

Student/Parish Involvement

All children of St. Wendelin parish are important and valuable members, regardless of what school they attend. We invite, encourage and warmly welcome all children to participate in the following groups appropriate to their age/grade level:

Summer Bible School K thru Fourth Grade (last week in June)

Altar Servers Grades 4 thru 12 (boys & girls)

Children's Choir All girls and boys in grades 2-6

Use of Facilities

Since we use the grade school classrooms for religious instruction, we ask that all students of our Wednesday evening classes respect the property and privacy of the desks and all other learning materials in the classrooms. Our office supplies the teachers and students with everything they need for a religion class. Parents and students will be held accountable for items missing or damaged in desks.

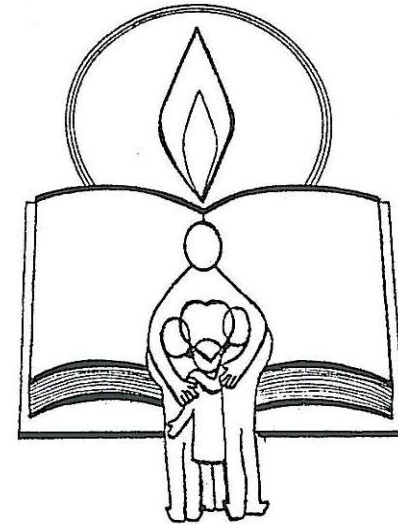
Volunteers

There are several areas of our religious education program where parent volunteer help is needed and welcomed. Please consider giving some of your time in one of the following:

Classroom Teacher - Substitute Teacher - Teacher Assistant

It is not necessary to have a teaching degree to teach and share faith with young children. The teaching materials provided are clearly outlined and planned and easy to follow. There are also visual aids of various kinds that help to make a lesson more interesting. Guidance and direction through office personnel are also available. We also ask our classroom teachers to gradually work toward certification by offering free diocesan workshops and classes to help them feel more confident in teaching our Catholic

St. Wendelin Parish Religious Education Handbook For Parents and Students in Grades 1-8 (REVISED 9/09)



Discipline

As in any classroom setting, cooperation, courtesy, respectful behavior and observance of rules are a must if a productive teaching/learning environment is to exist. The time frame for classes is so limited that teachers cannot and should not use any of it to deal with disruptive students. Thus, the disciplinary procedures to be followed are:

Students who engage in disrespectful and disruptive behavior will be dismissed from the classroom and sent to the office.

If negative behavior continues, a conference with parents will be held, at which time alternative Measures will be discussed and decided upon.

Sacramental Preparation

Children in the second grade are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. According to diocesan guidelines, parents are to attend sessions that provide them with theological background and methods of helping their children understand the themes of forgiveness and Eucharist. First Reconciliation is celebrated in late January and First Eucharist is last Sunday of April or first Sunday of May (see calendar). Children must have one full year of instruction before entering the sacrament class in second grade.

Students in the seventh and eighth grade prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. Again, parents (and sponsors) are to attend sessions that provide them with the theological background to support and mentor their child in this important commitment of faith they will be making and living for the rest of their lives.

Calendars/Cancellations

Each year a calendar of classes and events is provided for each family. You will be notified in advance if any changes are necessary. In the event of bad weather, please watch **WTOL** to find out if St. Wendelin Religious Education classes are cancelled for the evening.

Curriculum Outline

Grades 1-4 & 7: We use the **FAITH FIRST** series published by Resource for Christian Living. Each grade level includes instruction on the following: The Creed, Worship and Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, Scripture, Church Year and Practices of the Church.

Be sure to check out their web site FaithFirst.com and click on Faith First for Families.

Grades 5,6 & 8: Use the **CHRIST OUR LIFE and CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT** series published by LoyolaPress.

Communication

An ever-challenging problem is that of communication between parents and staff. We rely mainly on the students and the church bulletin as means of keeping parents informed. Parents can help the communication process by emphasizing to their children the importance of bringing all letters, memos, etc., home and letting parents decide what to do with it.

Dear Parents and Students,

This handbook has been compiled with the hope of providing you with an awareness of what our religious education program entails and an understanding of our expectations and policies.

The religion classes held weekly here at St. Wendelin are a vital means of helping parents pass on the faith to their children. Growing in the faith and in a personal relationship with the Lord is a lifelong process and children need the example, support and encouragement of their parents in that process. Communication and cooperation between parents and staff are essential to an effective religious education program. Please take some time to read the handbook with your child. Again, if you have questions about anything, please get in touch with us. It is important that expectations are understood by all.

On behalf of the staff, I offer you our best efforts to provide meaningful and doctrinally sound religion classes for your children. Please pray for us and with us that the Spirit will enable us to be strong and faith filled bearers of the Gospel message.

May the blessing of God be upon your home and family each and every day!

Shellie Gabel

Pastoral Associate for Religious Education

Policies and Procedures

Attendance

A record of each student's attendance is kept on file in our office. Students are expected to be present each week unless they are ill. It is difficult to provide any degree of continuity or relatedness of subject matter if students are frequently absent. It is especially important to be present for classes in preparation for their sacraments.

Please note the following

- Parents, contact the office (419-435-6681) if your child will be absent or e-mail shellie.gabel@stwendelin.org
- Repeated absence, especially during the years of sacramental preparation, may result in delaying the reception of the sacrament for another year.

Classes begin promptly at 6:45 pm and end at 8:00 pm. We ask that students be in the classroom by 6:40 pm. Tardiness causes disruption of the teaching/learning process. With sessions only once a week for an hour and fifteen minutes, we need to make each minute count.

Fees

The fees for Religious Education Classes are:

Families w/1child	\$40.00
Families w/2 children	\$50.00
Families w/3 or more	\$60.00

Additional Fees - Sacramental Preparation fees for students

Receiving First Holy Eucharist \$20.00, Confirmation \$30.00.

The fee covers the following: textbooks, pencils, crayons, markers, art supplies, scissors, glue, video resources, handouts, use of facility, etc. if the fee poses a problem, please get in touch with us. No child will ever be refused because of non-payment.

The above is subject to change if there should be increases in expenses.

Parent Visitation

Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom. Please call the Religious Education Office (419-435-6681) or e-mail shellie.gabel@stwendelin.org to schedule an appointment. We will ask for your participation in our Generations of Faith programs throughout the year.

Report Cards

It is important for children to know that the study of their faith is as important as any area of learning and therefore, is evaluated periodically. Report cards are issued two times a year January and May. Parents are asked to review the card, note any teacher comments and sign the card. Feel free to contact our office or the teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding the report card. Always affirm your child's progress and encourage improvement where necessary.

Safety/Parking

The two bell system at dismissal provides for staggered dismissal that helps alleviate running, pushing, etc.

Please use the elementary school parking lot or the parking lot to the right of the rectory. **Do Not** pull up to the school to drop your child off or pick him/her up after class. This is not safe especially in the dark and in bad weather.