

**Family Religious Education Handbook
2010-2011**

***Saint Paul the Apostle Parish
Mission Statement***

*To create a Catholic Evangelical Community
which transforms the world around us,
by modeling the Gospel call
to continuous personal and communal conversion.
“Evangelize, Convert, Transform”*



PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The ministry of Religious Education flows from the mandate of Jesus to go into the whole world and teach the Good News. The Religious Education Program of Saint Paul's Parish is rooted in this decree and nourishes a community of faith. This community is dedicated to sharing, nurturing, and strengthening the faith of its students, thus enabling them to manifest the Gospel message through worship in community, and in service.

GOAL

The Religious Education Program accepts its responsibility as co-educators with the family and the Church to provide a solid catechetical experience for students and their families.



HIGH SCHOOL:

<u>Rel Ed.Gr. 9-12</u>	<u>Youth MinistryGr. 8-12</u>	<u>Benediction</u>
<u>6:00 – 7:15p.m.</u>	<u>7:15-8:15p.m.</u>	<u>Praise & Worship</u>
Sept. 12, 26	Sept. 19	Sept. 12 6:00p.m.
Oct. 3, 17	Oct. 17 Picnic	
Nov. 7, 21	5:00p.m.	Oct.31 7:15p.m.
Dec. 5, 19		
Jan. 9, 23	Jan. 16	Jan. 30 7:15p.m.
Feb. 13, 27		Feb. 13 7:15p.m.
Mar. 13, 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 20 7:15p.m

RCIA

Tuesdays 7:00p.m. to 8:45p.m.

Sept. 14 to May 24

YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

St. Paul the Apostle Religious Education Programs are in full compliance with the Diocesan Youth Protection Program.

**2010-2011
PRE-K TO GRADE 12:**

SUNDAY MORNING:

Classes will meet on the following dates:

Sept. 12, 19, 26	Oct. 3, 17, 24, 31
Nov. 7, 14, 21,	Dec. 5, 12, 19
Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30	Feb. 6, 13, 27
Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27	Apr. 3, 10, 17

SUNDAY EVENING:

Classes will meet on the following dates:

Sept. 12, 19, 26	Oct. 3, 17, 24, 31
Nov. 7, 14, 21,	Dec. 5, 12, 19
Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30	Feb. 13, 27
Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27	Apr. 3, 10, 17

WEDNESDAY EVENING:

Classes will meet on the following dates:

Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29	Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
Nov. 3, 10, 17	Dec. 1, 8, 15
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26	Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Apr. 6

**DESCRIPTION OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

Classes are held September to April on Sunday during the 10:30 A.M. Mass. Children must be four years old by September 1st for PRE-K and 5 by Sept. 1 for K.

Registration is required.

ELEMENTARY GRADES 1 TO 8

Classes are offered on Sunday and Wednesday from September to May. Students must attend classes on the day for which they register. They are not permitted to attend classes on the alternate days.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9 TO 12

Classes are offered bi-monthly on Sunday evenings from September to March. Religious Education and Youth Ministry work closely together to provide various activities year round.

ADULT EDUCATION

Presentations, mini courses and Bible Study groups are offered during the year.

COURSE OF STUDY

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

Uses the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Program, *Seeds* for PRE K and *Promise* for Kindergarten. The children learn the good news of Jesus in ways appropriate to their social, psychological and spiritual development.

ELEMENTARY

Grades 1 to 8 follow the *Christ our Life* series from Loyola Press. The program uses a holistic approach to learning. Each grade level builds upon previous ones, following a pattern of continuous growth in depth and scope. Scripture and doctrine are integrated so that the students can more easily relate Catholic beliefs, sacred Tradition, and most importantly, their faith to their lives.

HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9 to 10

Catholic Teaching on World Religions The purpose of this course is to foster respect for the faith and religion of the diverse peoples of the world and the United States who carry on the great traditions of the world religions. By comparing themselves with others in a positive, respectful manner, students will come to affirm and appreciate their own identity and uniqueness as Catholics.

Grades 11 to 12

Course Title – *Xtreme Faith – What’s in it for Me?* This is a preparation for life after High School. It deals with how the Catholic Faith prepares one to handle war, terrorism, fear, life-styles etc.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are given to each student on the first day of class. The students are expected to have the book with them at all classes. The replacement fee for lost books is:

Grades 1 – 3 \$16.00

Grades 4 – 6 \$17.00.

Grades 7 – 8 \$18.00

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY

St. Paul’s CAT

CAT is the Children’s Activity Team, a group of parents who plan creative activities for children in Pre-K to Gr. 6.

The activities for this year are:

Harvest Walk Oct. 17 1:00-3:00p.m.

Advent Workshop Nov. 28 3:00-6:00p.m.

Christmas Program Dec. 12 6:00p.m.

Bible Adventures Feb. 26 1:00-3:00p.m.

Journey Through Holy Week Apr. 16 1:00-3:00p.m.

Hike to Quittie Park April

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone number – 867-7471

Location – Social Hall

Open – Sunday to Thursday. **Closed - Friday**

MASS ATTENDANCE:

Mass is not a substitute for the 30 hours of class instruction but neither is Religious Education Class a substitute for Mass. We as Catholics have the obligation to weekly join together with God's family to worship in the context of Sunday Liturgy. Please see that your children attend. During the 10:30 Mass, the children have their own Liturgy of the Word.

YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

St. Paul the Apostle Religious Education Programs are in full Compliance with the Diocesan Youth Protection Program.

TUITION:

Tuition is charged to each family for the cost of operation of the Religious Education program. The rate is \$30 per child or \$85 for families with three or more children. The rate for PRE-K, Kindergarten and Grades 9 to 12 is \$20 per child. No child will be refused admission to the program because of the inability to pay tuition. Parents for whom Religious Education tuition would cause a financial burden should contact the Director.

ADULT EDUCATION

Programs include A series on the writings of Paul, Bible Study, Book Discussions and Prayer Groups. Throughout the year there are presentations by guest speakers.

Bible Study

A Presentation on Mon. Sept. 20 at 7:00p.m. From that, new Bible Study Groups will be formed. There are already Bible Study Groups that are scattered throughout the parish that meet in the homes of the participants. For information on them, call Sr. Mary at 867-7471.

Prayer

The Office of Contemplative Prayer is located here at the Church. There are Centering Prayer Groups that meet during the week. For information, call Wendy Johnston at 273-3532

Presentations

Check the bulletin during the year for the topics, dates and information.

RCIA

For adults who wish to learn about the Catholic Church. Call Sr. Mary at 867-7471 for more information.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISM

Sessions are held to prepare parents and sponsors for the baptism of their child. Registration is required. To register call Deacon Tony Kearney at 838-4890.

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST COMMUNION

The immediate preparation takes place when the child is in the second grade. The requirements are:

- Meetings for parents to help with the preparation and to learn the details involved.
- Regular and satisfactory participation in the religion classes at either St. Paul the Apostle Parish or Lebanon Catholic School.
- Regular attendance at Mass.
- Attendance at several special sessions for ALL the children, usually near the date for celebrating the sacraments.
- Attendance at the Reconciliation and First Communion Retreats.



PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. They are to see that the child masters the Catholic Doctrine according to grade level and that the weekly assigned homework is completed and brought to class. They also have the responsibility to deepen their own Religious Education. One way to do so is to participate in the parish Adult Bible Study Groups and Adult Education Programs.

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:

Students who persist in disturbing the learning environment will be dealt with accordingly. As a general rule, the following actions will be taken to enforce discipline upon those students who insist on disrupting classes:

- At the first occurrence of a situation in which a student is disruptive to the point that he/she must be removed from the classroom, the child will be sent to the office to talk to the Director.
- At the second occurrence of the situation described above, the parents of the child will be contacted by the Director or the Teacher.
- At the third occurrence, the student will be dismissed from class and the parents of the student will be called to pick up the child. The student and parents must meet with the Director before being readmitted to class.

Texting is not permitted in the classrooms. Cell phones will be taken from students using them. Parents will have to come to the office to get them.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP OF STUDENTS:

Drop off students at the Religious Education door (Circle Entrance).
Do not park in the circle at any time.

Pick up students in the parking lot at the front entrance of the church.
For students in PRE-K to Grade 2, parents must come into the building and accompany the child to the parking lot.

BUILDING SECURITY:

To prevent unauthorized persons from entering, the doors leading to the class room area will be locked. Panic bars have been installed on the doors so that they are always unlocked from the inside. When the doors are locked, come to the door near the office and ring the door bell.

SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS:

For Grades 1 to 12, weekly snacks and refreshments are not permitted, they are to be reserved for special occasions. If a student has a medical condition and must have food during class time, please notify the Director or Teacher. For Pre-K and K, a snack of water and animal crackers, pretzels, or goldfish will be given during class. Catechists are not permitted to administer EpiPens, etc. in cases of severe food allergies.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Proper conduct and the respect of other people and property is expected at all times of all students. Parents are urged to explain to their children that the time they spend in religion classes is just as important to the process of maturation and development as the time they spend in their other classes at school. Most of the rules that apply in school apply in Religious Education classes.

CONFIRMATION

The Diocese of Harrisburg requires a two year preparation which begins with Seventh Grade. It is assumed that the child has been attending classes from Kindergarten through Grade Six. The Seventh and Eighth Grade requirements are:

- Parent Meeting. Sponsors are also invited if they can attend.
- Regular and satisfactory participation in the religion classes at either St. Paul the Apostle Parish or Lebanon Catholic School.
- Regular attendance at Mass and the Sacraments.
- Attendance at special Confirmation Sessions and Rites.
- Attendance at the Confirmation Retreat.
- Completing the Service requirement.
- Interview.



CATHOLIC DOCTRINE TO BE MASTERED

- Grade 1** Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Grade 2** Act of Contrition, Form for Confession,
Parts of the Mass
- Grade 3** The Apostles' Creed
- Grade 4** The Ten Commandments, Holy Days of Obligation in
the United States
- Grade 5** The Seven Sacraments, How to Say the Rosary,
The Angelus
- Grade 6** The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Grade 7** The Precepts of the Church
- Grade 8** The Theological Virtues, The Cardinal Virtues,
Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Holy Spirit,
Capital Sins, Eight Beatitudes

GENERAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION FOR PRE-K TO GRADE 12

ATTENDANCE:

The Harrisburg Diocese requires that all students enrolled in a parish catechetical program have a minimum of thirty (30) hours of class instructional time during the course of the program year. Therefore, attendance at all classes is expected. However, illness, family emergencies, etc. are part of life, so when it is necessary for a student to be absent, **please contact the Religious Education Office at 867-7471**. Any missed work must be made up. For five or more missed classes, arrangements must be made with the Director for the child to be tested in order to progress to the next grade. An excessive number of absences are considered a justifiable reason to delay the reception of a sacrament.

ARRIVAL TIME:

Upon arrival, students should go directly to their classroom and be ready to begin when the bell is rung for class. Excessive tardiness could constitute an absence.

CANCELLATIONS:

When there is severely inclement weather, classes will be cancelled. Announcements will be made on ABC 27 TV, CBS-WHP TV 21 and on radio Bob 94.9, The River/97.3, WLBR – AM and WQIC-FM. You may also call the Religious Education Office at 867-7471. ***PLEASE TAKE NOTE: NBC CHANNEL 8 WILL NOT MAKE CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS.***