission, our goal is to draw our young people into a deeper relationship with God through active participation in the life and ministry of the Church.

It is important for all of us to understand that faith development begins in the home and that parents are the primary teachers and models of our faith. Shepherd of the Hills Religious Education Program strives to support, guide, and supplement the faith formation nurtured in the home. Therefore it is expected that all parents and children attend Mass weekly and participate in the parish community of Shepherd of the Hills by sharing their time, talent and treasure.

Attendance

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:15–7:30 PM at Shepherd of the Hills. Since we only have limited number of hours of actual instruction time, it is important that students attend all classes. Please call the Religious Education Office at **477-3551 x. 208** by 6:00 PM the night of class to register an absence. Voice Mail is available for messages.

Components of our Religious Education Program

Shepherd of the Hills Religious Education Program integrates the following components into each level of a child's faith development:

1. Fundamental Catholic Truths
2. Scripture
3. Prayer and Sacraments
4. Catholic Traditions
5. Catholic moral teaching and Respect for Life
6. Christian Service

K-5 students use the RCL Benziger 'Blest Are We' religion book series. The goal of the elementary program is to support, guide and supplement the faith nurtured in the home.

6-8 students participate in The Edge program. The Edge program is a Catholic middle school youth ministry experience created for early adolescents. It is designed to meet their educational, spiritual, emotional and social needs. The format follows that of the Life Teen program and thus lays the foundation and provides a natural transition into the Life Teen program in grade 9.

9-12 students participate in the Life Teen Program. Life Teen is a comprehensive youth ministry program with a strong focus on the Eucharist. Students gather on Sunday evenings twice a month for a liturgy geared toward their spiritual needs. Following Mass they gather for a Life Night. The Life Night provides opportunities for the teens to learn about the truths of the Catholic Church in creative and challenging ways.

Student Drop Off

Religious Education students should be dropped off at the school (south east) entrance. Students should not be dropped off before 6:10 PM, as there is no supervision. No other doors should be used for drop off.

Dismissal

Religious Education students will be dismissed from the school (south east) entrance. We ask that parents or a designated adult pick up their younger children at these doors and escort them safely through the parking lot. No other doors will be used for dismissal.

Registration

Registration begins in April. Families must register each year. New families should please contact the Religious Education Office. 2016-17 Registrations are due July 1, 2016

Snow Cancellations

In case of bad weather, we will notify WTMJ – 620 AM radio and TV channel 4, KFIZ – 1450 AM, 96.1 FM, and 97.7 FM radio.

Website

Shepherd of the Hills Parish has a website – **www.sothparish.org** – where you can access Religious Education information including registration forms, calendars, the full Religious Ed Handbook and more.

Explanation of Fees

Shepherd of the Hills Parish Members

Grade School (gr.1,3,4,5)	\$70.00
Grade School (gr. 2)	\$100.00
The Edge (gr. 6-8)	\$80.00
Life Teen (gr. 9 & 10)	\$80.00
Life Teen (gr. 11)	\$180.00

Non Members

Grade School (gr. K,1,3,4,5)	\$140.00
Grade School (gr. 2)	\$200.00
The Edge (gr. 6-8)	\$160.00
Life Teen (gr. 9 & 10)	\$160.00
Life Teen (gr. 11)	\$260.00

The maximum fee for Shepherd of the Hills Parish Members, excluding the additional fees for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation and Late Fees is \$220.00.

All Registrations received after **July 1** will be issued a **\$25.00 Late Fee.**