

Holy Family Catholic Church



Religious Education Handbook *Kindergarten thru 8th grade* *2023-2024*

*Every religious tradition has known
that the way to teach the young
is to immerse them in the
practice of the group's way of life.*

- *Gabriel Moran*
World renowned Religious Education scholar

Holy Family Catholic Church

Religious Education Office

600 Brook Forest Ave., Shorewood, IL 60404
815-730-8691 www.RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org

July, 2023

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Holy Family Catholic Church Religious Education Program for grades Kindergarten thru 8.

This handbook is designed to assist you in planning for the Religious Education of your child. As active participants, we need you to be informed of the policies and direction of the Religious Education program at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Our primary focus is always to instill in your child that Christ is present in them always. Once the children have this understanding, they will live out the values of the Gospel and become the Body of Christ for a lifetime. Religious Education is a lifelong journey that is never completed. Especially in today's world, we find ourselves turning to God and the Church for support. Know that the Holy Family community is here for you.

It is important for you to read this handbook and become familiar with the policies of the Religious Education Program of Holy Family Catholic Church. The handbook contains relevant information for your family. A yearly RE calendar is available online. Our regular emails keep you up-to-date and informed about the Religious Education program. You can also receive information through our website at www.holyfamilyshorewood.org under the *Religious Education tab*.

As you already know, **you** are the primary educator of our Catholic faith to your children. We can only support what is practiced at home. Our efforts can only be enhanced and reinforced when you attend weekly mass and encourage family communication and participation within the life of the Church.

Thank you for saying yes to the responsibility of Religious Education within your family. I am looking forward to ministering to you and your family at Holy Family Catholic Church.

With Christ's Peace,

Leslie Krauledis

Leslie Krauledis
Director of Religious Education



Parish Mission Statement

*Nourished by God's Word and Sacrament,
as one family,
we are called upon to share our faith
in Jesus Christ and
reach out to those in need.*

Religious Education Mission Statement

*Holy Family Religious Education Program strives
to inspire our children to have a love for God,
a desire to learn about their faith,
and an awareness of the needs of others.*

P U R P O S E

The primary task of Religious Education is to build a loving, caring and sharing Christian community. We seek to develop the faith and love of Christ within your children. In accordance with the National Directory for Catechesis (NDC), we remind parents and guardians that Christian community begins in their own homes first and foremost. The NDC says *"Because it is the church of the home, the family provides a unique focus for catechesis. It is a place in which the word of God is received and from which it is extended. Within the Christian family, **parents are the primary educators in the faith** and the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children."*

YOU are the primary Religious Educators of your children through your example and daily life. Parents and guardians (to be called Parents from this point forward) should understand that Christian formation is not limited to preparation of a sacrament, rather must continue as long as one lives - what we refer to as a lifelong journey. This includes instruction in basic doctrine, scripture, worship and relating all these to daily living. Catechesis is based on a word meaning "to echo". Within this process of education and formation, children are taught the essentials of Catholic doctrine and are formed as disciples of Jesus. **So, as parents and guardians, go forth "to echo" your faith.**

P O L I C I E S

REGISTRATION

Registration for Religious Education classes (to be called RE from this point forward) will be held between May and October. Registration information will be sent home to families previously enrolled, and forms will be available on the parish website. Families can register in-person at the RE Office or online. Copies of baptismal and other sacramental certificates, along with sacrament dates, need to be provided to the RE office at the time of registration. Any families that have outstanding fees will not be allowed to register until all fees have been settled. All families are expected to be registered parishioners of Holy Family Catholic Church.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL

Our records must be kept up-to-date in case of emergencies. The Religious Education Office must be notified immediately of any change of address, and/or change of phone number at home, cell or work. Email addresses must also be kept up-to-date to receive notifications and communications from the RE Office and Parish.

CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

Holy Family Religious Education Program presumes that both parents of a child have equal access to the child, even if the parents are divorced or separated. Thus, unless informed otherwise in writing and with adequate evidence that a parent is not permitted to have unqualified access to the child, the catechetical program will permit either parent to have access to the child while at the Parish Campus, and will release the child from the

Parish Campus to either parent. In the case of disputed custody arrangements, divorced and/or separated parents should file a court certified copy of the custody section of the divorce decree (or separation agreement) when the child is enrolled in the program. Legal guardians must also provide the appropriate documentation to the Holy Family Religious Education office.

FEES

Please refer to the Faith and Financial Agreement information contained in the registration packet. This information is also available online at www.holyfamilyshorewood.org under the Religious Education tab.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

The RE office should be informed in advance of withdrawals from the program so that proper arrangements can be made. If you have registered for this year, a \$30.00 withdrawal fee will be charged for anyone withdrawing before classes begin. Any other payments made will be refunded by check within one month. If withdrawing from September (the first day of class) through October, a \$30.00 withdrawal fee will be charged and 75% of the tuition fee will be returned if already paid. Materials fee cannot be refunded after classes begin. All other withdrawing fees will be prorated by the RE Office. There is always a \$30.00 withdrawal fee charged.

TRANSFERS

Children transferring into the Holy Family Catholic Church RE program are required to provide previous RE information. Copies of baptismal and other sacramental certificates, along with sacrament dates, must be given to the RE office at the time of registration. Written program information must be provided to Holy Family Catholic Church at the time of registration from all previous RE or Catholic school programs. (See the Director of RE for specifics.) Children transferring out of Holy Family Catholic Church will be provided with program information upon request after all fees have been settled.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Basic sacramental information must be provided at the time of registration. If sacraments were received at Holy Family, only approximate dates are needed. If sacraments were received at other churches, then certificates must be provided. Each child must meet the preparation of sacramental requirements before receiving the sacrament. ***The church of the child's Baptism holds the records for all Sacraments.*** Therefore, Holy Family Catholic Church will provide that church with appropriate information at the time of sacraments. For more information on Sacraments and preparation, see the Sacramental Program section.

SCHEDULE/CLASSROOMS

Classes are held on Sunday from 8:30am-9:45am, Monday from 5:00pm-6:15pm, and Wednesday from 6:00pm – 7:15pm. **Each family receives an RE calendar with their registration information and their classroom assignments the first week of class. Assignments are also emailed to the family's right before the RE year begins. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR 1ST CHOICE UNLESS WE CONTACT YOU.** Please refer to the calendar inside the Family Packet received in September as that is the most current calendar and place it where it is easily accessible. You will receive an email if schedule changes occur.

There is a minimum of 6 students required for each class. If there are less than 6 students, you will be asked to choose another session. IF WE DO NOT HAVE A CATECHIST TO TEACH A CLASS, you will be asked to choose another session. There will be NO change fee for these circumstances. No one is allowed in the classrooms before class begins or until the doors are opened by a catechist or the RE Staff. We are responsible for the children only during the regularly scheduled class sessions per the RE calendar. We do not switch students once they have been assigned a class. Classes, where necessary, are split allowing for the many factors involved based on numbers, gender, special needs, etc. This responsibility remains at the discretion of the DRE only.

We make every effort to accommodate the many extra-curricular activities of our students. Our class schedule between September and April is compact.

We expect all parents to be responsible enough to understand that Religious Education should take precedence over other activities.

Therefore, we expect **ALL** students to attend class from September through our final class week. If you need a letter for an activity documenting your child's participation in RE stating your date and time of class, please let us know. **No student should be punished for attending RE class if they miss a game or practice.**

Bathroom breaks for grades K thru 2 are automatically worked into the schedule for the students. Bathroom breaks for grades 3 – 8 are permitted as needed.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Dismissal procedures are as follows:

Sunday: Sunday RE families are to park in the east lot. Family's with students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8 will be dismissed first from door #4 and meet their parents in the east lot. You can arrange a "spot" where your children can meet you. Parents picking up younger students can wait in the lobby of door #5 and pick up your children there.

Monday and Wednesday: Families will be given two car rider signs for pick up at the beginning of the year. Please keep these signs in your car. If you do not have a sign with you, you will be expected to come into the RE Office and present a driver's license for pickup of your children. Students will be called for dismissal starting with 8th grade and working down to 1st grade. Cars are to line up in the east parking lot (close to the NEW addition) with 7th and 8th grades closest to the school. Please follow the diagram on the back of your car rider sign. ***An example of the car rider sign is located at the end of this handbook.*** A parent may come in to pick up their child at dismissal, but the

child will not be dismissed until all other students have been picked up through the car line. Parents are welcome to wait in the lobby. Early dismissals must be done 15 minutes before class is over. **If you are carpooling, please make a copy of your sign and to give to your carpool partner.** We do not accept responsibility for those children who are not picked up punctually, children who walk home, or children who are part of a carpool. The Monday and Wednesday Dismissal Parking Parents are volunteers and we are extremely lucky to have these people endure the weather week after week ***to insure the safety of our children.*** **We ask your cooperation and patience with the dismissal procedures.**

CLASS CHANGE

Each student is allowed to CHANGE their day and/or time for a \$30.00 fee per family. Switching classes during the same week is not allowed because paperwork is needed to update the change. You can change your day/time for **no charge thru August 24th.** No phone requests will be honored – only emails requests at RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org.

HOME SCHOOLING

We strongly encourage all students to enroll and participate in a classroom model for RE. However, circumstances do happen in which a child can be Home Schooled. Home Schooling families are expected to turn in the classwork on a regular basis and attend scheduled meetings. Home Schooling can only occur in grades 3 through 5.

ATTENDANCE

Children will be allowed into the lobby but cannot go to their classroom until class begins. Your child is expected to attend all the classes for the entire year. A child may be excused for serious reasons only. Please call or email the RE Office to report any extended absences. Students in grades 1 through 6 with 3 absences or more for one year will have their progress reviewed by the catechist and the Director of Religious Education. Students in grades 7 and 8 with 2 absences or more for one year will have their progress reviewed by the catechist and the Director of Religious Education. The Director of RE will contact the parents if necessary. Multiple absences may result in the child repeating the grade so that proper sacramental preparation is completed. **ABSENCES ARE COUNTED FROM THE 1ST DAY THAT SCHEDULED CLASSES BEGINS.**

TARDINESS

Any child who is tardy must stop at the FRONT OFFICE WINDOW and give their name and grade to the attendant.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Early dismissals must be handled through the RE office. Please provide a note for the catechist and the RE office. The RE office must be notified prior to class time of the early dismissal time and reason. **A parent or guardian must come into the school lobby to pick up the student.** Your child will meet you in the lobby – DOOR #4. Early dismissals will be allowed only up to 15 minutes before the class ends.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

We have initiated an *automated emergency calling system* through **ONE CALL NOW** for Religious Education. In case of an emergency closing due to weather or another unforeseen circumstance, you will be notified of our closing. Only one phone number per family will be called. The cell, home, or work number you indicated on your registration information will be the only number called.

If Religious Education classes are forced to end early for some reason beyond expectation, you will be notified by phone regarding the situation and in what manner dismissal will be conducted.

CATECHETICAL CONTENT/TEXTBOOKS/HOMEWORK

Each student is required to learn and understand certain facts and material that pertains to each particular grade. The Diocese of Joliet, as well as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have set certain requirements for each grade. All students should be bringing their **textbooks/bibles** to class every week where applicable. If a catechist reports that a child does not have their textbooks for consecutive classes, a new textbook will be issued to the child with a \$24.00 replacement charge.

A **Bible** must be purchased for 4th grade students. These Bibles will be used through 8th grade. If the Bible is lost, you will be charged a replacement fee of \$33.00.

Most grades should be doing some type of **homework**. **It is your responsibility to ensure that your child is bringing everything that is required for class each week.** Please be attentive to any special requests from your child's catechist when they are working on a special project. Some catechists supplement their class with additional materials approved by the RE office.

Students receive a new drawstring **RE BOOK BAG** each year. Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 3rd grade receive a lime green bag. Grades 4, 5 and 6 receive an orange bag. Grades 7 and 8 receive a forest green bag. If your child is Home Schooled, they will receive a light blue string bag.

A variety of **learning techniques** are utilized within the program. Prayer Services, DVD's, music, spiritual experiences, guided reflections, recorded scripture passages are all part of the curriculum. Any DVD's used always have a spiritual theme or purpose; they can be contemporary films as well as classics. Especially at this time, when our students are very comfortable with all types of mass media, these movies or other types of media may take two class periods to view but discussion is always part of the experience. Special projects and additional curriculum materials may be added to each grade as needed or requested.

There is an expectation that certain **PRAYERS** are learned and memorized per each grade. The best way for any student to learn these prayers by heart is to read them each night before bedtime or at another time convenient to your family. Over time, these will be absorbed and retained for a lifetime.

Occasionally, a **special guest speaker** is brought in to address the class as a whole. Students are expected to attend the special class on the date assigned. Attendance is mandatory. In 7th and 8th grades Confirmation retreats are mandatory.

DISCIPLINE/ATTIRE

Children are asked to be respectful of people and property while attending class and to cooperate with the catechist. Classroom attire should reflect the willingness to learn. If a serious problem arises, the child will be sent to the RE office and a parent or guardian will be called. Toys or sports equipment is not allowed. ***Cell phones, IPod, IPad, MP3 players, smart phones, etc. are not to be used during class time.*** Students will be allowed to keep their cell phones with them during class, however, **they are expected to place them on top of the desk and not touch them or use them during class time unless there is an emergency situation. If the student does not adhere to this policy, the cell phone will be removed and returned after class thru the RE Office and Parents of the student.** Holy Family parish assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged items. If used, they will be confiscated and not released to the child until the parents or guardians meet with the Director of RE and/or the Pastor. Cheating on tests or papers, bullying, fighting and false accusations are not tolerated and the student may be asked to leave the program.

CONDUCT

Christian conduct is expected at all grade levels during Religious Education class times and while on the premises of Holy Family Catholic Church. We expect all students to be respectful of themselves, their peers, catechists, volunteers, staff and the property of Holy Family Catholic Church. If a student's behavior becomes extreme, there is a 3-step process we follow:

1. At the first incident the student will be reminded of expected behavior and the consequences of misbehavior. Class rules are to be honored and respected. Breaking of these rules disrupts the learning process for all students.
2. After the second incident the student will be sent to the RE Office for a discussion with the Director.
3. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the student will be sent to the RE Office. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted.

If the student continues to be disruptive to the classroom environment, a consultation will take place with the Director and the Pastor. The Director and/or the Pastor retain the authority to make a decision which is best for all concerned.

LOSS OR DAMAGE

Holy Family Catholic Church is a place of gathering, worship and parish activity. The facility is a ***shared space*** by many including students of the School, Religious Education, Parents, Parishioners and Staff members. It is to be expected that there is proper respect for the building, landscaping and classroom space. Students who damage property will be asked to give restitution by payment or replacement. Catechists will report any incident to the Director regarding the damage to property.

HEALTH CONCERNS AND MEDICATION

Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the Director/RE Staff and through a written note to the Catechist and RE Office at the beginning of the year or during the registration process. It is the policy of the RE Office not to administer any medication to students during the RE class times. Students are not allowed to bring any medications to class during Religious Education classes. Exceptions can be made in special circumstances with knowledge of the catechist and RE Office.

TESTING/COMPETENCY

Testing will occur in all grades at the discretion of the catechist. A basic understanding of our faith appropriate for each grade is expected of each student. Tests may be administered in different ways to accommodate the learning capability of each student. Each student will not be advanced until they have a basic understanding of content.

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

PARENT UPDATES

The Parent updates will be distributed periodically ***via email.*** This is our way to communicate with you and to keep you up to date on what is happening in the RE Office and Parish such as the calendar changes, date changes and reminders. Our RE schedule for the year is on the website. We will also use the Sunday bulletin for general information. If you have NOT received an email from us within a two week period, please check your spam folder.

We welcome phone contact (815-730-8691) whenever you have a question or concern. Please leave a message on the answering machine when we are not in the office. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Our email address: RE@holyfamilyshorewood.org

WEBSITE

The parish website is www.holyfamilyshorewood.org.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

Your attendance at general parent meetings and meetings for the various sacraments is required. Sacramental meetings may be for parents or parents and child; these are a prerequisite for your child's reception of any of the sacraments. Dates and times are listed on the sacramental calendar and reminders are sent through email. Please allow a minimum of 1 hour per parent meeting. Parent meetings are designed for ADULTS; however sometimes we ask that your child attend with you.

ALTAR SERVERS

All 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade RE children who have been baptized and have received Reconciliation and First Communion are eligible to be altar servers at Holy Family Catholic Church. Periodically, we will email our families when Altar Server training is being offered.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

First Reconciliation - Grade 2

First Communion - Grade 2

Intermediate Sacrament Preparation – Grade 3 thru 8

SACRAMENTAL PREPAREDNESS

The reception of any sacrament must be a conscious choice for the person receiving the sacrament. If the student does not want to receive the sacrament or does not believe in the sacrament, the following procedures will take place.

- The catechist will meet with the student to discuss the sacrament and what the student is feeling about the sacrament.
- The catechist will bring their concerns and observations to the Director of Religious Education.
- The Director of Religious Education will have a discussion with the parents and/or the Pastor. The catechist will need to be present for this discussion.
- The Pastor will have a discussion with the parents. Following the discussion, the Pastor has the final authority to delay reception of the sacrament until the student desires or shows desire and readiness to receive the sacrament.

The two year preparation period for the reception of Reconciliation and First Communion is a diocesan policy. The policy was instituted in part to assure that the child/student understands the sacrament they are about to receive and their responsibility in that sacrament.

RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST(Communion)

Eucharist and Reconciliation are distinct sacraments. A proper understanding of each sacrament is taught to the children. **Participation at regular Sunday Mass is essential in the children's understanding of these sacraments.** The Director of RE along with the catechist and parent or guardian can decide if a child is not ready to receive either sacrament. If a sacrament is delayed, the Parents in cooperation with the DRE can schedule the reception of the sacrament at a later date. Celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation takes place in November/December. Celebration of First Eucharist takes place in April/May. **Parents are expected to take an active part in the preparation of the sacraments with their children.** There are parent meetings and child/parent activities scheduled for Reconciliation and First Eucharist. **Practices for the sacrament are mandatory.** Weekly Mass attendance for 2nd grade is strongly encourage as they are learning the different parts of the Mass. Prayers and basic Catholic knowledge must be known before receiving the Sacraments. Students will be routinely tested based on the learning abilities.

Intermediate Sacrament Preparation (ISP) formerly known as **Special Sacraments class** is designed to prepare students in grades 3 through 8 for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. Classes are held before each Sacrament is administered. Students will be removed from their regular class for a portion of the time and prepared for First Reconciliation/First Communion. **All students in ISP for their sacrament year must be registered for regular RE class on Sunday 8:30am.** ISP classes for each Sacrament will be held during the Sunday class time. This applies only to the year in which they are making their Sacrament of Reconciliation/Communion. Parents are not required to bring the ISP students to an additional class. ISP families are to follow the Sacrament calendars and are expected to attend the parent meetings and practices as noted on the Sacrament calendars.

In order for you to be well informed, your attendance at PARENT MEETINGS is required. Please allow a minimum of 1 hour for each parent meeting scheduled. There is a two year requirement for preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Prayers and basic Catholic knowledge must be known before receiving the Sacraments. Students will be routinely tested based on the learning abilities.

NON-SACRAMENTAL GRADES

Even as adults, our faith is an ongoing process to learn more about how we worship and why. So, we strongly urge the participation of children in our Religious Education program from grade K through grade 8. In every grade, the program takes a developmental approach to the sacraments, liturgy, prayer, scripture, and doctrine in their daily lives. There is a progressive development of initiating the children into a personal as well as communal relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate when we celebrate Mass or other services as a community.

VOLUNTEERS

PARENTS

As parents and guardians, you play a special and integral part in the Religious Education of your child. Your participation is important to the success of our RE program. **Parents are asked to give of their time as a catechist, aide, or volunteer.** Our program is only as strong as the families who fully support it. Please consider giving your time in some fashion or saying yes when asked. Catechists and Co-catechists are required to be practicing Catholics. Tuition credits are issued for adult volunteers. The amount of credit per family depends on the assigned volunteer position.

We are always in need of Catechists, Aides, and Volunteers. All our volunteers are members of the Holy Family Catholic community who desire to share their own faith with your children. Our hope is for you to support what is done in the classroom by talking about our Catholic faith in your home. We ask for your continued prayers and support as the catechist and all our volunteers commit themselves to this special ministry.

LEAD CATECHIST or CO-CATECHIST (Teacher)

Our teachers in the Religious Education program are called catechists. The RE Office, in conjunction with the Diocese of Joliet, set the class curriculum for the year. Approved Publishers provide up-to-date lesson plans and activities appropriate for the different grade levels. Additional training and formation is provided through the parish as well as through the Joliet Diocese.

CLASSROOM AIDES

Aides assist the catechist each week with the normal classroom procedures and lesson.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Office help is always needed. There are multiple tasks on any given class day to help the RE Staff or the catechists.

HALL MONITOR

Hall monitors sit in the hallways and supervise the activities and safety of our children while they are in the classroom wings of our building.

PARKING ASSISTANT

We are lucky to have a well organized dismissal procedure. Having enough Parking Assistants to help the process is essential. Please consider giving your 20 minutes of time to help.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Religious Education Advisory Board is a group of parents and catechists who advise the Pastor and Director of Religious Education on policies and procedures. The general well-being and vision of the program are some of the regular important topics discussed. The Board is constantly looking toward the future and what best meets the needs of our children and their relationship to Jesus and the Catholic faith. If you are interested in being a Board Member, please contact Leslie Krauledis.

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Religious Education Program has two representatives on the Parish Council. The PC meets once a month and is an advisory board to the Pastor. They advise on the Parish in all capacities.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

All Staff and Volunteers in the RE Program at Holy Family Catholic Church are required by the Diocese of Joliet to attend the "Protecting God's Children" workshop (virtually), Illinois Mandated Report workshop (virtually) in addition to a Criminal Background check. This must be completed before you can begin any work or volunteering with children. The workshop will be offered online. All volunteers must register with VIRTUS and set up a personal account. Workshops and background checks will be handled thru your VIRTUS account and coordinated with the Holy Family administrator. Yearly requirements may be required from the Diocese of Joliet. Once you have taken the PGC workshop, your certificate can be transferred to any Catholic church in the United States. All staff members and volunteers are required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read and understand the conduct policies established by the Diocese of Joliet.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT INSTRUCTION

The Diocese of Joliet has instructed all parishes to initiate the *Safe Environment Instruction* program to all grades. This program is a way for your child to help them recognize improper touch, understand that they can say "no" and tell a trusted adult. The instruction is gentle and will help your child learn about these unpleasant realities in a positive way. As of this date, all our public schools initiate the Safe Environment program in their day schools so the requirement is met thru the public school system.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The faith of children is modeled by that of their parents or guardians. You are invited to participate in our program in any way that you can. We value you as a vital and important part of our program and we know that we can count on your support, encouragement and assistance with the following:

1. Spend some time with your child each week discussing the lesson.
2. Review their prayers at home by saying them at meals or bedtime.
3. Pray with your child. Teach your child how to pray in their own words as well as learning traditional Catholic prayers.
4. Attend weekly Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday morning and Holy Days.
5. Attend parent meetings as required.
6. Assist children with completion of homework assignments.
7. Use the experiences of daily family living to develop Christian values.
8. Set an example that Religious Education is an ongoing journey throughout our entire life.
9. Attend the monthly RE Masses (October thru April) as a strong support of our program and the importance of your family's spiritual enrichment.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered to adults who have not received their sacraments or are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. These adult sessions are held separately in an informal manner. The traditional school model is not used for the adults. If you are interested, please call the Parish office at 815-725-6880.

C U R R I C U L U M

Holy Family Catholic Church catechetical program provides for the education, formation, and sacramental preparation for children and families of the parish in accordance with guidelines and recommendations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All text books have been approved by the USCCB.

GRADES K, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Loyola Press is the publisher used for these grade level textbooks. The series is called *Finding God*. Scripture, doctrine and liturgical experiences are interwoven throughout each grade level. This balanced approach ensures that our children come to know, love, and live the rich Catholic heritage of our faith. In 4th grade, students begin to study the bible. Because it is so interactive, we use the St. Mary's Press Catholic *Youth Bible*.

GRADE 2 and INTERMEDIATE SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Loyola Press is the publisher used for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Communion) sacramental preparation. The series is called *God's Gift*. This series concentrates on preparation for Reconciliation and Communion appropriate to their age and understanding.

GRADES 7, 8

Pflaum Publishers – Gifted with the Spirit – Confirmation program along with Our Sunday Visitor publisher will be used for 8th grade. 7th grade will use the Decision Point program. 7th and 8th grades will also be in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The doctrines contained in the textbooks are drawn from the four pillars of faith as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Faith*. This substance is presented developmentally so our students recognize the way we believe, worship, pray, live and study scripture. Children now are accustom to different types of instructional methods. CD's as well as grade appropriate DVD's are included in each year of Religious Education. Class discussions occur after DVD's are shown.

Textbooks along with a folder and drawstring bag are presented at the initial class day. Children are expected to bring all appropriate material needed for their particular grade level.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

RE email address: RE@holyfamilysshorewood.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – 4:00pm

Sunday – 7:00am, 8:30am

10:15am, noon

Monday thru Friday

Daily Mass – 7:30am

Saturday - 8:00am

Weekly Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday – 8:30am

600 Brook Forest Ave.

Shorewood, IL 60404

815-730-8691

Fax – 815-725-2311

Leslie Krauledis, Director of Religious Education

Susan Stachovic, Administrative Assistant

Therese Maringer, Night Coordinator

Maureen Schuchart, Office Assistant

Judy Guthrie, Office Assistant

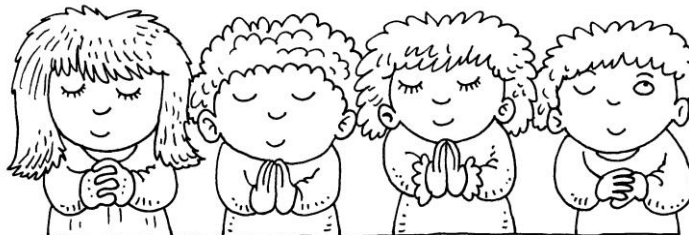
Rev. Brad Baker, Pastor

Rev. Brian Geary, Parochial Vicar

Parish Office – 815-725-6880

Parish Secretary: Maria Velazquez

Parish website: www.holyfamilysshorewood.org



A Life Blessing

Take my feet
and bless them.

Take my hands
and bless them.

Take my lips
and bless them.

May I walk only in your Way.

May my touch be ever Gentle.

May my voice always speak your Word.

May my heart beat out your Rhythm.

May my life be given to You.

May all I do ...
bring glory to your Holy Name.

Susan Hardwick
England

taken from: "600 Blessings and Prayers
from around the World"
compiled by Geoffrey Duncan
published by Twenty-Third Publications