

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY FAMILY HANDBOOK

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“FAMILY CATECHESIS PRECEDES,
ACCOMPANIES, AND ENRICHES
OTHER FORMS OF INSTRUCTION IN
THE FAITH. PARENTS HAVE THE
MISSION OF TEACHING THEIR
CHILDREN TO PRAY AND TO
DISCOVER THEIR VOCATION AS
CHILDREN OF GOD.”

-CCC2226



Welcome Families!

We are so excited to welcome you and your child(ren) to another year of Faith Formation at our parish. Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of walking alongside your family as together we grow in faith, deepen our love for Christ, and learn to live out the Gospel in our daily lives. The primary goal of all our programs is to help children form a relationship with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments, scripture, the Church, and in all the people of the world.

Faith Formation classes are available to all children 4 years old through high school seniors. Classes are held between the Masses from 9:45am-10:45am. To attend class, all children must be registered with the Faith Formation office. Registration can be done online through our parish website or by stopping in the Faith Formation office for a paper copy of the registration form.

All Faith Formation families will receive a copy of our *Elementary Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Family Handbook*. This handbook discusses various policies and procedures, the curriculum, sacramental preparation, and various prayers and Mass parts for children to learn. There have been changes made to the curriculum used in 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Please refer to page 6 of the handbook for more information on the curriculum we use. We have also created a Faith Formation Family Calendar with various important dates such as when we don't have class, parent meetings, retreats, and other special events. A copy of this calendar is found in the handbook on page 5, posted on the parish website, and paper copies are available in the Faith Formation Office. Please note that we do our very best to stick to this schedule, but unfortunately circumstances may arise where dates and/or times need to be changed due to things out of our control. Please always refer to your email for important updates.

We are looking forward to helping your child(ren) and family grow in their Catholic faith this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Faith Formation Office with any questions that may arise throughout the year.

God Bless,

Fr. Victor Kynam

Fr. Victor Kynam

Amy Fleck

Amy Fleck

Jennifer Dana

Jennifer Dana

Marija Bilic

Marija Bilic

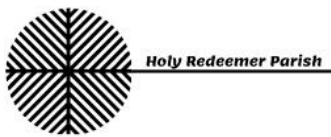


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The mission of Faith Formation is to lead people of all ages into a living relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church fostering a lifelong journey of faith through the celebration of Sacraments, prayer, learning, and to live the Gospel in daily life.





2026/27 Faith Formation Year Family Calendar

Sept. 13	Church Festival- Faith Formation Open House
Sept. 20	1 st Class- ALL meet in Church at 9:45am/ Parents stay for meeting
Sept. 27	Class/ Parent Sacrament Meeting (2 nd & 8 th grade)
Oct. 4	Class/ Rite of Enrollment 8:30am and 11am Mass
Oct.11	Class
Oct.18	Class/ 7 th grade Retreat
Oct.25	Class- Meet in Church
Nov. 1	Class/ 8 th grade Retreat
Nov. 8	Class
Nov. 15	Class
Nov. 22	Class
Nov.29	Break- NO CLASS (Thanksgiving weekend)
Dec. 5	1 st Reconciliation Retreat 9-11am
Dec. 6	Class
Dec. 13	Class (6 th grade and up) K-5 Christmas Program in gym
Dec. 20	Jesse Tree 11am Mass
Dec. 20 & 27	Break- NO CLASS (Christmas Holiday)
Jan. 3	Class
Jan. 10	Class
Jan. 17	Class
Jan. 24	Class
Jan. 31	Class
Feb. 7	Class
Feb. 14	Break- NO CLASS (Midwinter Break)
Feb. 21	Class
Feb. 28	Class
Mar. 7	Class
Mar. 14	Class- Meet in Church (SHINE Rally-Middle School-off site)
Mar. 20	1 st Communion Retreat 9-11am
Mar. 21	Class
Mar. 28 & Apr. 4	Break- NO CLASS (Spring Break)
Apr. 11	Class
Apr. 18	Class
Apr. 24	1 st Communicant Confession 9-11am
Apr. 25	Last Class- Meet in Church
May 2	1 st Communion 11am Mass
May 16	Baccalaureate Mass 11am (Brunch-12pm)

Rev 8/26/2026 ~some dates subject to change*Sacrament of Confirmation Date TBD Fall 2027



Policies and Procedures

Faith Formation Curriculum

- ❖ Our programming is spiral based. Meaning it integrates the fundamental themes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church with Scripture and Catholic social teachings. As children are introduced to and revisit concepts and vocabulary from one year to the next, their knowledge and experience both broaden and deepen as they grow in faith as committed disciples of Jesus.
- ❖ Sunday School (Pre-K/Kindergarten) – *Young Children and Worship*, Jerome W. Berryman & Sonja M. Stewart
 - This program is for 3–7-year-olds and integrates religious education and worship in an age-appropriate method.
- ❖ Grades 1, 3-5 – *Finding God*, Loyola Press
 - This program is designed to foster a lived relationship with God through Jesus. Rooted in Scripture, Church tradition, and Ignatian spirituality, the program engages the whole child – mind, heart, and soul – guiding them to recognize God’s presence in all things.
- ❖ Reconciliation and First Communion Prep – *Renewed and Received*, Ascension Press
 - This program will prepare students to encounter God’s mercy in Reconciliation and His love in the Eucharist. *Renewed and Received* will channel children’s innate curiosity and energy into a lifelong and lasting love for the Sacraments. This curriculum uses powerful live-action videos that illustrate invisible spiritual realities in a powerful way, and that works with the child’s imagination to show them how real faith is in their lives.
- ❖ Grade 6 – *God’s Plan in Scripture*, Ascension Press
 - This program is designed to take children on an amazing journey through the story of salvation and begin their preparation for Confirmation.
 - The adult *Great Adventure Bible Timeline* revolutionized Bible studies by dividing the Bible into 12 color-coded time periods that make it easier to follow its narrative thread. The GPS program brings the same color-coding and chronological approach to children.
- ❖ Grades 7-8 – *Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation*, Ascension Press
 - This program provides an exciting and comprehensive exploration of the Catholic Faith, offering a complete system of catechesis and evangelization. The program combines engaging multimedia content with practical tools that inspire teens not just to learn about their faith but to live it.



❖ High School – *YDisciple*

- This program focuses on small group environments where youth are known, loved, and cared for through video resources centered around personal testimony and parent resources.

Registration

- ❖ Everyone is welcome to register for any of our Faith Formation programs.
- ❖ Registration for faith formation is available via the Google Form, on the parish website, or paper copies are available in the faith formation office.
- ❖ Please note that if you are registering your child for the first time, we will need a copy of each child's baptismal certificate.
- ❖ There is a \$15 cost per child, for the workbooks they will use in class. Payment can be done online through Push Pay (<https://pushpay.com/g/holyredeemerparish>) and choosing the category of "Faith Formation"
 - Please note, this cost DOES NOT APPLY to our Sunday School (4 year old & K) or High School program since they do not use workbooks.
- ❖ Medical Information
 - If a student has medical needs, please be sure to list them on the registration form so we are aware and can properly care for your child – examples include allergies, medications, etc.
 - Dispensation of Medication
 - If a student is required to take prescription medication during faith formation hours and a parent/guardian is not present to administer it, a member of the faith formation team may administer medication in compliance with the following:
 - Written authorization by parent or guardian including the name of the medication, the specific dosage and exact time the dosage is to be given, and a list of possible side effects and any restrictions.
 - The medication must be in the prescription container and must contain the physician's name and office phone number.
- ❖ Photo & Video Release – parents are given the opportunity to opt out of having their child(ren) being photographed or video graphed on the registration form.
- ❖ IEPs/Learning Disabilities – the Faith Formation team should be made aware of any IEPs or learning disabilities. This enables us to provide a successful learning

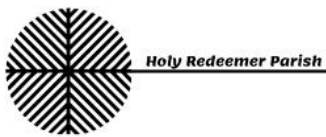


environment for all students and to support the individual needs of students in our program.

- All IEPs should be noted at the time of registration.
- Should a student obtain an IEP during the academic year, the faith formation team should be notified so we can take appropriate measures to help your child.

Expectations for Our Collaboration

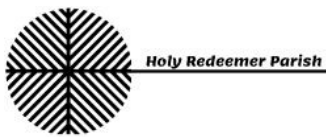
- ❖ All program employees, staff, and volunteers who have direct contact with children are subject to a background check and the completion of VIRTUS training.
 - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established a comprehensive set of procedures "*The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*" in order to protect all children and young people in all environments, so that parents will be confident in the participation of their children in parish and school activities.
 - Holy Redeemer Parish follows the directives established by the Diocese of Grand Rapids. In order to ensure the safety of all children and young people in our program, all volunteers who have regular, ongoing contact with minors are required to complete an adult safe environment training session (VIRTUS), submit to a background check and sign a Code of Conduct form.
 - These must be completed and approved by the Safe Environment Coordinator before someone is able to volunteer.
- ❖ Parish Staff
 - We will ensure that volunteer catechists and staff are recruited and trained to create a Christian environment for conducting faith formation.
 - We will ensure that background checks are in compliance with Diocesan policy for child safety are conducted and up to date.
 - We will manage medical, behavioral, or other problems as they arise to help create a safe environment for everyone.
- ❖ Parents
 - The Second Vatican Council states that "Parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for it."
 - "Education in the faith should begin in the child's earliest year. This already happens when family members help one another grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other form of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God." -CCC2226



- We ask parents/guardians to ensure their child's attendance to faith formation classes to the best of their ability.
- We ask parents/guardians to be a role model in practicing their Catholic faith.
- We ask parents/guardians to pray with their child(ren) and help them learn the appropriate prayers for their age.
- ❖ Students
 - We ask all students to respect all adults, students, and property.
 - We ask all students to follow the Classroom Expectations which are posted in their classroom.
- ❖ Catechists
 - Our catechists will create a faith-filled environment for learning.
 - Our catechists will be prepared to catechize the curriculum for the given grade level and teach it.
 - Our catechists will be a practicing Catholic and a Christian role model.

Attendance

- ❖ We respectfully request that good attendance be maintained in every year of faith formation. Our catechists are volunteers who plan carefully with the needs of the students in mind. Students who regularly miss class tend to have, at best, spotty knowledge of the faith. Our goal is that they know it well and love it!
- ❖ Up to four (4) absences are permitted. **If your child will be absent for any reason, please contact the Faith Formation Office via email. Please be sure to email the entire Faith Formation Team.**
 - After 4 absences, missed lessons will be sent home to be completed with the student's parent(s).
 - These completed lessons need to be returned to the Faith Formation Office in order for the absence to be excused.
 - Failure to turn in missed work will result in a meeting between the Faith Formation Team, Pastor, and family to determine the best next steps.
- ❖ Our schedule is made to correspond with the breaks and vacations of Jenison and Hudsonville Public Schools.
- ❖ Good attendance includes arriving on time and being present in as many classes as possible.
- ❖ Students in grades 1-8 will be provided with a workbook that accompanies our curriculum. These workbooks will stay at Holy Redeemer, but whatever chapter is covered in class will be torn out, stapled, and sent home with each child so parents will stay informed with what their child(ren) is learning.



Personal Belongings

- ❖ Students should not bring things from home to class. This includes, but is not limited to toys, cell phones, or other electronic devices.
 - Catechists reserve the right to ask that any personal items be set aside on the counter until the end of class.
 - If the item(s) remains a distraction, a member of the faith formation team will bring the item(s) to the faith formation office, and the parent/guardian can pick the item up after class.

Class Arrival and Dismissal

❖ Due to many allergies, we do not allow food of any kind in the classrooms. This also includes the donuts after mass.

- ❖ All classes are only 1 hour in length, BEING ON TIME IS ESSENTIAL for drop off and pick up.
 - Some of our catechists may need to attend 11:00am Mass after class, so it is very important that you pick your child up promptly at 10:45am.
- ❖ **Please do not leave your child unattended if there is no catechist present in the classroom.** Some of our catechists are coming from 8:30am Mass and need some grace with their arrival to class.
- ❖ At pick up, we ask that every parent/guardian wait outside the faith formation office or Shepherd's Hall until the bell rings signaling the end of class.

Inclement Weather Policy

- ❖ In the event of inclement weather, Holy Redeemer follows Jenison and/or Hudsonville Public Schools for closures.
 - Once the announcement is made Holy Redeemer will send out a Flock Note, social media will be updated, and if appropriate the faith formation team will send out an email for any cancelled events.

Safety Procedures

- ❖ The Faith Formation program has established procedures for various emergency scenarios.
- ❖ Drills for each scenario will be practiced twice a year. Once in the fall and once in the spring.
- ❖ **Fire** – every room has posted an evacuation route for exiting the building. Catechists lead the students out according to that route and away from the building. Each catechist will bring their attendance folder and walkie-talkie.



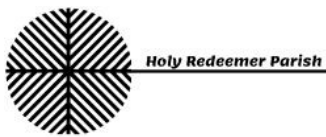
- ❖ **Tornado** – every room has posted a designated safe area where the class will take refuge in the event of a tornado warning or sighting.
- ❖ **Shelter in Place**
 - In the event of a situation where it is unsafe for the students to leave the classroom (for example a medical emergency in Shepherd's Hall), catechists will close the classroom door and continue to teach until given the all clear by the faith formation team.
 - If there is an event that is more serious (for example a physical threat) and it is unsafe for the children to leave, catechists will close the classroom door, close the blinds, and move the children as far away from any windows as possible. Everyone within the room will stay silent until they are given the all clear.

Communication

- ❖ **Our primary form of communication with our families is via email.** Please be sure to check your email regularly so you stay up to date with what is happening in Faith Formation.
 - You may also find this information on posters around the church, the parish bulletin, Flock Note, social media, or the website.
- ❖ When emailing the Faith Formation Team, please be sure to email the entire team. This helps us all stay on the same page.
- ❖ At the beginning of each Faith Formation program year, families will receive a calendar of events for the year.
- ❖ Calendars will also be posted under the “Faith Formation” tab on the parish website.
- ❖ Occasionally some events may need to be changed. Should this happen, please check your email, parish bulletin, Flock Note, and social media for updated information.

Classroom Management

- ❖ All students are expected to share in the faith learning experiences of their class. If a child's behavior disrupts the learning process for him/herself or for others, the steps listed below will be followed to ensure that class participation may continue.
 - Classroom expectations are posted in each classroom. Minor problems with behavior will be handled directly between the catechist and student immediately.
 - The student will be redirected to appropriate behavior and if appropriate, rules will be reviewed with the student.



- If disruptive behavior continues and/or escalates, the child will be removed from the class to have a 1:1 discussion with a member of the faith formation team and determine if the student is able to return to class.
- If the behavior continues and/or escalates after a 1:1 discussion with a member of the faith formation team, the child will be removed from class for the rest of the class time, and parents will be phoned.
 - The staff member and the parents will work together to create a suitable classroom plan for the child.

Homeschooling

- ❖ Holy Redeemer Parish respects parents' right to homeschool their children. Parents that are interested in homeschooling their children for faith formation should notify the faith formation office to set up a meeting with Director of K-8 Formation to create an appropriate plan.
 - Families will be expected to complete all of the same lessons that are being covered in the classroom, turn the completed lessons in monthly to the Faith Formation Team, and participate in periodic phone check-ins.
 - The Faith Formation office has various resources available to help you and your family with your lessons if you need them.

OCIC – Order of Christian Initiation for Children

- ❖ If your child is registered for Faith Formation, but has not yet been baptized, please contact the parish priest to arrange for their baptism.
- ❖ We offer a specialized program for children who may not have completed their sacraments during the typical time frame. Please reach out to the Faith Formation office to discuss your needs and we will help guide you to the best placement for your child.

Special Religious Development

- ❖ Special Religious Development (SPRED) is a program in which persons who are developmentally disabled come together to form a small faith community which fosters spiritual and personal growth by helping participants discover God's action and presence in their lives.
- ❖ SPRED provides an opportunity for celebration and worship as well as the necessary preparation for the reception of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.



Sacramental Years

- ❖ **When preparing for a Sacrament (Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation), two consecutive years of participation in faith formation is expected.**
 - We believe this procedure creates an environment for the child to celebrate the Sacrament in a meaningful manner.
- ❖ **Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion**
 - Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion is a 2-year program.
 - **Students in 2nd grade, for the 2026-2027 school year will be the last class that has 1 year of Sacramental prep.**
 - **Parent meetings and retreats** are scheduled during the year and are **MANDATORY**.
 - Missing a parent meeting and/or retreat will result in a meeting with the Pastor and Faith Formation team to discuss the material that was covered during the meeting.
- ❖ **Sacrament of Confirmation**
 - Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a 2-year program.
 - **Students in 8th grade, for the 2026-2027 school year will be the last class that has 1 year of Sacramental prep.**
 - **Parent meetings, sponsor meetings, and retreats** are scheduled during the program are **MANDATORY**.
 - Missing a parent meeting, sponsor meeting, and/or retreat will result in a meeting with the Pastor and Faith Formation team to discuss the material that was covered during the meeting.
 - Retreats are scheduled for a more in-depth learning opportunity for the Sacrament of Confirmation and help the youth become well-formed in their Catholic faith.
 - The retreat may be a day, overnight, or for the weekend.
 - The purpose of a spiritual retreat is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions we all face in our daily lives and take time to reflect on our relationship with God.
 - Missing a retreat will result in a meeting with the Pastor and Faith Formation team to discuss the readiness of the youth to complete the Sacrament.
 - Service experience is required during Confirmation prep (7th & 8th grade)
 - We are called to serve each other to maintain and improve our living church community.



- Students are required to participate in at least one service project each year as a way of putting our “faith in action”. In other words, one time in 7th grade and another time in 8th grade.
 - Doing 2 service opportunities in 7th grade will not count towards 8th grade; likewise doing 2 service opportunities in 8th grade will not make up for an opportunity that was missed in 7th grade.
- Confirmation will take place in the fall after all Sacramental Prep has been completed at a date to be determined by the Diocese.
 - 8th grade students preparing for Confirmation for the fall of 2027 will be the last class to have 1 year of Confirmation prep.
 - All students will meet one-on-one with the pastor, in the fall, to discuss their readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ❖ If your family has special circumstances regarding sacramental preparation, please contact the Faith Formation office so we can discuss your situation and create a plan that works for you, your child, and your family.



Prayers – With the limited classroom time the children spend in faith formation, it is not possible to help the children learn all these prayers by heart. This is why we ask the parents/guardians to become our partners in this mission.

❖ **PreK & Kindergarten**

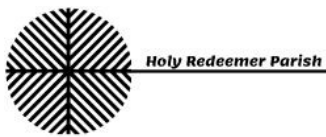
- Sign of the Cross
- Introduction to:
 - Our Father
 - Hail Mary
 - Glory Be
- Mass Responses
 - Blessing yourself when walking into church and leaving
 - Crossing arms over chest when in the Communion line
 - Responding “Amen” at appropriate times

❖ **1st Grade**

- **All the above PLUS:**
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Prayer to Guardian Angel
- 10 Commandments
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Sign of Peace
 - Responding “And with your spirit” at appropriate times
 - Praying the Our Father

❖ **2nd Grade**

- **All the above PLUS:**
- Act of Contrition
- 7 Sacraments
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Genuflection & Bowing
 - Saying “Amen” when receiving the Eucharist and precious blood
 - Participating in the “Lord have mercy”



❖ 3rd Grade

- **All the above PLUS:**
- Grace Before Meals
- Grace After Meals
- Apostles Creed
- Fatima Prayer
- Praying the Rosary
- 4 Marks of the Church
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Responding “Lord hear our prayer” during the Prayers of the Faithful
 - Praying the Hail Mary
 - Responding “Thanks be to God” after the readings

❖ 4th Grade

- **All the above PLUS:**
- Hail Holy Queen
- Mortal & Venial Sin
- Beatitudes
- Fruits of the Spirit
- The Angelus
- Act of Love
- Theological Virtues
- Cardinal Virtues
- Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Participating in the Responsorial Psalm
 - Responding appropriately during the Gospel
 - “Glory to you O Lord” while making a cross on the forehead, lips, and heart
 - “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ” at the end of the Gospel
 - Participating in the Great Amen during the consecration



❖ **5th Grade**

- **All the above PLUS:**
- 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Act of Faith
- Act of Hope
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Lamb of God
 - Gloria

❖ **6th Grade**

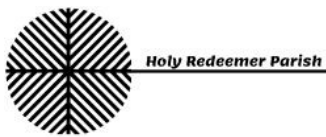
- **All the above PLUS:**
- Memorare
- Nicene Creed (and saying it at Mass)

❖ **7th Grade**

- **All the above PLUS:**
- Saint Michael the Archangel
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Participating in the Liturgy of the Eucharist

❖ **8th Grade**

- **All the above PLUS:**
- Precepts of the Church
- Mass Responses
 - **All the above PLUS:**
 - Prayer for Vocations



Prayers

Sign of the Cross *(Using the right hand)*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer/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 thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy 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.

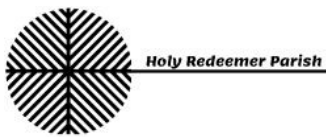
Amen

Angel of God

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, to rule and guide.

Amen



10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other God's before me.
 - a. Always put God first.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
 - a. Use God's name with respect.
3. Keep the Sabbath holy.
 - a. Go to church on Sunday.
4. Honor your father and mother.
 - a. Respect your dad and mom.
5. You shall not kill.
 - a. Do not hurt or kill anyone.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
 - a. Respect marriage promises.
7. You shall not steal.
 - a. Do not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 - a. Do not lie.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
 - a. Do not be jealous of other's relationships.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
 - a. Do not be jealous of what others have.

Act of Contrition (Option #1)

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

Amen

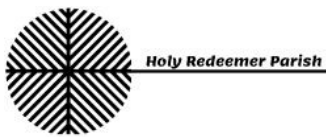
Act of Contrition (Option #2)

Oh my God, I am sorry and repent with all my heart for the wrong I have done and for the good I have failed to do, because by sinning I have offended you, who are all good and worthy to be loved above all things.

I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid the occasions of sin.

Through the merits of the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ, Lord, have mercy.

Amen



Act of Contrition (Option #3)

Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

7 Sacraments

- *Sacraments of Initiation*
 - Baptism
 - Reconciliation
 - Eucharist
 - Confirmation
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts,

Which we are about to receive, from thy bounty through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Grace After Meals

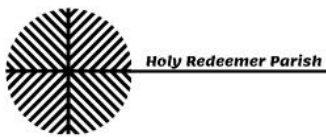
We give you thanks, almighty God, for these and all your gifts,

Which we have received through Christ our Lord.

Amen

4 Marks of the Church

- **One** – One Church because there is only one Christ. One Baptism, One Faith, One Worship: the Mass. One government: the Pope
- **Holy** – The Church is holy because Christ is holy.
- **Catholic** – Catholic means that the church is universal. The church is universal because it has everything that is needed for salvation. The Good News of the Gospel is preached to everyone.
- **Apostolic** – Apostolic refers to Jesus's 12 Apostles. The church was founded by Jesus and carried on by the Apostles.



Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

****all bow***

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, on the third day he rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heave, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

From there he will 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

Fatima Prayer

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,

Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

Amen

Praying the Rosary

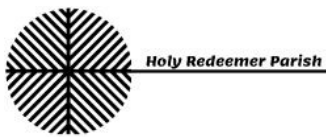
- Sign of the Cross
- Apostle's Creed
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Fatima Prayer
- Hail, Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, theine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Amen



Mortal & Venial Sin

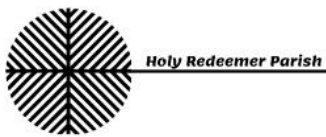
- Sin – is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by perverse attachment to certain good. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It has been defined (by St. Augustine) as ‘an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law’.
(CCC1849)
- Mortal Sin – destroys our union with God and the presence of sanctifying grace in our souls.
 - To be a mortal sin the act committed must be considered grave or serious matter.
 - The sinner must have full knowledge of the sinful character of the act; in other words, s/he must be acting with an informed intellect and must know this act violates God’s eternal law.
 - The sinner must give full consent of the will, meaning that he has reflected on doing the action and deliberately wants to do it.
- Venial Sin – denotes either an act of a less serious matter, or one which involves grave matter but is performed without full knowledge or complete consent of the will.

Beatitudes – Blessings outlining a life of holiness, humility and righteousness that leads to true happiness.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
- Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.
- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.
- Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fruits of the Spirit

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Generosity
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control



Act of Love

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die.

Amen

Theological Virtues – these virtues come from God and lead to God

- Faith – is the ability to believe in God and give our lives to him. It allows us to trust God completely and to accept all that God has revealed and taught us.
- Hope – is the desire for all the good things God has planned for us. Hope gives us the ability to believe that God will always be with us and that we will live with God forever in Heaven.
- Love – is the way we think about God and how we act toward him and others.

Cardinal Virtues – these virtues are human virtues which we learn through education and doing good things.

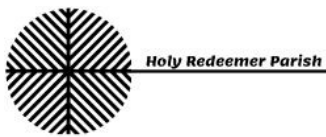
- Prudence – is the ability to decide what is good and then choose to do it. It makes you stop and think before you act.
- Justice – is the respect we show for the rights of others and giving them what is rightfully theirs. A just person thinks of others and their needs and tries to be fair to everyone.
- Fortitude – is the courage to do what is right, even when it is very hard to do. It gives you strength to walk away from temptations that you face every day.
- Temperance – is the ability to balance what we want with what we need. It teaches us self-control.

Corporal Works of Mercy (Body)

- Feed the hungry
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Comfort the imprisoned
- Visit the sick
- Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy (Soul)

- Convert the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead



7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Wisdom – Helps us understand the purpose and plan of God and live in a way that helps bring about his plan.
- Understanding – Helps us make the right choices in life and in our relationships with God and with others.
- Knowledge – Helps us perceive what God asks and how we should respond.
- Counsel – Helps us make correct choices in life through reflection, discernment, consultation, and advisement.
- Fortitude – helps us to choose to do the right thing even when it is difficult.
- Piety – helps us to love God and behave responsibly and with generosity and affection toward others.
- Fear of the Lord – leads us to a sense of wonder and awe in the presence of God because we recognize his greatness.

Act of Faith

Oh my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in Three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them, who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die.

Amen

Act of Hope

O Lord God, I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because you have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope I intend to live and die.

Amen

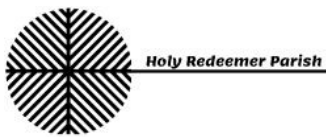
Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me.

Amen

Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou oh Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

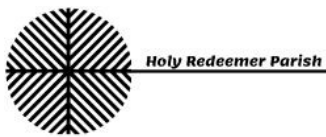


Holy Days of Obligation

- The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God – January 1
- Ascension – celebrated on Thursday, the sixth week of Easter
- The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – August 15
- All Saint's Day – November 1
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary – December 8
- The Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas) – December 25

5 Precepts of a Catholic Christian

- Attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.
- Confess sins to a priest, at least once a year
- To receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season.
- Observe the days of abstinence and fasting
 - Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.
 - In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.
 - For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59.
 - When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as 2 smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.
 - The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.
- To contribute to the support of the church/provide for the needs of the church.
 - Give of your time, talent, and treasure.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

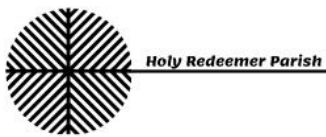
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
The only begotten son of God, born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
Begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven.
And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontus Pilate,
He suffered death and was buried,
And rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
And his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
Who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come.

Amen



Mass Responses

- Blessing yourself when walking into church and leaving (PreK/K)
- Crossing arms over chest when in the Communion line (PreK/K)
- Responding “Amen” at appropriate times (PreK/K)
- Sign of Peace (1st Grade)
- Responding “And with your spirit” at appropriate times (1st Grade)
- Praying the Our Father (1st Grade)
- Bowing – when entering and leaving the pew, receiving the Eucharist and the precious blood (2nd Grade)
- Saying “Amen” when receiving the Eucharist and precious blood (2nd Grade)
- Participating in the “Lord have mercy” (2nd Grade)
- Responding “Lord hear our prayer” during the Prayers of the Faithful (3rd Grade)
- Praying the Hail Mary (3rd Grade)
- Responding “Thanks be to God” after the readings (3rd Grade)
- Participating in the Responsorial Psalm (4th Grade)
- Responding appropriately during the Gospel (4th Grade)
 - “Glory to you O Lord” while making a cross on the forehead, lips, and heart
 - “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ” at the end of the Gospel
- Participating in the Great Amen during the consecration (4th Grade)
- Lamb of God (5th Grade)
- Gloria (5th Grade)
- Nicene Creed (6th Grade)
- Participating in the Liturgy of the Eucharist (7th Grade)
- Prayer for Vocations (8th Grade)