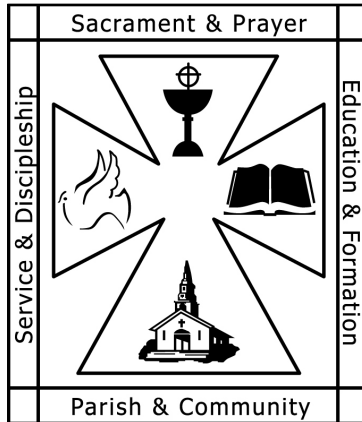


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



2017-2018 FAMILY HANDBOOK



“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

(1 Peter 3:15b)

Effective September 5, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new year of religious education at St. Patrick Parish! The catechetical theme we embrace this learning year is **“Living as Missionary Disciples.”** *The National Directory for Catechesis* states: “The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity” (19B). At our baptism, we receive the grace of God and the virtues of faith, hope, and love, becoming temples of the Holy Spirit who guides us throughout our faith journey. Prayer, participation in the sacramental life of the Church, and catechesis are essential for keeping us on the path of faith and enabling us to share that faith with others as authentic missionary disciples. The home is the first “mission,” the first place where the Catholic faith is shared.

Our St. Patrick Parish staff is prepared to assist you, along with those who have accepted the role as catechists and aides, in passing on our most precious Catholic faith and leading your children to Our Eucharistic Lord. As parents/guardians, you are the primary educators of your children and the most influential agents of religious education for them. Your witness and love for the Catholic faith will have the greatest impact on the faith of your children. Be assured of our prayerful support as you spiritually guide your family.

This *Family Handbook* details our formal religious education program and sacramental formation. It is our hope that this handbook will prove to be a valuable resource for your family throughout the coming year. Be assured of my continued prayers for all of you.

God bless,

Fr. Timothy Draper

Pastor

St. Patrick Religious Education Mission Statement:

“To form mature disciples of Jesus Christ (1) by *instructing* our youth in the truths of the Catholic faith, (2) by *preparing* them to receive fruitfully the sacraments and to participate fully, actively, and consciously in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, (3) by *shaping* in them a Christian character founded upon the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, (4) by *assisting* them to develop a deep friendship with Jesus Christ through personal and liturgical prayer, (5) by *instilling* in them an attitude of love and concern for their neighbor, especially the needy and the unborn, and (6) by *encouraging* and *empowering* them to share their Catholic faith and love for Jesus Christ with those they encounter.”

CATECHETICAL STAFF

PASTOR

Fr. Timothy Draper

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Deacon Kevin Prunty

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Susan McCoy

SUNDAY OFFICE ASSISTANT

Mrs. Diane Stewart (815) 590-2968 dianestewart93@gmail.com

CATECHISTS

Phone #

Email

8th Grade: Allison Schalck	(815) 575-0132	singtothelord@schalck.net
7th Grade: Tim O'Laughlin	(815) 440-7934	timo@woodhavenassociation.com
6th Grade: Kaylee Jones	(815) 973-5621	kayjo28@gmail.com
5th Grade: Ken Burkhardt	(815) 973-3292	saintmaybe@hotmail.com
4th Grade: Chip & Teresa Wells	(815) 973-2901	germoewells@gmail.com
3rd Grade: Sue Ely	(815) 440-5393	dsm.ely1@comcast.net
2nd Grade: Bonita Willis	(815) 343-1966	bonita_willis2@hotmail.com
1st Grade: Kelly Klein	(815) 501-2502	kellyklein1@gmail.com
Kindergarten: Mandy Powers	(815) 973-4628	amanda.powers1@usbank.com

AIDES

8th Grade: Bill Schalck	(see Allison Schalck above)	bill@schalck.net
7th Grade: Lynn O'Laughlin	(815) 440-7935	lmolaughlin@gmail.com
6th Grade: Allison Fox	(815) 993-2184	afox@dps170.org
2nd Grade: Laura Morgan	(815) 994-1954	goatgr148@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS & DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE PHONE: (815) 857-2315 (Amboy)
(815) 857-2670 (Harmon & Walton)

PARISH FAX NUMBER: (815) 857-3485

E-MAIL ADDRESS: susanmccoy60@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stpatrickamboy.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Wednesday 8:30am-4:00pm

Thursday 8:30am-3pm

Friday 8:30am-12pm (Noon)

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

St. Patrick, Amboy: Saturday, 4:30pm; Sunday, 7:30am & 10:30am

St. Mary, Walton: Saturday, 6:00pm

St. Flannen, Harmon: Sunday, 9:00am

CONFESSION TIMES

St. Patrick, Amboy: Wednesday 5:30-6:15pm; Saturday 3:30-4:15pm

PARENTS AND CHURCH TOGETHER

“Through the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the ‘first heralds’ for their children. They should associate them from their most tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one’s life.” - *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2225

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

Our parish community is prepared to help parents/guardians with this awesome responsibility of passing on the Catholic faith to our young people. We offer a high quality formal religious education program in which many dedicated volunteer catechists give countless hours preparing their “lessons” and their hearts. They have also committed additional time to workshops and meetings in order to provide their students with the best faith-sharing leadership possible. Parents/guardians, you can provide an excellent model of faith to your children by...

- fulfilling the commitment you made at the baptism of your children to be the first and best teachers of the faith to your children,
- fulfilling your obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation with your children,
- helping your children memorize and learn their prayers and essential Catholic teachings (e.g., see pages 10 and 11 of this Handbook),
- taking the time to share with your children the need for them to be respectful, attentive, and cooperative,
- making every effort to have them attend classes promptly and faithfully,
- in the event of an absence, reviewing the missed material prior to the next class,
- encouraging your children to participate in parish youth activities, such as the summer *Totus Tuus* program,
- participating fully in the life of our parish community through worship and service,
- reviewing any rules or procedures the catechist has made known to their class,
- evaluating your commitment to the educational ministry and seeking ways in which you can become involved (e.g., as a catechist, aide, hall monitor),
- supporting the ministry of catechesis with personal prayer.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION POLICY

For each child enrolled in our parish religious education program, we ask that a registration form be filled out and turned in to the parish office. The registration form can be found online at:

www.stpatrickambo.org/youth-faith-formation

STUDENT TEXTBOOK AND ACTIVITY BOOK POLICY

St. Patrick Parish does not currently charge a fee for enrollment in its religious education program. The cost of religious education books and materials are

currently covered by St. Patrick Parish, with the generous support of donations from parishioners and parish groups, like the St. Patrick Women's Organization. The Kindergarten students will each receive a Workbook that will remain in their classroom. The 1st-8th grade students will receive a Textbook and an Activity Book. Both the Textbook and Activity Book will be sent home with the 1st-8th grade students each Sunday. They are expected to bring both books with them to class each Sunday and are expected to take proper care of their Textbooks and Activity Books throughout the year. The 1st-8th grade students are expected to return their Textbooks on the last day of class so they can be reused by future students the following year. The Activity Book will be theirs to keep. If the Textbooks or Activity Books are badly damaged or lost *during the course of* the religious education year, the parents/guardians will be expected to reimburse St. Patrick Parish to purchase replacements. If Textbooks are badly damaged or not returned *at the end of* the religious education year, parents/guardians will be expected to reimburse St. Patrick Parish for the cost of the Textbooks before the start of the next religious education year.

STUDENT ABSENCE POLICY

If a student will be absent from class for any reason, the parents/guardians are expected to contact their child's catechist directly. **Parents/guardians can find the contact information for their children's catechists on page 3 of this Handbook.** If it is a *foreseen* absence, we ask that you please contact your child's catechist *within a week before the absence* to receive the information on the Textbook chapter/pages and Activity Book pages your child will miss. If it is an *unforeseen* absence (e.g. your child wakes up on Sunday morning unexpectedly feeling ill), please go to the parish's website (www.stpatrickamboy.org/youth-faith-formation), where you will find a list of the pages covered in the Textbook and Activity Book. These pages will be posted on the parish's website the Tuesday after each class. In the event of either a *foreseen* or *unforeseen* absence, your child will be able to do the work at home and will not be behind when returning to class.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

Occasionally, concern for the safety of our families requires that we cancel a scheduled class or event due to inclement weather. In the event of a cancellation, an email notification will be sent to parents/guardians and catechists.

SPECIAL NEEDS

It is our goal to embrace all of God's children in our ministry. Occasionally, children come to us who present special needs. In an effort to welcome all children and meet the individual needs of each child, we ask that parents/guardians share all specific information regarding their children's individual needs on the registration form: i.e., allergies, physical limitations, medical concerns, medications, and special learning needs (e.g., LD, ADD, ADHD, autism, etc.). All information shared will be kept strictly confidential. Our catechists will work with parents/guardians and invite their participation to help meet the specific needs of their child. If we are unable to meet the needs of a child, we will provide materials for you to work at home with your child.

STARTING/ENDING TIMES

Sunday 9:00-10:15am (St. Patrick Parish Center)

Sunday 6:00-8:00pm (St. Joseph's Hall) for Confirmation classes

ARRIVALS AND DISMISSALS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

When entering and exiting the parish parking lot for arrival/dismissal, please drive slowly and be extra careful at all times. Be sure to observe safety signs, speed limits, and cones that are used to provide everyone the safest environment.

CURRICULUM - KINDERGARTEN

“Who Am I?”

IMAGE OF GOD series by Ignatius Press is based on two unifying key truths: God and creation. It stresses the dignity of each child made in God's image. Each lesson includes Bible stories, “Concepts of Faith,” home activities, and fun workshops.

CURRICULUM – GRADES 1 – 8

FAITH AND LIFE series by Ignatius Press presents Catholic teaching, using time-tested methods of catechesis and faith formation, in a beautiful, student friendly, and comprehensive format. Correlated with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the curriculum features increased use of Scripture to complement the series' outstanding presentation of Catholic doctrine and practices. For more information, go to the “**LINKS**” sections of our parish website (www.stpatrickamboym.org/youth-faith-formation) or go directly to www.faithandliferies.com. The grade themes are as follows:

GRADE 1

Introduction to the Holy Trinity through presentations of God the Father, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's plan of salvation, and our part in that plan. Acquaints children with Mary, the angels, and the saints. Children learn basic prayers.

GRADE 2

Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Creation, the Covenant with Moses, the Ten Commandments, Redemption, the Forgiveness of Sins, and the Mass.

GRADE 3

God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion, and the Mass.

GRADE 4

God's plan to save His people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through His word, His law, and His Church.

GRADE 5

A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic beliefs of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on a careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

GRADE 6

The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and His gifts of grace that help us fulfill His law.

GRADE 7

Grace as our link with God, His gift to us to bring us to Himself and His eternal life, with an emphasis on the transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gift of the revelation of Himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church.

GRADE 8

The history of the Church, its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus founded, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity, and our own vocations.

CONFIRMATION CURRICULUM (GRADES 7 – 8)

DECISION POINT by Dynamic Catholic is a 12 part, video-based instruction on the Sacrament of Confirmation. *Decision Point* is designed to prepare young Catholics for the Sacrament of Confirmation. At the heart of the program are seventy-two short films, which range in length from three to fifteen minutes and feature world-renowned Catholic speaker and author, Matthew Kelly. *Decision Point* has been designed to ignite a conversation about the genius of Catholicism between candidates and their parents/guardians, sponsors, catechists, teachers, peers, and priests. The entire program is available online to anyone at any time. The program is also available in an e-mail version, which allows individuals to sign up and receive the program in bite-size portions each week (perfect for parents/guardians and sponsors). The seventy-two short films and bonus content are also be available on an application for smart phones and tablets. All of the online information can be found in the “**LINKS**” sections of our parish website (www.stpatrickamboy.org/youth-faith-formation) or at www.DynamicCatholic.com/Confirmation.

HOME INSTRUCTION

St. Patrick Parish offers home instruction as an option for grades K - 8. Families choosing Home Instruction for their children are expected to complete a registration form, participate in the sacramental life of Church, participate in sacramental formation, utilize approved texts, and complete the assignments for the curriculum. For parents/guardians pursuing home instruction, we will provide orientation for the curriculum and the materials necessary to meet the objectives for each grade level.

DIOCESAN CHASTITY & SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

In the Rockford Diocese, this program is required to be taught yearly to all religious education students in grades K - 8 to provide students formation in the areas of chastity and safety. More information can be found in the “**LINKS**” section of our parish website (www.stpatrickamboy.org/youth-faith-formation). For parents/guardians who do not wish their children to participate in this program, an “**Opt-Out**” Form can be found in the “**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DOCUMENTS**” section of our parish website.

YOUNG PEOPLE attending our program are expected to...

- attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation,
- come to each class with an open and positive attitude,
- cooperate with the catechists in order to maintain a Catholic Christian atmosphere of mutual respect,
- participate fully and appropriately in group activities,
- be sure to treat the property of others with respect,
- be sure to give parents/guardians any information distributed by catechists.

OCCASIONALLY there may be...

- excessive tardiness or absences,
- disruptive or inappropriate behavior in groups,
- lack of parental involvement or cooperation,
- unforeseen personality conflicts with the catechists or group members.

TO REMEDY any of the above situations...

- contact should first be made between the catechists and parents/guardians to discuss the situation and possible solutions;
- if a problem persists, the catechists will contact the Coordinator of Religious Education to further explore alternative solutions, such as arranging a meeting of all involved or inviting parents/guardians to attend religious education classes with their children. The catechists may also provide techniques that might be used to alleviate the situation.

SACRAMENTAL FORMATION

BAPTISM

Preparation for the baptism of infants is arranged by contacting our parish office at (815) 857-2315 or (815) 857-2670. Parents will be asked to fill out a baptismal registration form and to schedule with Fr. Draper or Deacon Prunty a date for the child's baptism. **Note: If this is your first child being baptized, a baptismal preparation class must also be scheduled and taken with Fr. Draper or Deacon Prunty prior to the baptism.**

Parents of children who have reached catechetical age (approximately 7 years), who are requesting Baptism for their children, should contact our parish office to make arrangements to begin the process of sacramental initiation.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Guidelines put forth by our Bishops concerning baptized children specify that the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received prior to First Communion. At St. Patrick Parish the preparation for these sacraments requires parental involvement in meetings, practices, and workshops. It is expected that parents/guardians will attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly themselves (i.e., at least once a year).

FIRST COMMUNION

All First Communicants and their families are expected to...

- participate fully in our Parish Religious Education Program,
- attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation,

- assess the child’s readiness for the celebration of First Communion, together with the Pastor, Coordinator of Religious Education, and catechist,
- celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the celebration of First Communion.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation is ordinarily celebrated at St. Patrick Parish every two years. For Confirmation preparation 7th and 8th grade students will join together for combined instruction. After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, 7th and 8th grade students will have separate classes for the remainder of the religious education year. If you are in grade 9 through 12 and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please call the parish office, so we can arrange how best to prepare you for this sacrament.

ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES are expected to...

- participate fully in our Parish Religious Education Program,
- participate in Confirmation events, workshops, practices, and retreats,
- explore and have some experience of the Church’s works of charity and justice, particularly as they are carried out within the local parish,
- attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly (i.e., at least once a year),
- write a letter to the Pastor, explaining the reason for choosing your Confirmation saint,
- discern ongoing involvement in St. Patrick Parish life by committing to service opportunities and parish ministries of interest.

“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacraments of Christian initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded. ...the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For 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.” -*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1285

HOLY MATRIMONY

“The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1601). For any parents/guardians in need of having civil marriages validated in the Catholic Church, please call the parish office to speak to Fr. Draper, who is happy to help you receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Also, for any parents/guardians who are civilly divorced and are interested in pursuing a declaration of nullity (annulment), please call Fr. Draper at the parish office.

CATHOLIC FAMILY PRAYERS

The 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.

The 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 to the Father

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 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, to rule and guide. Amen.

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, thine 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.

The Memorare

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

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

The Apostles' 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 Mysteries of the Rosary

The Joyful Mysteries (recited Monday and Saturday)

- (1) The Annunciation
- (2) The Visitation
- (3) The Nativity
- (4) The Presentation
- (5) The Finding in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries (recited Thursday)

- (1) The Baptism of Jesus
- (2) The Wedding Feast of Cana
- (3) The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to Conversion
- (4) The Transfiguration
- (5) The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries (recited Tuesday and Friday)

- (1) The Agony in the Garden
- (2) The Scourging at the Pillar
- (3) The Crowning with Thorns
- (4) The Carrying of the Cross
- (5) The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries (recited Wednesday and Sunday)

- (1) The Resurrection
- (2) The Ascension
- (3) The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- (4) The Assumption
- (5) The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth

Prayer concluding the Rosary

Hail, Holy Queen, etc. (see page 10)

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The five precepts of the Church:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation and remain free from work or activity that could impede the sanctification of such days.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year. (This obliges in particular those who are conscious of serious sin.)
3. You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season (First Sunday of Lent through Trinity Sunday).
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. (Fasting is refraining from food or drink to some degree. Abstinence is refraining from eating meat.)
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- (1) Wisdom
- (2) Understanding
- (3) Counsel
- (4) Fortitude
- (5) Knowledge
- (6) Piety
- (7) Fear of the Lord