

**St. Ann and St. Joseph
Catholic Church
CCD Program
Parent-Student Handbook
2018 – 2019**



Dear Parents,

On behalf of St. Ann and St. Joseph Catholic Churches, we welcome you and your child to this year's CCD Religious Education program for Grades 1 through 8. We are honored to share our Catholic faith with your children.

It is our sincere hope that as you read through this handbook you will become better acquainted with our CCD program and become more aware of how you, as parents, can become more involved in your child's religious upbringing.

As always, we are happy to hear your input or to answer any questions you may have.

Deacon Mel Shell

Director of Faith Formation

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PARENTAL AND PARISH COLLABORATION

To raise a child in the Catholic faith requires a collaborative effort of both the parents and the parish. When both work together students receive the most out of their religious education.

At Baptism, parents and godparents promise to teach their child the Catholic faith. Our catechists are ready to assist you in keeping this promise. Therefore, we need your help and support in the following significant areas:

MASS ATTENDANCE

We all need to encourage and ensure faithful Mass attendance each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation for our children. Worship of God through participating in Holy Mass helps us to fulfil what Jesus called the first and greatest commandment, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Mt 22:37).

We will also have family Masses every other month as part of the CCD curriculum. Families are INVITED and ENCOURAGED to come to these Masses and celebrate with their students.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Parents need to encourage and ensure that those children under their care to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation which brings pardon, peace, and strength.

We will schedule opportunities for Grades 3 – 8 to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the school year.

FAMILY PRAYER

Parents need to foster family and personal prayer in the home by learning and using basic Catholic prayers.

PARENTAL FORMATION

Parents who have children preparing to receive a sacrament this year (First Holy Communion or Confirmation) need to attend the Parent Meetings and ensure their child’s attendance at other required meetings.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students need to attend religious education classes faithfully and on-time in order to nurture effective learning. Please make every effort to ensure that your student attends.

We begin promptly at **6:45 pm** (unless otherwise indicated) and end at **8:00 pm**.

STUDENT TEXTBOOK and FOLDER

Students need to bring their textbook with them to class each week to be used during class time. Parents need to check each week the contents of their child’s folder for reminders and any other important information.

CCD INFORMATION SOURCES

Information for CCD will be sent via three sources.

Flocknotes: Flocknotes gives us the ability to immediately text those enrolled with cancellations or other important information. Stop by the CCD office in the school to enroll.



Facebook: St. Ann and St. Joseph Parish Fremont

On the web at www.stjosephfremont.org

CANCELLATIONS

SNOW and ICE:

If classes for Fremont City Schools are cancelled for the day, have early dismissal, or cancel after-school activities, there will be NO Religious Education classes or special events. You can sign up for text alerts at the Fremont City Schools Website.

If Fremont City Schools delay opening, Religious Education and special events still will be held as scheduled.

FOG

When school is cancelled because of fog, we will STILL HAVE CCD classes. In the event that fog doesn't lift or sets in during the school/work day, see the next heading.

WEATHER CHANGES DURING THE SCHOOL/WORK DAY

If bad weather arises during the day and we need to cancel our evening session the decision will be made by 3:00 p.m.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Occasionally we have had problems with our building heat or other maintenance issues and we need to cancel our evening session, the decision will be made by 3:00 p.m.

RESPECT FOR PARISH AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

As guests of St. Ann Parish, all persons involved in Religious Education activities are asked to respect the parish property and the private property (catechists, volunteers, other students, etc.) of others: vandalizing or stealing the property of others and will not be tolerated.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Christian learning takes place in a loving Christian environment. For this reason the following behavior, which includes but is not limited to those listed below, will not be tolerated by anyone involved in Religious Education activities:

- Disrespect and disobedience
- Verbal threats and physical violence
- Use or possession illegal substances
- Inappropriate language or acts
- Littering, vandalizing or stealing
- Using cell phones or electronic devices during class time

If classroom discipline becomes a problem, we will ask that a parent accompany the student to class to assist us in correcting the behavior.

TEACHING SAFETY/TOUCHING SAFETY

St. Ann and St. Joseph Religious Education Program will present a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Teaching Safety/Touching Safety* program, to our students this year. The creators of the *Protecting God's Children*™ program developed the *Teaching Safety/Touching Safety* program.

This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Toledo, and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. An "Opt Out" form is available.