

*St. Paul's R. C. Church
209 Washington Street
Delaware City, DE 19706*

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Paul's Religious Education Program is founded on the premises that parents and teachers form a partnership to educate children in the truths of the Catholic Church. It is the parents' mission to provide daily example and instruction of Christian witness and living. It is our mission within this program to guide young Catholics to develop a deeper understanding of their faith by providing instruction in the message of Christ according to the teachings of the Catholic Church within the context of the gentle and caring spirit of St. Francis de Sales.

PARENTS PRAYER

Lord, you created my child as a unique person close to Your heart.

You know his/her needs as no one else does.

Open my eyes and touch my heart so I will recognize this child's goodness

And be sensitive to his/her needs.

Speak through me.

Let me offer the look or gesture that will assure this child of Your love,

Your forgiveness, Your firm direction.

May this child truly feel a sense of belonging to the faith-filled family I long to create in our home.

Amen

In Baptism, and in marriage you accepted the responsibility to bring your children up as active members of the church so that they know their faith and how to practice it.

Our world offers to your children and us opportunities that are very opposite to the gospel values. In some school systems teachers have difficulty teaching because parents either cannot or will not take responsibility for helping the children or making the children do the work necessary to learn. In today's world we see students who are unruly or violent toward their teacher as well as their fellow students. The world has lost something that only faith can change. That is why it is so important that you support your children in public school but also in the school of the gospel and life of the sacraments.

You expect to see your children have the fundamentals laid out for them so that they may find or obtain well paying jobs when they finish school. Here at St. Paul's we are very happy to help you and cooperate with you in fulfilling your vocation and promises to lead your children to heaven. **YOU ARE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THEIR FAITH BY WATCHING YOUR ACTIONS, SEEING YOUR RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, YOUR PRAYER LIFE AT HOME AND IN CHURCH, SHOWING WILLINGNESS AND A NECESSITY FOR TEACHING THEM ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS AS WELL AS IN CHURCH.**

It is St. Ireanus' who states, "You are responsible for the salvation of your children." and this is what you promised at baptism.

We know there are family situations as well as other things that may not allow you to participate fully in the sacraments of the church, however, you are not only invited to come to church, but you should still be coming to church even if you cannot receive the sacraments.

We need a statement that they must be registered in the parish (census form on file) and if they were not baptized or received First Communion at any other parish, a copy of these certificates should be attached to the Religious Education Registration Form (a photocopy is fine).

Attendance at Mass and at Religious Education Class on a regular basis is something that is essential for the teaching of the faith.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Arrival and Dismissal

Parents or guardians are responsible to have their child or children arrive punctually to class. Promptness is essential. Students should arrive five minutes before class begins at **10:00 AM**.

Classes will be dismissed at **11:30 AM**. **NO CHILD IS PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING UNATTENDED**. We require written notice if your child will be walking to and from CCD unattended.

Additionally, we require the names and phone numbers of all who will pick up your children.

Attendance and Absences

Per Diocesan Policy 5112.1, any child or youth registered in the parish should participate in at least **30** hours of formal religious formation each year.

Based on the total number of sessions, the following guidelines are implemented for a student to pass onto the next level.

- The student will be promoted to the next grade level when he or she attends no less than **30** hours of instruction with make up work handed in for excused absences.
- Parents are responsible to notify the catechist of any foreseeable absences or when their child misses class due to illness. If a child misses class due to illness, the parents must obtain the assignment for any missed class and work with their child to see to its completion. All completed assignments must be returned to the catechist to receive an excused absence.
- In the event five or more sessions are missed, a parental consultation with the catechist and the Director of Religious Education will be required to ascertain if the student has the requisite knowledge to continue on at that grade level or to be promoted to the next grade level at the end of the year.

NOTE: Prolonged absences need to be addressed personally. Please inform the Director of Religious Education of any difficulties that exist, such as injuries, two-home accommodation, or other special situations that affect attendance

When there is a scheduled class, and your child is not in attendance, the parent or guardian will be called by a religious education staff member.

Textbooks

Textbook costs are included in your registration fee. Books used within the classrooms are to be taken home and must be brought back each week. If a student loses a textbook, he/she will be charged the cost of replacement

Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation

The most important preparation for every sacrament is attendance at Mass every Sunday. The policy of the Diocese of Wilmington is that sacramental preparation is the responsibility of a child's parents/guardians. To aid parents in preparing their children for these steps on their faith journey, the parish exercises its responsibility by providing preparation classes.

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

These programs are designed to assist parents with preparing their children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. Children must have reached the age of reason (7) to celebrate First Reconciliation and Eucharist and have attended at least one complete year of Religious Education. The preparation program for First Reconciliation begins in the Fall and for First Eucharist in January. The programs consist of two sessions for parents that provide them with up to date information on the sacraments and assists them in teaching their children at home. Textbooks and family guides are provided. First Reconciliation is celebrated in early December and First Eucharist during the Easter Season.

Confirmation

Confirmation is regarded as the perfection of Baptism, because as the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation states:

By the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

The sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in our parish every other year with young people in grades 9 and beyond who have met the following requirements.

- Successfully completed grade 8 Religious Education through attendance in the parish program or Catholic School.
- Attendance at all scheduled meetings, Confirmation classes, retreat and all parts of the preparation process.

The Confirmation program is designed to help our young people come to a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and the life of our Church.

NOTE: Families whose children attend Catholic HS must contact the Parish Office in April of the previous year to register for Confirmation class.

There will be a separate handbook for Confirmation Students handed out in the beginning of the Confirmation year.

Inclement Weather and Program Cancellations

Notification will be made at Mass, WJBR, Parish website www.StPaulsRCChurch.org email and/or phone tree. Extra classes may need to be added for any cancelled classes in order to meet diocesan guidelines.

Creating a Safe Environment

St. Paul's parish participates in the diocesan program FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN creating a safe environment. As a faith-filled people, we value and honor every individual as created in the image and likeness of God. In the works and ministries of this parish, we are committed to provide a safe environment for children, young people, and their families. Honesty, trust, and mutual respect frame an environment where healthy and responsible relationships prevail, boundaries are clear, and behavioral standards are mutually embraced. We are committed to providing for the safety and protection of God's children through a selfless sharing of our gifts and talents. For details about the program, visit the Diocese of Wilmington's website at www.cdown.org All catechists, moderators, youth ministers and anyone in constant reoccurring contact with have cleared a background check and have signed a volunteer covenant regarding appropriate behavior and expression when working with children and youth. We thank them for their participation and adherence to necessary guidelines.

Please sign and return the section below to your student's teacher:



Parent and/or guardian are to sign stating that they have read the above and understand their responsibilities and with God's help will fulfill them.

Student's Name (s):

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date