

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

7132 Arizona Avenue

Hammond, IN 46323

844-3438 Ext. 228

Parent Handbook Religious Education Program Kindergarten through Grade 8 2017 - 2018

Family Prayer for Safety and Protection

Mother of Perpetual Help, we entrust our family to your care, especially (mention name or concern).

St. Joseph, we ask you to protect us this day as we journey to and from our home.

Lord Jesus, let this home be a blessed rest along the way to our eternal home. We pray in your name, Jesus our Savior. AMEN.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm

olphparish.net

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
Religious Education
2017-2018

Sessions: Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

September 18 Faith Formation sessions begin
(Parents and children meet
in church)

September 25
October 2, 9, 16, 23
October 30 No session

November 6, 13, 20, 27
November 20 Harvest Liturgy

December 4, 11, 18

January 8, 22, 29
January 15 No session

February 5, 12, 26
February 19 No session

March 5, 12, 19
March 26 No session

April 2, 6, 16, 23, 30

May 7 (Last Session)



In case of inclement weather: If public school cancels classes we will have no religious education an email notification is sent to families as soon as cancellation is determined.

Confirmation (Grade 9) October 14, 10:30am, Holy Angels Cathedral,
Gary

First Confession March 10, 10 am

First Communion May 6, 10am

More Information: Bob Meaney 844-3438

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Arrival and Dismissal

Parents and children are able to enter the building from Arizona Street at 5:45 p.m. but no sooner. Children are to be picked up at the Church by 7:45 p.m.

Parents of children in K through 2nd grade must go to the classroom at the beginning of each session and at the church at the end of each session. If a relative or friend is to pick up your child, they should introduce themselves to the teacher. Older brothers and sisters may pick up their siblings from the classroom.

Students in grade 3 and above may walk to the entry by themselves.

Arrival: From 171st St. turn on to Arizona Ave going south. Drop students off at the south front entrance of the school. Continue to Orchard Ave.

Parents from K-2 enter into the front parking lot and park across from the church. Then proceed to walk your child into the front entrance.

Dismissal is same as arrival.

Do not park on the Arizona Street side of the school or Church.

Attendance

Weekly attendance is taken by each teacher. If a child is absent for three sessions in a row, the Director of Religious Education will call the parents.

Building Security

The Director of Religious Education, teachers and aides are alert for intruders in the building. A classroom on the first floor of the school is available for adults waiting for their children.

Child Protection

The parish and the Diocese of Gary have procedures to provide safe environments and to protect children from verbal, physical and sexual misconduct.

The teachers and aides are required to participate in a training program to understand and enforce these procedures. Our parish utilizes the program approved by the Bishop of the Diocese of Gary for this training.

www.virtus.org "Preview 'Protecting God's Children.'"

All staff members who have a reason to believe that a minor has been physically or sexually abused shall immediately report such belief to the Director of Religious Education. The pastor will be notified as well as Department of Child and Family Services or law enforcement agency.

Class Cancellation

When the Hammond public schools cancel classes we do not have classes. If we must cancel sessions after public schools have begun - we announce it over WJOB AM 1230), and the Northwest Indiana Times Website, nwtimes.com. An email notification will be sent to families as soon as cancellation is determined.

Discipline

All children are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and respect. Every grade has building and classroom rules posted.

For the most part, the teachers use a three warning process for unruly behavior:

- Child will be reminded of expected behavior (1st warning between catechist and child).
- After another incident the child will be sent to the Director of Religious Education (2nd warning). If child admits the unruly behavior and understands the consequences, the child will be sent back to class.
- If after the child is returned to class and the behavior continues, parents are notified and child may be sent home.

When the child and the parents have agreed on corrective action the child shall bring a note from parents describing the agreed upon correction.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS (minimum):

1. Always treat students and teacher with respect.
2. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not used while class is in session and may be collected by teacher.
3. Do not touch or handle any supplies or projects which do not belong to you.
4. Follow the rules for participating in class discussion and activities as the catechist describes them.

Electronic Equipment/Cell Phones

Electronic equipment and cell phones are not permitted in the classroom or to be used in the building during class times. Students who bring cell phones to class must keep them turned off and in their coats or back packs. Any student found with electronic equipment/cell phone during class risks having their items confiscated by the catechist or coordinator for the class period.

Enrollment Policies

Those who choose to enroll in the Religious Education Program who are not members of the parish must state why they are choosing our program and may need to a letter of permission from the pastor of their home parish. There is an additional cost of \$100.00 for non-parishioners.

Excused Dismissal

If a child must leave early, the student's parent must come into the school or church and insure the director observes the departure from the building.

Role of the Catechist/Teacher

Catechesis share Church what the church teaches, how we participate in the sacraments, how we live the Ten Commandments and how we pray. We assist families in having relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Certainly parents are the first catechists. In fact, in the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, are hear this instruction: "You are the first and the best teachers of the faith of this child." Parents

Scope and Sequence of the Religious Education Program

At the completion of each grade level it is our hope that your child will know at least these five basic teachings (along with references from the Bible) of our Church:

Kindergarten

- God loves all people
- Jesus, born of Mary, shows us God's love
- The Church is the family of God
- The Mass is a special sign of God's love
- Saints are our companions and pray to God for us

First Grade

- God is Father, Son and Spirit - Trinity
- Jesus is God and human
- We have a Great Commandment: Love God and others
- God sent the Son to die and rise so we have new life
- Heaven is happiness with God forever

Second Grade

- Jesus is savior of the World and Good Shepherd to all
- Ten Commandments are God's Law
- Sin is a free choice
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we experience the mercy of God
- We say what we believe about God, and pray for needs of world and Church

Third Grade

- Bible is the Word of God
- Church is the people of God formed by the Bible and Sacraments
- Priests, Bishops and all people are part of the Church
- Sacraments that bring us into the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
- Jesus is truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist

Grade Four

- The Ten Commandments live God's way
- God gives us free will
- Beatitudes announce the Reign of God
- Families reflect how to live the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes
- Church's Mission is to proclaim Christ to the World

Grade Five

- God's providence guides the entire world
- Trinity is the central mystery of Christian life
- The Incarnation is Jesus becoming human and saving us
- Through the Church guided by the apostles we are called to share good news
- Vocations are the way we live out our call to holiness
- The Church celebrates seven sacraments

Grade Six

- God reveals path of Salvation through the Scriptures
- Old Testament tells stories of our brothers and sisters in faith, the Jews
- Gospels tell us the news of Jesus and the Reign of God
- The New Testament tells us of the Spirit in the Church today
- We are part of an ongoing tradition united with heaven and earth

Grade Seven and Eight

Three nine week courses comprise the religious education sessions:

Year One:

The Bible

The Person of Jesus Christ

Christian Living

Year Two:

The Trinity

The Church

The Sacraments (Special emphasis on Confirmation)

Music Program

Every session concludes with music in preparation for Mass and church.

The children walk to church as a class group under the direction of the teacher.

Music sessions are from 7:15 – 7:30.

The Diocese of Gary Safe Environment Program

An age-appropriate abuse prevention education program is provided annually to children in all grades. Our program is included in the Harcourt Religion series “Talking about Touching Correlation Guide” or another program approved by the diocese.

Sacramental Programs

Policy for First Communion for Children newly registered in 3rd Grade

It is required that a child attend two consecutive years prior to receiving First Communion. A child starting our program in third grade will begin preparation for and receive the Sacrament of Confession in the first year of our program. They will receive First Holy Communion the following year.

Policy for First Communion of Children newly registered in 4th thru 8th grade

A child must be in our religious education program one year prior to preparation for and receiving the sacraments of Confession and Communion. In the first year in our program a child will be placed in the grade corresponding to public school. In the second year that child will be in the multi-grade sacramental preparation program.

Policy for Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a two year program normally in the 7th and 8th grade. A child newly registered in the 8th grade will need to attend religious education for two years and will receive Confirmation in the fall of their 10th grade.

Tuition and Fees

TUITION FOR THE YEAR

K-8th grade

1 child	\$100	
2 children	\$120	
3 or more	\$140	_____

Additional cost for each child in

First Confession	\$25	
First Communion	\$25	_____

Non parishioner fee (in addition to tuition)

\$100

Tuition covers the cost of training, supplies, materials and special purchases for sacramental and liturgical celebrations. Textbooks for K - 8th are not disposable and are used in the program for three years.

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Religious Education

VIRTUS: Safe Environment Program for Children in Religious Education Program

TO: Parents of Religious Education Students

We are committed to your child's safety and well-being. Almost daily, we hear of incidents of child abuse happening. That is why we as adults must learn how to keep our children and young people safe, and also teach our children how to keep themselves safe.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help presents a program focusing on abuse prevention. Parents will receive prior notification by email of date and topics of the class.

This program is approved by the Diocese of Gary and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and youth to protect all children from emotional, verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

For more information on the VIRTUS Safe Environment Program:
www.virtus.org "Preview Protecting God's Children."

I understand that for my child to participate in a child safe environment program which meets the requirements of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana.

I need to fill out and return this Parent Permission Form.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name (printed): _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Failure to return the signed permission slip implies consent for child to attend Program.)

For more information: Bob Meaney, Coordinator, 219-844-3438
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