

*FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM*  
PARENT HANDBOOK



ST. MARY PARISH  
OF THE  
EMMAUS PASTORATE

314 MISSION STREET  
STRAWBERRY POINT, IOWA  
563-933-6166

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## *St. Mary Parish Mission Statement*

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The members of Saint Mary's possess a community spirit founded in the Catholic Faith, are open to new membership, inclusive in all aspects of service, and are looking to the future with vision and dedication.

Name	Position	Email	Contact Number
Fr. John Haugen	Pastor	dbq072@dbqarch.org	563-543-5873
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### *Introduction*

Welcome to St. Mary Parish and the Emmaus Pastorate. We are so pleased to have you and your child/children register in our Faith Formation Program. We have an exciting year ahead of us.

This handbook is designed to serve as a guide for students, parents, and catechists involved in the Faith Formation Program at St. Mary Parish. The philosophy, goals, policies, and rules contained in this handbook need to be understood and placed in the proper perspective.

The religious education and formation of each child is a responsibility shared by both the parent and the parish Faith Formation Program. The goal of religious education is not only to dispense information, but also to help form a person in his/her capacity to live a full life as a Catholic Christian.

The policies in this handbook have been adopted by St. Mary Faith Formation Commission and apply to the religious education programs at St. Mary Parish. These policies have been adopted by the commission to give parents, students, and catechists a sense of direction in responding to the religious and spiritual needs of parish families.

Rules and regulations are made to help inform the students of the rights and needs of others, as well as to help serve as a guide for his/her own acceptable behavior. Rules and regulations help to create and maintain an environment wherein quality religious education and the safety of every child is of the utmost importance.

Parents and catechists are requested to acquaint themselves, as well as the children, with the contents of this handbook. Knowledge of the policies and rules of this handbook will help achieve the goals of our faith formation program.

Thank you for all your support. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of spiritual growth, prayer development and service to community. We will tie it all together with fun and entertainment for people of all ages.

### *Faith Formation Session Times:*

6:30-7:45 p.m. Unless stated otherwise

### *Tuition:*

Registered parishioners—\$50 per student—maximum of \$150 per family

Non-registered parishioners—\$100 student—maximum of \$300 per family

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## *Roles and Responsibilities*

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### *The Role of Parents/Guardians*

The church teaches that parents have the privilege and responsibility of being the primary educator of the faith of their children. This education and formation in faith occurs in many ways: by modeling faith in daily actions, by modeling good moral judgments, by sharing regular family prayer times, and by attending Sunday Mass as a family.

The religious education program can only reinforce what is taught and modeled in the home. If interest in and encouragement for the program is shown in the home, then students will have that same enthusiasm for their faith, and will come to classes willingly.

During the brief time catechists have students for class, it is not possible to teach everything about our faith or to help them learn all their prayers. Therefore, it is essential that parents work with their children at home to learn these things and that there be dialogue between parents and children regarding what is being learned in the classroom.

The support of parents is evident in an all-encompassing way when they volunteer to help as a catechist, a classroom aide, or a volunteer. Please consider offering time in this way as an added support for the children.

### *Attendance*

Regular attendance at the Faith Formation Program is essential for students to make progress both spiritually and morally. Parents are responsible for the regular and prompt attendance of their children. All attendance policies are to be followed.

Students are expected to be in their locations on time with the required materials ready. Children arriving tardy tend to disrupt the entire session. If your child needs to arrive earlier than expected, please let us know.

**In the case of absence, a phone call from the parent is necessary to let us know that your student will be absent.** This will help us ensure the safety of all students. You can call the church at 563-933-6166 or Lori Keppler 563-880-1758.

### *Discipline*

Students are expected to follow St. Mary Faith Formation Policy.

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## *Policies*

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### *Policy for the Protection of Minors*

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe that they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and church authorities. Victim assistance coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional and mental health services, social service agencies, support groups, and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free **800-803-6758** to report an allegation or to receive assistance.

### *Senior Graduation Policy*

All St. Mary graduating high school seniors who are actively participating in their respective religious education programs are eligible to participate in the Baccalaureate Mass.

## *Local Faith Formation Policies*

1. Attendance at programs and classes is essential to develop a sense of belonging to St. Mary Parish family, for growth in your child's relationship with God, and for a gradual understanding of our Catholic faith.
2. Students are expected to attend ALL classes in ALL grade levels, K-12, including extra classes that may need to be scheduled for the preparation of graduation and/or receiving sacraments. Too many unexcused absences will have to be brought to the Pastor and Faith Formation Commission for further evaluation. Parents are expected to attend all sacramental preparation meetings.
3. Except for long-term illness, serious accident, or a personal family situation, parents must notify the teacher in advance if their child will be absent from class. Before the next class, the student is responsible for obtaining and completing the lesson covered during his/her absence.
4. If a student is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to leave and attend a separate session with a board member for the remainder of the class. The DRE will contact the parents, and the student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the lesson covered during his/her absence before re-entry into the next class.
5. Records on attendance and evaluation of students' participation will be kept on file for all grade levels.
6. During the winter, there will be no snowball throwing before or after class.
7. No food or drink is allowed in the classroom except on occasions sanctioned by the catechist.

8. Students are expected to participate in a cooperative and respectful manner in all religious education activities.
9. Students are expected to show respect for other persons and property at all times. Disrespectful behavior will be reported to parents immediately.
10. It is the policy of St. Mary and the Archdiocesan Board of Education to maintain an environment that is free from any type of harassment. (Definition of harassment: verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability.)
11. It is the policy of St. Mary and the Archdiocesan Board of Education that weapons or any other dangerous objects are prohibited on the church grounds. Any weapon or dangerous object found in the possession of a student shall be confiscated, the parents of the student will be notified immediately, and the incident will be reported to the Faith Formation Commission to determine if further action is necessary.
12. Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse: any employee of St. Mary who has a reasonable belief that a child under the age of 18 has been abused by a person responsible for the care of the child, as defined by law, shall report the suspected abuse verbally to the Department of Human Services (DHS) within 24 hours, and follow the verbal report with a written report on appropriate forms. Reports of child abuse remain confidential, as required by law.
13. Child Abuse of Students by Employees: employees will not commit acts of physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, toward students. Any employee who commits such act is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including discharge.

### *Weather Related Cancellations*

If Starmont school is dismissed early or cancelled due to **weather conditions** on the Wednesday of faith formation, sessions will not be held. If classes need to be cancelled due to poor weather on a day school was not cancelled, we will do so via text message, email and notice on St. Mary Faith Formation Facebook page.

Feel free to text or call Lori Keppler on her cell (563-880-1758) for a check on cancellations.

### *Sacramental Preparations*

All children are required to be enrolled in the Faith Formation Program (or attend Catholic school) prior to sacramental preparation for Confirmation. Parents, as the primary educators of their children, are expected to fully participate in the sacraments themselves and sacramental preparation of their children in the following ways: regular church attendance and celebration of reconciliation, participation in parent meetings, and participation in other formation events. Continued participation in religious education and faith formation is critical and expected following the reception of sacraments.

### *Role of Catechist, CRE, Faith Formation Commission*

The role of the catechist is to extend the presence of Jesus to his/her students by the designated curriculum. The catechist will endeavor to lead the children to a better understanding of the Catholic faith. The CRE and Faith Formation Commission function to support and guide the catechists in their ministry. This support occurs in the form of providing catechetical materials and resources, as well as in-service opportunities to each catechist.

### *Teaching of Basic Catholic Prayers and Practices*

It is the responsibility of parents, as the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith, to ensure the learning of the following age-appropriate prayers. As such, parents are responsible for the teaching of memorized prayers and the general spiritual support



and guidance of their children. The catechists will introduce the prayers as well as assess the progress being made.

Common prayers are included in this handbook to assist parents in this role.

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## *Prayers*

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### **Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Our Father/The Lord's Prayer**

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 thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

### **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. (traditional wording)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. (found in the Liturgy of the Hours)

### **Angel of God**

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **Grace Before a Meal**

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Grace After a Meal**

We give thee thanks, for all thy benefits, Almighty God, who live and reign forever. Amen.

### **Morning Prayer (younger children)**

God, my Father, I give you today all that I think and do and say. I'll work and study, have fun and pray. Jesus be with me all through the day. Amen.

### **Morning Offering**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation for sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

### **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. Amen.

## **Apostles 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; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall 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.

## **Nicene Creed**

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 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.

## **The Rosary**

### **How to Pray the Rosary**

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the Apostles Creed.
3. On the first bead, say an Our Father.
4. Say a Hail Mary on each of the next three beads
5. On the fifth bead, say the Glory Be, then announce which set of mysteries is said that day, say the first mystery, and then the Our Father.
6. Go to the main part of the rosary. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, say a Hail Mary while meditating on the mystery. Then on the single bead, say a Glory Be.
7. After the Glory Be, announce the next mystery, say the Our Father, and then continue in the same way as before until each of the five mysteries of the selected group or decades is said.
8. On the medal at the end, say the Glory Be, then say the Hail, Holy Queen.

## **Mysteries of the Rosary**

### **Joyful Mysteries (used on Monday and Saturday)**

The Annunciation  
The Visitation  
The Nativity (Birth of Jesus)  
The Presentation  
The Finding in the Temple

### **Mysteries of Light or Luminous Mysteries (used on Thursday)**

The Baptism of Jesus  
The Wedding Feast of Cana  
The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the Call to Conversion  
The Transfiguration  
The Institution of the Eucharist

## Sorrowful Mysteries (used Tuesday and Friday)

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

## Glorious Mysteries (used Wednesday and Sunday)

The Resurrection  
The Ascension  
The Descent of the Holy Spirit  
The Assumption  
The Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth

## Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us O holy Mother of God. **Response:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

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## *Beliefs and Practices*

### *Formulas of Catholic Doctrine*

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## Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- Blessed are the clean of heart (or pure of 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 the sake of righteousness (or righteousness' sake), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

### **Communion Regulations**

- As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently.
- In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should be conscious of no grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour.
- A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (CIC, can. 916).
- A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

### **Communion Fast**

- We are expected to fast from food or drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion.

### **Four Gospels**

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

**Holy Days of Obligation**—On these days, there is an obligation to attend Mass and to refrain from servile work as much as possible.

- Mary, Mother of God—January 1
- Ascension of the Lord—40 days after Easter or the following Sunday (celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter in the Archdiocese of Dubuque)
- The Assumption of Mary—August 15
- All Souls Day—November 1
- The Immaculate Conception of Mary—December 8
- Nativity of our Lord or Christmas—December 25

### **Liturgical Year**

- Advent/Christmas Season (Christmas Day until Sunday after Epiphany)
- Ordinary Time
- Lent (Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday)
- Easter Season (Easter Sunday until Pentecost, 50 days after Easter)
- Ordinary Time

### **Parts of the Mass**

#### **Introductory Rites**

- Gathering Song
- Greeting
- Penitential Rite (or blessing and sprinkling with holy water)
- Glory to God
- Opening Prayer

#### **Liturgy of the Word**

- First Reading (usually from the Old Testament)
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading (usually from one of the letters of the New Testament)
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily (an explanation of the readings)

- Profession of Faith (Creed)
- General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful)

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

- Preparation and presentation of the gifts
- Prayer over gifts
- Preface
- Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
- Eucharistic Prayer (during this prayer the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus)
- The Great Amen
- Communion Rite
  - ◆ The Lord's Prayer
  - ◆ Sign of Peace
  - ◆ Breaking of the Bread
  - ◆ Lamb of God
  - ◆ Reception of Communion
  - ◆ Prayer after Communion

### **Concluding Rite**

- Blessing
- Dismissal

### **Regulations for Fast and Abstinence**

- Fasting is refraining from food or drink to some degree.
- Abstinence is refraining from eating meat.
- In the United States, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence, and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
- The obligation to abstain from meat binds all Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of a day, binds Catholics from the ages of 21 to 59.



## **Stations of the Cross**

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus accepts his cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time.
4. Jesus meets his mother.
5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus meets the women.
9. Jesus falls the third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes.
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
12. Jesus dies on the cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb.

## **The Ten Commandments**

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your 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 Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

## The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

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### *Internet Resources*

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The following sites are provided to assist families in helping your children at home:

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) - Official website of the Vatican. Papal information, letters, exhortations, encyclicals, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, etc.

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website. New American Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church, church documents, life issues, social issues, Mass readings, and movie reviews.

[www.dbqarch.org](http://www.dbqarch.org) - Archdiocese of Dubuque website. Media resources are available under Archdiocesan Pastoral Center > Media Services > Education Resource Center.

[www.newadvent.org](http://www.newadvent.org) - Catholic Encyclopedia online, St. Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologica, Early Church Fathers, and more. The encyclopedia is a fantastic and detailed resource for anything Catholic.

[www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com) - Catholic Answers website. Good library of Catholic tracts that explain the faith in a concise manner.

[www.catholicexchange.com](http://www.catholicexchange.com) - Catholic news and articles.

[www.catholic.net](http://www.catholic.net) - Good all-purpose information site.

[www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) - Catholic news and information

[www.catholiceducation.org](http://www.catholiceducation.org) - A resource center with great Catholic articles.

[www.catholic-pages.com](http://www.catholic-pages.com) - Huge resource for almost everything Catholic.

[www.catholicgreetings.org](http://www.catholicgreetings.org) - Free Catholic e-cards.

[www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org) - Movie reviews, daily and seasonal features, saints, and more.

[www.domestic-church.com](http://www.domestic-church.com) - Ideas and articles for Catholic families.

[www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) - Mass times and maps throughout the country and world, especially useful when traveling. Call to confirm times before you count on them.

[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) - Enter a ZIP code for names or organizations that need volunteers in your area.

[www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com) - Devotions, Mass readings, etc.

[www.gardenofpraise.com/bibleles.htm](http://www.gardenofpraise.com/bibleles.htm) - Bible lessons, stories, and activities for kids.

[www.sermons4kids.com/colorpg.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/colorpg.htm) - Children's sermons, lessons, and coloring pages.

Catholic Parishes of  
the Emmaus Pastorate

...and they recognized him  
in the breaking  
of the BREAD

