

# Church of Saint Patrick

319 Mahantango Street, Pottsville, PA 17901



Parent Handbook

**2018-2019**

**Rev. Msgr. Edward O'Connor**

Pastor

**Rev. Greg Karpyn**

Parochial Vicar

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## Introduction

**Welcome** to the Church of Saint Patrick Parish Religious Education Program (PREP). This handbook was designed to give parents and guardians basic information about our program. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please contact the Associate of Religious Education (ARE) Dale Verchick at 570-516-0107 or at [daleverchick@hotmail.com](mailto:daleverchick@hotmail.com)

We Believe...

... that the purpose of our catechetical ministry is to proclaim authentically and fully the message of Jesus.

...that you have entrusted your children to us to deepen the Faith you have given them as parents.

... that with your cooperation, such as, attending parent meetings, celebrating the Eucharist and the Sacraments together, and reinforcing Christian values in your homes, we can help *you*, help your child grow in their faith as they journey with you.

... that the goal of religious education through formation is to make us aware of the action of God in our lives, both within us and outside of us.

...that religious formation is faith brought to understanding.

THEREFORE, we will work with you to awaken this awareness in your children and encourage them to gradually accept responsibility for their own Christian development, as they are able.

## **Our Mission**

To help the children and youth of the Church of Saint Patrick understand who God calls them to be on their paths to obtain the ultimate goal- to be with God in heaven.

People You Should Know

**Parish Office:** 570-622-1802

**Address:** 319 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville, PA 17901

**Monsignor Edward O'Connor-** Pastor

**Fr. Greg Karpyn-** Parochial Vicar

**Deacon Jack Quirk-** Permanent Deacon

**Deacon Lawrence Lonergan-** Permanent Deacon

**Ms. Lisa Arant** – Business Manager

**Ms. Debbie Walker-** Office Manager and Activities Coordinator

**Mrs. Dale Verchick** – Associate of Religious Education (ARE) 570-516-0107  
[dcd2211@gmail.com](mailto:dcd2211@gmail.com)

**Assumption BVM School- PARISH SCHOOL**

570-622-0106

**Mrs. Teresa Keating-** School Principal

**St. Joseph's Center for Special Learning- PARISH SCHOOL**

570-622-4638

**Mr. Robert Giba-** Director of Programs

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday- Friday 8a.m. – 4p.m.

Other times by appointment only

For your convenience the office has a 24-hour answering machine. Please leave your phone number and the best time to reach you. We will make every effort to reach you in a timely manner. Communicating well with you and your children is important to our ministry.

## **Registration and Fees**

All students are required to register. Registration forms will be available in the vestibule of the church and online. Announcements will also be made in the church bulletin.

Fees are listed on the registration form. Plans for payment of fees will be made at the time of registration. All fees must be paid at registration.

Fees cover the cost of textbook and materials.

One child	\$60
Two children	\$110
Three or more children	\$150
Lost book fee	\$20
First Reconciliation Retreat Fee	\$10
First Holy Communion Retreat Fee	\$25
Confirmation Retreat & Gown Fee	\$50
Non-parishioners Registration fee	Add \$25

No one will be denied religious education for financial hardship reasons. Payment arrangements can be made through the Parish Office by contacting Ms. Lisa Arant.

## **HOMESCHOOLING**

Students are permitted to be homeschooled. They still must be registered in the program and pay the fee for the materials. Students receiving Sacraments must attend PREP classes unless there is a valid reason to not be able to do so.

## **Schedule of Classes**

### **Children's Liturgy**

Our Parish children's liturgy program for ages 4-5 takes place at the 9:30am mass. Children are dismissed before the 1<sup>st</sup> reading to listen to the readings and Gospel of the Mass at their age level. The Creed, Prayer of the Faithful and a basket for their small donations for the collection are included to enhance their experience of Mass. They are returned to the congregation after the Prayer of the Faithful.

## **Grades 1-8**

Grades 1-8 will attend PREP classes after the 9:30am children's mass on Sunday. Students will be invited to assemble at the front of the Church before the end of mass and will be escorted to their classes by their teacher after the conclusion of the recessional hymn.

## **Dismissal**

Children will be escorted to the Chapel below the Church by their teachers at noon. Parents must pick up their children from the Chapel.

Every effort should be made to attend obligatory weekly mass. Our parish has 4 masses every weekend as follows-

Saturdays at 4:15pm

Sundays at 7:30am, 9:30am and 11am

## **Follow up at home**

Follow up is an important part of the program because it enables the parents to be involved in religious education. It is imperative that the lessons presented in our classes are reinforced at home. Each week please take a few minutes to discuss with your child what they talked about in class. Sometimes a catechist will ask the students to complete an unfinished exercise at home and often the catechist will have children apply what they've learned into everyday life. Please help the children learn the importance of their faith in Jesus by supporting our efforts through your example at home.

In addition to the assigned work – or if no specific work is assigned – students should work on memorizing the prayers assigned to each grade level.

## **Sacramental Preparation**

In Grades 2, 3 and 8, the parents are closely involved in the preparation of their children for the sacraments of Penance, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Parents are expected to attend the scheduled meetings. The dates times and places are listed on the calendar.

Contact the ARE if there is a situation, which prevents the student from attending class. PARENTS MAY BE ASKED TO POSTPONE SACRAMENT PREPARATION WHEN THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE ABSENCES. If a child misses a class for whatever reason, he/she is expected to make up the work.

## **Child Protection Catechesis**

The Diocese of Allentown class on Safe Environment is taught at each grade level K – 9. Parents will be informed when the class for each grade level will be taught. More information can be obtained by contacting the ARE.

## **Class Cancellations**

Texts and email notifications will be sent to all families. If you are in question of a cancellation, please call the ARE at 570-516-0107. *In the event we have not cancelled classes and you feel the roads are not safe, please keep your child home.* (Please call the ARE and let us know if you choose to stay home.)

## **Child Abuse**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Allentown that all employees and volunteer, report all forms of abuse (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, emotional, etc.) against any minor, even if the person is no longer a minor, perpetrated by any person. If a child discloses any information that leads us to believe the child is unsafe we will report it to the proper authorities.

## **PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM—**

Grades 1-8 will use the Faith and Life Series text books.

Text books are the property of the parish. Students are not permitted to write in the text books. We use consumable activity books, which means the students can write in them and keep them at the end of the year. The book is the property of the student and he/she is responsible for it. If a child forgets his/her book, he/she can use the classroom copy that week but may not write in it. If you have lost your book, please let the teacher know immediately. A \$20 replacement fee will be charged for a lost text book and you will be given a new book. A \$10 fee will be charged for a new activity book.

### **Grade 1**

The first grade child will learn to know God as the giver of gifts, especially the gift of life. Lessons focus on our loving Jesus, the Christian community, our families and friends. The first grader discovers the beauties of God's world. Each student learns to listen to God by listening to others, and shares experiences of belonging to God's family. Each will show how he/she is a friend of Jesus and a child of God.

The first-grader will learn THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, THE OUR FATHER, THE HAIL MARY AND THE GLORY BE.

## Grade 2

The second grade child will learn to celebrate the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The importance of the Mass is stressed throughout the year. The two principal parts of the Mass, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, will be explained. Each student should grow in his/her desire to receive Jesus and will verbalize this desire during the Eucharist preparation year.

The second grader will also be instructed on making their First Confession, and will have two opportunities during the year to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Additional prayers to be learned include GRACE BEFORE MEALS, THE ACT OF CONTRITION, AND THE GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER.

## Grade 3

Each third-grader will become more aware of his/her membership in the Catholic Church, as each learns how God the Holy Spirit is present, helping in prayer and sharing the Good News of Jesus with others in the Christian community. The third grader will study how the 12 Apostles were called and how they followed Christ.

In addition to prayers learned previously, the third grade child will learn THE MARKS (CHARACTERISTICS) OF THE CHURCH—One, holy, catholic and apostolic.

## Grade 4

The fourth grade person will learn about the formation of his/her own Christian conscience, so as to grow in moral awareness. The child is taught to examine his/her life and actions in light of Jesus' example. Bible stories are used to present examples of the effects of sin, to understand the difference between accident, mistake and sin, and how important it is to choose God's way. Through learning concepts of God's forgiveness, the fourth grader is prepared to receive and offer forgiveness as part of daily living.

Prayers to be learned include THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

## Grade 5

Each fifth grader will learn a deeper meaning of what it means to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church, especially through appreciating the Seven Sacraments. He/she will differentiate among the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Service. The student will explore signs of love and new life, reflect on sorrow and forgiveness, recall people who serve the Church, and tell why we should work toward Christian unity.

Each fifth grade child will be able to recite and explain the SEVEN SACRAMENTS, and to recite THE APOSTLE'S CREED.

## Grade 6

The Grade 6 student will discover the concepts of faith, trust, freedom, and justice displayed in the Old testament through the stories of our ancestors in Faith (Abraham, Moses, and David); and the lives of Jeremiah and other prophets. Each sixth grader will study the covenant made by God and His people throughout salvation history, will imagine himself/herself as a modern-day prophet and explore trusting in God and living justly.

Each sixth grade person will be able to LOOK UP A CHAPTER AND VERSE IN THE BIBLE AND RELATE A STORY FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.

## Grade 7

The theme of seventh grade is Morality. Each student will study the life, values and teachings of Jesus in the light of moral living. Each will learn about trust, caring, handling temptations, and making decisions as Jesus did.

Each will learn THE SEVEN VIRTUES AND DISCUSS TWO OF THEM.

## Grade 8 Confirmation

The eighth grade student will study in-depth the Sacrament of Confirmation and the meaning of signs and symbols as expressed through ritual.

Through preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, each eighth-grader will explore how to live out and renew baptism promises, while deciding how to be open to the Holy Spirit. Grade 8 students will volunteer their time in a class Christian Service project, as well as completing one "Challenge of the Week"

(found in their textbook.) Retreats, guest speakers and other activities will round out the year.

Each Grade 8 student will learn THE GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

### **Behavior and Dress Code**

Students should come to class dressed as they would to Sunday Mass. Those who come in inappropriate clothing will be given 2 reminders after which parents will be notified. Foul language will not be tolerated. No hats are to be worn in the building.

### **CELL PHONES, TEXTING, TOYS**

No messaging or use of electronic devices is allowed in class. Devices and toys used in class will be confiscated and will be returned to the parent.

### **MEDICATION**

The religious education office will not dispense any medication without the parent's written permission and a signed note by the child's doctor. Contact the Religious Ed Office for the appropriate forms and procedures.

Students may not have medication in their possession during religious education classes *except* for metered dose asthma inhalers, epinephrine auto-injector (epi-pen) or epinephrine inhaler. If your child needs to carry an asthma inhaler or epi-pen, please contact the ARE prior to the beginning of classes. Written approval from their physician and a parent is required for the student to possess and use these devices. We will also need to have a written emergency care plan.

### **PARENT'S ROLE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

You must be your child's primary example in matters of faith. Church authorities have helped us by developing positive laws called **Precepts of the Church** (listed below) to ensure our growth in our love of God and neighbor. We are obliged as Catholics to meet these minimum requirements of our faith (CCC 2041-2043.) As parents, we need to pass these precepts on to our children. This can make a big difference in their spiritual journey.

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from those works and activities, which would keep us from going to Mass on these days.

2. Confess our sins at least once a year.
3. Receive Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season. (If you have committed any mortal sins you should not receive Holy Communion until you go to confession.)
4. Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. Provide for the needs of the Church according to your ability.

*Prayer* is also a tremendous gift from God that will aid our children's spiritual journey. God hears and answers our prayers. When we are faced with difficult decisions we often pray the prayers we memorized as children. We need to pass on these traditional prayers so our children have them to fall back on as well. At the end of this handbook there is a list of prayers that students should know at each grade level. **Parents are responsible for helping their children memorize these prayers.** Catechists will periodically test the children on their prayers. Please work with them on memorizing their prayers.

## SPONSORS FOR CONFIRMATION

The role of the Confirmation Sponsor involves much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the bishop confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring and guidance. The prayers and support of the Sponsor are an important part of preparation for Confirmation, and helps the Confirmation Candidate live his or her baptismal promises both before and after Confirmation. Qualifications

To serve as a Sponsor for Confirmation within the Catholic Church:

The individual must be at least 16 years old.

He or she must have received the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in the Catholic Church.

If he or she is married, the marriage should have taken place in the Catholic Church.

The person must have the intention, the ability, and adequate time to be a Sponsor.

The Sponsor should live according to the Catholic Faith: attend Mass every weekend and receive the sacraments of the Church regularly, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (A Catholic is required to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist once each year.)

The Sponsor should practice the Faith within a Catholic parish community, and live a moral life.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Our program is only possible through the help of many volunteers. Here are the areas for you to consider helping out:

- Catechists (teachers): Introduce students to Jesus and our wonderful Catholic Tradition by allowing them to witness your love for Christ and the teachings of the Church. Training is available through the Archdiocese of Allentown. Classes are offered in Schuylkill County on a regular basis.
- Substitute Catechist: lesson plans will be provided
- Catechist Assistant: Help the primary catechist

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please contact the parish office.

Please be aware that all volunteers who have contact with children must:

- Submit to a Criminal History Background Check before beginning their volunteer assignment
- Attend a “Protecting God’s Children Workshop” within 6 months of assignment
- Adhere to the practices stated in the Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Review the Safe Environments Policy set by the Diocese of Allentown

### **Prayers to Know**

**First Grade:** Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, Grace Before and After Meals, Guardian Angel Prayer

**Second Grade:** All prayers above PLUS Act of Contrition, Mass Responses, Morning Offering, Rosary, Way of the Cross

**Third Grade:** All prayers above PLUS Apostles’ Creed, Aspirations (see Standard Prayer Section for list of Aspirations), Divine Praises

**Fourth Grade:** All prayers above PLUS Ten Commandments, Act of Faith, Angelus, Fatima Prayer, Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Hail Holy Queen, Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

**Fifth Grade:** All prayers above PLUS the Seven Sacraments, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Act of Love, Gloria,

**Sixth Grade:** All prayers above PLUS The Apostle's Creed, Act of Hope, Memorare, Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

**Seventh Grade:** All prayers above plus The Seven Virtues, The Beatitudes, The Greatest Commandment, Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

**Eighth Grade:** All prayers above PLUS The Nicene Creed, The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit, the Four Marks of the Church, Precepts of the Church, the Cardinal Virtues, Diocesan Confirmation Questions

## **Standard Prayers**

**Sign of the Cross:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Our Father:** 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 you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our 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.

**Grace before Meals:** Bless us, O Lord, and these, your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your goodness, through Christ, our Lord. 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

**Guardian Angel Prayer:** 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 and rule and guide. Amen.

**Morning Prayer:** Dear God, as I begin this day keep me in Your love and care. Help me to live as Your child today. Bless me, my family, and my friends in all we do. Keep us all close to You. Amen.

### **Apostle's 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.

### **The Ten Commandments**

1. I am the Lord, your God: you shall not have strange gods before 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 Sacraments:**

baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, reconciliation, anointing of the sick, holy orders, matrimony

### **The Virtues**

Definition: Virtues are spiritual powers or habits or behaviors. They help us to do what is right and avoid what is wrong.

The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, Charity

The Moral Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

**The Prayer of Aspirations to Jesus (Each line is a single prayer of Aspiration)**

Jesus!

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ conquers! Christ reigns! Christ orders!

O Lord, increase our faith.

Stay with us, O Lord.

Sacred heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved in every place.

Sweet Heart of Jesus, grant that I may love Thee ever more.

O Lord, may we be of one mind in truth and of one heart in charity.

O Lord, save us, we are perishing.

My Lord and my God!

Heart of Jesus, I put my trust in Thee.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Thy Love for me.

All for Thee, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, may You be known, loved, and imitated.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, protect our families.

Sweet Heart of Jesus, be my love.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, may the whole world burn with love of You.

O, Heart of my dear Redeemer, may the love of Your friends make amends for all the injuries and neglects which You sustain.

Let us, with Mary Immaculate, adore, thank, pray to, and console the Most Sacred and Well-Beloved Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
be praised, adored, and glorified  
every day throughout the world forever.

Come, O Lord, and tarry not.

O, Jesus, the Friend of the little children, bless and protect all the children of the world.

Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

Wisdom of the Sacred Head, guide me in all my ways.

Love of the Sacred Heart, consume me with Thy fire.

May the Most Blessed Sacrament be praised and adored forever!

# Church of St. Patrick

## Handbook Acknowledgement

### 2018-2019

**This form must be returned to your oldest student's catechist/ teacher on October 1, 2018. The Catechist will turn it into the office. Parents/ guardians and students are responsible for reading and understanding the policies and procedures within the handbook.**

I have read and understood the parent/ student handbook. I have read with my student the parent/ student handbook and agree to comply with the Church of St. Patrick procedures and policies.

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Parent/ Guardian Print your name & sign

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Date