St. Isidore Catholic Church

Religious Education Program

Parent/Guardian Handbook

2017 – 2018

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Introduction

This handbook is designed to serve as a guide for parents/guardians, students, and catechists involved in the Religious Education Program at St. Isidore Parish. The philosophy, goals, policies, guidelines and schedule serve to communicate the content of our religious education program.

The catechetical formation of each child is a responsibility shared both by the parent and the parish Religious Education Program. The goal of religious education is threefold: to present information in the content of our Catholic Christian faith, to enable formation in the values and attitudes needed to live a Catholic Christian faith, which leads to the end-goal of transformation and conversion in Christ Jesus.

The policies in this handbook have been adopted by the St. Isidore Board Of Education and apply to the Religious Education Programs of St. Isidore Parish. These policies give the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education, parents/guardians, students, and catechists a direction in responding to the religious and spiritual needs of parish families.

Rules and regulations are made to help inform the student of the rights and needs of others, as well as to help serve as a guide for his/her own acceptable behavior. Rules and regulations create and maintain an environment wherein quality religious education and the safety of every child are considered to be of the utmost importance.

Parents and catechists are requested to acquaint themselves as well as the children with the contents of this handbook. Knowledge of the policies and guidelines will help achieve the goals of our religious education program.

Religious Education Program

The St. Isidore Parish Religious Education Program includes religious education classes for children and youth in grades K to 12.

A description of each program and a calendar for the year is included in this handbook.
Mission Statement of the Educational Apostolate
Archdiocese of Dubuque

The mission of the Educational Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Dubuque is to guide individuals to:

- respond to God’s call to personal conversion
- form Christian Community
- grow in knowledge and culture, becoming enlightened and enlivened by faith
- shape society in the spirit of Gospel freedom, justice, and love

References
To Teach as Jesus Did, #7
Church in the Modern World, #2
Declaration on Christian Education, #8
Justice in the World

Adopted: February 14, 1976
Revised: May 4, 1996

Mission Statement
of the Office of Catechetical Services

The Office of Catechetical Services for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, guided by the leadership of the Archbishop, carries on the mission of the Church in passing on the Catholic faith and tradition. The goal in catechesis is conversion or transformation in Christ. The value of lifelong formation necessitates meeting the spiritual, theological, and holistic needs of all people.

To enhance lifelong formation, the staff

- provides educational programs in the content of our faith in the Christ-centered way of life, the sacraments and liturgy, the creedal belief, prayer, leadership, and ways to echo the Word of God.
- promotes a formational process in living the values, rituals, and traditions of the faith.

To nurture faith, the staff

- listens to the needs of the people with/to whom we minister.
- collaborates with each other, catechetical ministers and archdiocesan offices.
- empowers and entrusts others to carry on the Church’s mission within parish communities.
- creates new visions for the future Church.

Adopted: June 7, 1996
Mission Statement of the St. Isidore Religious Education Program

The mission of the religious education program at St. Isidore Parish is to meet the educational needs of the total parish community, along with monitoring and evaluating programs designed to implement and support these goals and objectives. To assure that all members of the parish are served educationally according to their needs during the entire course of their lives, the Education Committee supports the development of the ten areas of catechesis in accordance with Archdiocesan policy.

Parish Goals of Catechesis
(Based on 4 aims of catechesis)

Message
- To offer programs in the gospel message of Jesus' teaching of the Catholic Church from preschool to adult
- To present an understanding of the sacraments, using age appropriate materials

Community
- To deepen an understanding of the Catholic Christian way of life so as to live the values in daily life within the Church and in society
- To form a living, vital Christian community spirit within our parish, which will express itself in deep love, concern, respect and support of one another

Service
- To apply our understanding of our Catholic Christian faith in acts of service to our community

Prayer
- To celebrate our faith in rituals, prayer services, and in the Eucharistic liturgy
- To deepen our relationship with God in the sacramental and prayer life of the parish community
The Ten Areas of Catechesis

A well-planned catechetical program includes all eight areas of catechesis:

1. **Adults** A study of adult forms of learning is part of the planning for the adult formation programs. A variety of adult programs meet the needs of the all people.

2. **Family** A family-centered formation program provides an opportunity for the entire family to do quality sharing and eliminates pulling the family in different directions.

3. **Young Adults** Post high-school people often have difficult time finding their place in the Church. Programs of peer ministry, scripture study, spirituality, social and service programs are appropriate offerings.

4. **Adolescents** Working with adolescents involve both catechizing and formation e.g. social, recreational, community building and apostolic activities.

5. **Children of Catechetical Age** An organized catechetical program helps call children to a greater understanding of their faith. A budget that allows for materials to develop creative, interesting programs is a necessity.

6. **Early Childhood** A program to provide an environment where children will develop attitudes of love and respect for themselves and others through sharing, group experiences, awareness of feelings, use of creativity, and developing language skills. These activities call forth the child’s deep sense of wonder.

7. **Persons with Disabilities** Programs designed to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and their families flow from a welcoming parish community. When possible, special needs persons are to be included in the parish catechetical and sacramental programs. Gatherings to meet the special needs are encouraged; such as retreats, renewals, “Faith and Light.” Advocacy for special needs includes accessibility to buildings, availability of programs, mentors, and inclusion in parish life and activities.

8. **Catholic Schools** Catholic schools provide an atmosphere where the student’s faith grows, and is integrated into all life experiences.

9. **Marginalized** Catechesis must address itself to those who are “the least of the brethren” (Matthew 25:40-45) such as immigrants, refugees, nomads, traveling people, the chronically ill, drug addicts, prisoners, and others whose spiritual needs must be nourished and cared for.

10. **Elderly** The growing number of people who are elderly represents a great pastoral challenge for the Church. Catechesis of the elderly must happen within the context of the
community of believers who see the elderly as valuable gifts of God to the Church and society. They may have special needs in the areas of mobility, sight, and hearing.

Program planning committees assess how best to address the needs of these groups. The DRE is constantly aware of this responsibility, evaluating what has been done and looking at new ways to meet the needs of the people involved.
Archdiocesan Board of Education — Significant Policies

Help for Victims of Sexual Abuse

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they, or those in their care, have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other Church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance Coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social service agencies, support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free 800-803-6758 or 866-319-4536 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the new “Policy for the Protection of Minors.”

Significant Policies and Policy Numbers from the Archdiocesan Board of Education

Policy Numbers and titles are in **Bold**, followed by a short description of the policy. The complete policy can be found in the Archdiocesan Board of Education Policy Book.

**4116.1 Sexual Harassment**
All educational programs governed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque shall maintain a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment.

**4116.11 Harassment**
All educational programs governed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque shall maintain a learning and working environment free from any type of harassment. No employee, volunteer or student associated with these programs shall be subjected to harassment.

**4116.13 Blood-borne Pathogens**
All educational programs governed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque shall strive to eliminate occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens in schools and catechetical programs.

**4116.3 Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse**
Any certified or licensed employee must report suspected child abuse to the Department of Human Services within 24 hours. The school will provide training for mandatory reporters within six months of initial employment and every five years thereafter.

**5111.11 Enrollment Condition - Non-Discrimination**
Schools and educational programs are to make a serious effort to admit minority students including students with disabilities.
5117.1 **Home Schooling - Religious Education**
Parents/guardians and children are expected to participate in the parish-sponsored catechetical programs approved by the Office of Catechetical Services.

5131.7 b **Guns/Weapons in Parish/Regional/Diocesan Programs**
Weapons or dangerous objects will be confiscated from catechetical program students and reported to law enforcement officials. The participant will be subject to disciplinary action.

5133 **Gangs**
Youth gangs and gang related activities are prohibited. Involvement and jurisdiction of school program authorities in gang related incidents occurring outside the school or off school/parish property would be determined.

5144 **Discipline Guidelines**
Schools and catechetical programs establish rules and regulations in keeping with Catholic principles and values. Corporal punishment is not used.

5144.1 **Probation, Suspension and/or Expulsion**
The administrator has the authority to place a student on probation or to suspend a student temporarily. A Discipline Committee appointed by the administrator shall have the authority to expel a student.

5145.2 **Search and Seizure**
A school official may conduct search if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal offense, or school rule violated, or the belief that a search will provide evidence.

6141.11 **Education in Human Sexuality**
Catholic schools and catechetical programs will provide education in human sexuality. It moves beyond the biological and scientific information into the fields of values and moral formation. Parents are included in the education process.

6150 **Catechetical Program Standards**
Parishes provide catechetical programs for students attending public school. Boards need to evaluate annually the program, the number of students per class and the integration of persons with disabilities. Approved textbooks are used.

6150.2 **Parental Involvement**
Parents/guardians are the primary educators of children. Parents/guardians are to be involved in the parish catechetical program.

6150.4 **Sacramental Catechesis**
In parishes with a Catholic school and a catechetical program, the program for parents/guardians, sponsors, and parish involvement is to be conducted jointly in the preparation for sacraments.
Sacramental Guidelines from Church Documents

Sacraments
The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1131).

The purpose of the sacraments is to sanctify, to build up the Body of Christ and, finally, to give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. They not only presuppose faith, but also by words and objects they also nourish, strengthen, and express it. That is why they are called sacraments of faith (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1123).

Sacraments of Initiation
The sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, lay the foundations of every Christian life. Baptism is the beginning of new life, Confirmation strengthens the life born in Christ; and Eucharist nourishes the disciple with the Body and Blood of Christ (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1212, 1275).

Baptism
Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the way to life in the Spirit and the door, which gives access to the other sacraments.

Catechesis for Baptism
From the time of the apostles, becoming a Christian has been accomplished by a journey and initiation in several stages. This journey can be covered rapidly or slowly, but certain essential elements will always have to be present: proclamation of the Word, acceptance of the Gospel entailing conversion, profession of faith, Baptism itself, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and admission to Eucharistic communion (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1229).

Where infant Baptism is celebrated, it has become a single act of abridging the preparatory stages of Christian initiation. An opportunity for catechesis is to be given to parents in preparation for the celebration of the sacrament.

Children of catechetical age should follow the adult Christian initiation model; that is, catechumenal formation and celebrating the three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil (Canon 852). The Archdiocese of Dubuque encourages the reception of all three sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Even though the person of catechetical age receives all three sacraments at the Easter Vigil, it is assumed they participate in the preparation program offered in their teen years. If, however, parents, in consultation with the pastor on the options available and the rationale, wish to delay their child’s reception of the sacrament of Confirmation until after age 15, they need to make that request of the archbishop. The dispensation would be granted on an individual basis (Handbook, Archdiocese of Dubuque, #2115).
The Christian initiation for adults, and adapted for older children, begins with their entry into the catechumenate and culminates in a single celebration of the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The rites for these stages are to be found in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (1972, 1988). The catechumenate, or formation of catechumens, is to bring conversion and faith to maturity. The formation in the Christian life initiates the catechumen into the mystery of salvation and the practice of the evangelical virtues, as well as the life of faith, liturgy, and charity (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1248).

**Confirmation**

Confirmation, as a sacrament, deepens baptismal grace in us by uniting us more firmly to Christ, increasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us, bonding us more fully with the Church, and strengthens us by the Holy Spirit to live the faith by word and action.

Like Baptism, which it completes, Confirmation is given only once.

**Catechesis for Confirmation**

Catechetical preparation is to lead the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and bonding with the Holy Spirit in order to assume the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. Catechesis is to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church as well as the parish community. The parish/system community has the special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.

The Confirmation Program has four phases: basic preparation, immediate preparation, celebration, and follow-up. Program planning should approach these distinct phases as an integrated whole.

To receive the sacrament of Confirmation, the ordinary norm is the minimum age of 15 in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Candidates for Confirmation are to have a sponsor. To emphasis the unity of Baptism and Confirmation as initiation sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents.

Sponsors must be at least 16 years old, already confirmed, and a practicing Catholic. The role of the sponsor is to assist in the catechetical and liturgical preparation for the sacrament, witness the celebration of the sacrament, support the candidate to fulfill the baptismal promises (Handbook, Archdiocese of Dubuque, #2150).

**Holy Eucharist**

The Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of communion in the divine life and the unity of the People of God as Church.
the culmination of the act of God sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship offered to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1322,1325).

Anyone who desires to receive Christ in Eucharistic communion must be in the state of grace. Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive communion without having receiving absolution in the sacrament of Reconciliation (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1415).

**Catechesis for Holy Eucharist**

Children must have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation to receive the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. They are to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity, and receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion. Children must be able to distinguish the Body of Christ from ordinary food and to receive communion reverently (Canon 913).

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians as well as the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession (Canon 914).

**Sacrament of Healing**

**Reconciliation**

In the sacrament of Reconciliation, also referred to as the sacrament of conversion, confession and penance, sins committed after Baptism are forgiven. The penitent reconciles with God in grace, reconciles with the Church, receives a penance for their sins, receives an inner peace and spiritual strength to live the Christian life (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1496).

The penitent asks forgiveness, confesses sins to the priest, and makes the intention to do reparation (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1491).

**Catechesis for Reconciliation**

The decision as to when the child will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation is to be made by the child and his or her parents/guardians, in consultation with the priest who knows the child and the catechist who has helped prepare the child. In all cases the rights of the child must be respected.

Catechesis for the sacrament of Reconciliation is to be separated from catechesis for the sacrament of Eucharist so that the child will come to understand Reconciliation as a distinct sacrament.

A child is to receive instruction on the sacrament of Reconciliation before his or her first Communion, unless special arrangements are made.
It is the uniform practice in the Archdiocese of Dubuque that sacramental confession precedes the reception of first Holy Communion. In those parishes where this is not the case, the practice should be brought into conformity with the Church's law as quickly as prudently possible (Handbook, Archdiocese of Dubuque, #2219).

Parental Involvement In Sacramental Preparation

Parents/guardians are to be involved in the preparation of their children for the celebration of the sacraments. Therefore, parishes/systems are to plan and implement programs following the directives of the archdiocese for the reception of the sacraments. These directives are designed to prepare and involve parents/guardians, sponsors, and the parish community in the preparation for sacraments, in particular with regard to Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Parent meetings/parish involvement should jointly involve individuals from all programs offered (ABE Policy #6150.4).
Parish Sacramental Preparation Policy

Families in the religious education program must be registered members of St. Isidore Parish or, with permission of the DRE, a neighboring parish. The religious education and formation of each child is a responsibility shared by the parent/guardian and the parish religious education program.

A person must be a baptized member of the Catholic faith and a member of St. Isidore Parish to be in a preparation phase for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation. Persons not baptized in the Catholic tradition must be involved in a catechumenate process to prepare for the sacraments.

The program preparing children for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation involve parents. Parent education is aimed in assisting parents in fulfilling their roles as primary educators. It is required for parent/guardian to attend meetings for sacramental preparation if a child is to participate in the sacramental celebrations. Parish religious education is meant to enhance and assist the parents in the sacramental preparation of their children.

Baptism
“Catholic parents preparing for the baptism of their infant are expected to participate in a process of sacramental preparation before the baptism of their child. Godparents may also be encouraged to participate.” (Archdiocese of Dubuque, Policy 30)

- Parents must be registered as members of the parish
- It is understood that parents are participating in the ongoing life of the Church (practicing Catholics) as described by the precepts of the Church:
  - “The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.”) requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.
  - “The second precept (“You shall confess your sins at least once a year.”) ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism’s work of conversion and forgiveness.
  - “The third precept (“You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season.”) guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.
  - “The fourth precept (“You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.”) completes the Sunday observance by participation in the principal liturgical feasts, which honor the mysteries of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the saints.
  - “The fifth precept (“You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.”) ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.
  - “The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.” (#2042 - 2043, Catechism of the Catholic Church)
• Initial contact should be made to the Pastoral Administrator (P. A.).
• Parents will participate in parental sacramental preparation unless they have participated in this preparation at St. Isidore’s prior to this time, and within the past five years. If this is necessary, the P. A. will contact the D.R.E. with the necessary information.
• When sacramental preparation has been completed, the D.R.E. will notify the P.A., who will provide the necessary forms to the parents for the baptism.
• A Baptismal Packet should be made available to the requesting family that includes:
  • Formation materials
  • Information regarding the choice of godparents, related policies and guidelines, etc.
  • Necessary forms requesting the information required by the Church
  • A form to be filled out by godparents and signed by their home parishes attesting to their full initiation into the church and their on-going participation.
• When the forms have been completed, the P.A. will notify the Sacristan and the Priest with the necessary information.
• The family will meet with the priest at least one time, either at the sacramental preparation session or at another time, before the baptism takes place.
• Baptisms are normally to take place during the Sunday liturgy.

Reconciliation
• A child must have been in a religious education program at least one year prior to preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

• Formal catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place before catechesis for First Eucharist.

• Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is primarily the responsibility of the parents.

• The minimum age for a person preparing for the sacrament is seven years old, or second grade.

• If the person preparing for the sacrament is of grade school age, a parent is expected to attend the preparation meeting(s).

First Communion
“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues....” ( #2223, Catechism of the Catholic Church)

“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years.... Family catechisms 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....” ( #2226, Catechism of the Catholic Church)
“Parents/guardians are to be involved in the preparation of their children for the celebration of the sacraments. Therefore, parishes are to plan and implement programs following the directives of the archdiocese for the reception of the sacraments. These directives are designed to prepare and involve parents/guardians, sponsors and the parish community in the preparation for sacraments, in particular with regard to baptism, first penance and reconciliation, first communion, and confirmation.” (Policy 5, Archdiocese of Dubuque)

“Formal instruction for the sacrament of penance and reconciliation must be separate and distinct from the preparation for first communion so that the integrity of each sacrament is maintained. A child receives catechesis on the sacrament of penance and reconciliation before his/her first communion and subsequent catechesis on these sacraments follow in later years.” (Policy 24, Archdiocese of Dubuque)

“The parent’s right and responsibility to direct the religious formation of their children must be safeguarded and enhanced. For this reason, preparation for the first reception of the sacrament shall involve the parents and provide guidance to them in helping to prepare their children.

- The child has been baptized.
- It is understood that parents (and child, to the extent allowed) are participating in the ongoing life of the Church (practicing Catholics) as described by the precepts of the Church:
  - “The first precept (“You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.”) requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.
  - “The second precept (“You shall confess your sins at least once a year.”) ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism’s work of conversion and forgiveness.
  - “The third precept (“You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter Season.”) guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.
  - “The fourth precept (“You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.”) completes the Sunday observance by participation in the principal liturgical feasts which honor the mysteries of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the saints.
  - “The fifth precept (“You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.”) ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.
  - “The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.” (#2042 - 2043, Catechism of the Catholic Church)
- The minimum age for a person preparing for the sacrament is seven years old, or second grade.
- The child to celebrate his/her first communion has been enrolled in a structured religious education program for both the current and previous year.
- Catechesis for the Sacrament of Eucharist takes place after the catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- It is understood that the child is expected to continue religious education in following years.
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Parish Catechetical Leadership

ST. ISIDORE CHURCH
FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION
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2016 - 2017
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<td>Home:</td>
<td>854-6999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Cell:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parish Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. John Flaherty</td>
<td>Sacramental Priest</td>
<td>363-6130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Schettler</td>
<td>Pastoral Administrator</td>
<td>895-6246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Loehr</td>
<td>Coordinator of Religious Education</td>
<td>854-6141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Machovec</td>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>854-6141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Pennington</td>
<td>Site Coordinator</td>
<td>854-6141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Roles and Responsibilities

Parent/Guardian

You model your faith for your children daily and are the primary source of religious education for your children. What your child will learn from religious education class depends on your support and reinforcement at home, attending Sunday Mass as a family, and family prayer. Your interest and encouragement let your child know you value your faith, Catholicism and what is being done in the religious education class. Learning prayers and the Catholic faith cannot be done only during class time. We expect the parents at home to work with their child(ren) in using the family activity pages of the text and dialoguing with their child(ren) about what is being learned in the classroom.

Catechist

The role of the catechist is to “echo the Good News.” The Good News is the message of Jesus and the Catholic Church, prayer and worship, community with each other and within the parish, and service to all peoples. Catechists help lead the children to grow in their faith and relationship with Christ in the Church.

Parish Faith Formation Commission

The Parish Faith Formation Commission is responsible for establishing goals, setting policies in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Board of Education, setting the budget, implementing programs, and evaluating the programs with the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education. Members are elected from the parish. The Pastoral Administrator and Director/Coordinator of Religious Education serve as ex-officio members.

Director/Coordinator of Religious Education

The Director of Religious Education (DRE)/Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) is a catechetical leader and administrator who is responsible for overall direction of parish catechetical programs. This includes working with the pastoral administrator and appropriate committees, boards, or councils involved in setting policy and planning; supervising coordinators, designing catechetical programs; assisting in liturgical planning; conducting sacramental preparation workshops; and providing opportunities for catechist formation.
Educational Covenant 2017 - 2018

“Since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. The Church reminds parents of the serious duty which is theirs of taking every opportunity - or of making the opportunity - for their children to be able to enjoy these helps and to pace their development as Christians with their growth as citizens of the world.” (Declaration of Christian Education)

“Parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. They catechize informally but powerfully by example and instruction. They communicate values and attitudes by showing love for Christ and His Church and for each other, by reverently receiving the Eucharist and living in its spirit, and by fostering justice and love in all their relationships. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others, and their practice of frequent and spontaneous prayer, all make meaningful their professions of belief. Parents nurture faith in their children by showing them the richness and beauty of lived faith. Parents should frequently be reminded of their obligation to see to it that their children participate in catechetical programs sponsored by the Church.” (Sharing the Light of Faith #212)

Parent/Guardian Covenant

Recognizing our most solemn obligation to educate our children in the ways of the faith, we hereby enter into this covenant with the Board of Education and parish staff to work cooperatively in providing for a quality program of faith formation for our children.

We agree to:

- Provide good example for our children
- Communicate Christian values and attitudes
- Provide opportunities to share in the sacramental life of the Church with our children
- Provide for prayer opportunities for our children
- Ensure the regular attendance of our child(ren) at class
- Understand and accept the regulations set forth in the parent/student handbook
- Volunteer my time at least once during the year for special projects

Parent/Guardian Signature ___________________________ Date ___________

DRE

Pastoral Administrator

Board Chairperson

Any child that brings this page signed by their parent will get to draw from the prize box!
Guidelines and Procedures

Calendar Changes
If the calendar is changed, you will receive written notice with your child and/or a notice will be placed in the Parish Bulletin.

Inclement Weather
In the event of inclement weather a cancellation notice will be posted on KCRG and an email will be sent to the email addresses that were provided during registration. If there is no public school for the day, or the public school closes for weather reasons, religious education classes are automatically cancelled.

Arrival and Dismissal
Classes for K-8 are from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Children will enter through the church doors. Encourage your child(ren) to walk as they enter the building. Please watch your child(ren) until they have safely entered the building. Upon entering the church the students should bless themselves, go their class pew (pews will be marked with their grade number), genuflect before entering the pew and spend a few minutes in silent prayer. We will start each class period with opening prayer, the daily reading and a closing prayer. The students will be dismissed with their catechist at that time to their classrooms. We invite you, as parents, to join your child in prayer. Parents/guardians are to pick up their children at the Parish Center door after class by driving to the door such that the passenger side of the vehicle is toward the Parish Center door. Your child(ren) will be loaded into your vehicle when they have been dismissed.

High school sessions will meet according to the printed schedule. The classes meet in two 10-week blocks, one block in the fall and one block in the spring. Classes will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 6:15 – 8:00 PM. Class will begin with a fellowship meal, followed by prayer. There will be no charge for the meal. Class starts with the meal, even if you do not eat.

Students will not be allowed in any classroom before the catechist arrives. After the catechist admits the student(s) to the room, the catechist is responsible for supervising the students. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner.

Attendance
Attendance at programs and classes is essential to develop a sense of belonging to Parish Community, for growth in your child's relationship to God, and for an ongoing understanding of our Catholic faith.

Notification of absence should be made to the Director of Religious Education prior to the absence, no later than 5:30 p.m. the night of class.
A series of unexcused absences will be followed up by a phone call, particularly with safety of children in mind. If attendance continues to be a problem, a meeting with the parents, student, and Director of Religious Education will be arranged.

In special circumstances, i.e. long-term illness, a serious accident, or personal family situation, communication with the Director of Religious Education is required to maintain contact and relationship with the student.

**Special Needs**
Parents are requested to list any health concerns of a student on the registration form. This information will be communicated to the appropriate catechists.

Parents are requested to list any special needs of a student with learning disabilities on the registration form. This information will be communicated to the appropriate catechists.

**Communications**
There will be written communications to parents during the year. Children will be responsible to deliver notes to parents from catechists or the Director of Religious Education. Notes ordinarily will be sent home with the youngest member of the family. Ongoing communication between catechists and parents is highly recommended. Parents are encouraged to contact the catechists or the Director of Religious Education if a problem develops.

**Property**
Respect for a person’s property and for parish property is expected in every area in and around the building. Children are required to walk in parish corridors and classrooms for their safety. Food and gum are not allowed in any classroom or building unless it is part of the class program and under the authority of the catechists or DRE.

**Proper Dress**
Appropriate attire in the Religious Education Program is necessary. Dress reflects attitude towards person and the activity.

**Emergency Calls**
Phone calls by a child will be made from the Religious Education Office. Only necessary calls will be made, with permission and assistance from the Director of Religious Education.

**Lost Articles**
Lost and found articles are kept in the Religious Education Office.

**Field Trips**
If a field trip is planned, parents are requested to give written permission for a child to participate. Permission forms need to be signed by the parents before departure. Parents are encouraged to assist in transportation and/or as chaperons.
Prayer
Children in all programs pray during classes or gatherings and will have the opportunity to attend Mass and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the year.

Parents are to help their child learn their prayers. The following prayers are learned in the respective grades:

- Kindergarten: Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary
- Grade 1: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary
- Grade 2: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition
- Grade 3: Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed
- Grade 4: Act of Contrition, Rosary, Mysteries of the Rosary
- Grade 5: Catholic Prayers, Nicene Creed
- Grade 6: Catholic Prayers, Creed, Prayer of St. Francis

Sacramental Preparation
Children, who will receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, and their parents are expected to attend Sacramental Preparation Meetings or events as scheduled.
Discipline Policy

The respect and dignity of all persons is valued. Discipline helps all students as it contributes to a climate of learning, loving, and living. It helps each student by guiding him/her to become a self-disciplined person.

Each catechist in the classroom will clarify and set up goals for learning and establish classroom guidelines. These guidelines will be posted and shared with the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education. Goal-setting and positive consequences encourage students to choose appropriate behavior. Normal discipline problems are to be handled by the classroom catechist.

If there are recurrent or serious problems, the catechist discusses the situation with the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education. The student will be dismissed from class, following this procedure:

1. The student will meet with the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education, then return to class.
2. If dismissed from class again, the student will fill out a discipline form. The student and the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education agree on an appropriate behavior.
3. The student and the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education will sign the discipline form. The student returns to class. After class, the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education will give the form to the catechist to sign and the student will take it home to obtain the parent/guardian signature.
4. The Director/Coordinator of Religious Education will also notify the parent/guardian of the disciplinary action by phone.
5. Discipline forms will be remain on file in the Religious Education Office for the year. When a student has two forms on file, a conference will be held with the parent/guardian, the student, the catechist, and the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education.
6. A mutual agreement with the parties involved may mean a two-week suspension from class with assigned work at home.
7. If, after returning to the classroom after a suspension, the student is again dismissed from class, the student will not be allowed to attend class for the remainder of the year. An appropriate family religious education plan will be designed at home and monitored by the Director/Coordinator of Religious Education.
Discipline Form

Name____________________________            Date_______________________

1. Why was I asked to leave the room?

2. What behavior on my part contributed to this?

3. I will do the following so that my time in religious education classes will be more profitable by:

Agreement:____________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________   ____________________________
Student                                      Catechist

____________________________________   ____________________________
Parent/Guardian                              Director/Coordinator of Religious Education
St. Isidore Parish Religious Education Program
Kindergarten through Grade 12

Overview K – 12th

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:15 P.M for K – 8. For all High School grades (9-12) classes will meet in a fall 10-week block and a spring 10-week block on Wednesdays from 6:15 PM to 8:00 PM. There is a minimum of 30 hours of class time scheduled for each grade level.

All grade levels K-8 meet in the Parish Center.

Parents are to contact their child's catechist if there is any problem. Written Progress Reports are sent home once mid-year.

Liturgies and Reconciliation Services

Masses and Reconciliation Services are an important part of our Religious Education Program.

Children in Grades 2 to 12 have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during the regular class time.

Prayer – All Grades

Prayer is an integral part of our faith and will be included in each class. Students will experience a variety of ways to pray including both formal, memorized prayers and informal, spontaneous prayer.

Prayer in K – 5th

Following is a listing of formal prayers and the grade levels at which they are taught. Your help will be necessary for your child(ren) to learn these prayers and make them a part of their lives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Formal Prayers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, Angel of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Grace before and after meals, Our Father, Glory Be,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Sign of Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Act of Contrition, Rosary (introduced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Apostles Creed, Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Act of Contrition, Rosary, Mysteries of the Rosary, Apostles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creed, Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Catholic Prayers, Nicene Creed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview K – 5th Grades

The Elementary Program seeks to lay down a firm foundational understanding of Scripture as well as Catholic Traditions and beliefs. Every unit at every grade level contains lessons based on What Catholics Believe, How Catholics Worship, How Catholics Live, and How Catholics Pray, based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and in the spirit of the *General Directory for Catechesis*.

Overview 6th – 8th Grades

Middle School Catechesis seeks to reveal Christ of the Gospels through study of the Sunday scripture readings. Adult leaders work with the pre-teens in exploring the readings as they apply to their lives and times, as well as in a historical context, always striving to keep sessions active and appropriate for the age group.

The Middle School program includes a review of prayers learned in the Elementary Program.

Overview 9th – 12th Grades

Adolescent Catechesis involves relationships. The relationship of the youth to:
- self
- peers
- God
- parish community and the larger Church community

It is in exploring these relationships in a safe, yet active learning environment that faith growth is nurtured during these teen years.

Confirmation is a part of the religious education of the youth of our parish. Confirmation cannot be viewed as “our last chance to give them everything.” We must recognize and continually remind ourselves that Confirmation is one stage in a lifelong process of Christian conversion.
Kindergarten to Grade Five
Curriculum

The catechetical series, *Blest Are We*, published by Silver Burdett and Ginn, Inc. is used in grades kindergarten through fifth.

**Kindergarten**

*Blest Are We* focuses on God's love. The children are helped to recognize that God created everything out of love and that God's love enables them to love others. They are encouraged to love themselves because God created them out of love. They respond to that love by reaching out to others and to God through prayer. They will explore the many ways Catholics celebrate their faith in and love for God.

**Grade One**

Grade One focuses on the theme of the Trinity. The children are taught that God our Creator made each person special. They learn that Jesus, the Son of God, is our friend and brother. They learn that the Holy Spirit is our source of strength, peace and joy.

First grade children begin to learn that they belong to the church community of Jesus' followers and participate in the Church through the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.

The children learn that they are responsible to love and care for all God's gifts of creation.

**Grade Two**

Children in Grade Two prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. They learn that we have choices and that God forgives the poor choices that we all make. They also learn that we gather together as a community of believers to celebrate that forgiveness and the goodness of God. We celebrate the Gift of Eucharist by receiving the gift of Jesus and carrying on his mission in the world. The *Blest Are We* text is used to supplement the sacramental preparation for first reconciliation and first Eucharist that is carried on outside of class.

**Grade Three**

The Church is the focus for third graders. The students learn about the marks of the Catholic Church and Catholic beliefs. This is done through an understanding of the Apostles Creed. The seven sacraments are explained. The text provides an overview of ministries within the Church.
Knowledge of God, Jesus, and Spirit grows through the understanding of the Apostles Creed, in understanding our Catholic Faith. The children learn the Apostles Creed as a prayer-creed. The Greatest Commandment is presented, with an understanding our mission to the world as Church.

Grade Four

In the Fourth Grade, the students focus on a study of morality. This is accomplished through an extension of the materials learned in third grade including an overview of the Beatitudes.

Moral values are fostered by a look at the lives of people who have exemplified them. The students see God as merciful and always ready to forgive. They see Jesus as the example of Christian life and love. And they look at the Holy Spirit as our guide in times of temptation.

The sacrament of Reconciliation is emphasized. Students also see the Church as light and servant to the world.

Grade Five

Grade Five centers on the study of the seven sacraments, which are presented as sacred signs and community celebrations.

The persons of the Trinity are presented as they relate to the sacraments. Students learn that God gave us the sacrament in Jesus, a visible sign of his love. They also learn that love continues through us to the world in the Spirit of God.

The Church is a sacrament: the sign to the world of the love of God for his people. People are seen as the best signs of God's presence, and all creation is seen as reflecting his existence. The fifth graders' understanding of morality is strengthened as they learn what it means to live as faithful followers of Jesus.

Middle School: Grades 6, 7 and 8 Curriculum

Archdiocese of Dubuque Religion Curriculum Guide for Catholic Schools and Parish Faith Formation Programs Grades 6-8 are used as a guideline for lesson plans. Supplemental materials are used from approved Catholic Websites and sources.
High School: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12
Curriculum

The curriculum of our High School Catechesis is adapted to meet the diverse experiences in the life of the adolescent. The Archdiocese of Dubuque has implemented the Parish High School Curriculum beginning in 2014. The Curriculum is divided into six themes that come from the six courses of the framework. Each theme is further divided into ten objectives.

The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth program, published by St. Mary's Press, is used for High School Religious Education. This handbook is used in conjunction with the Archdiocese curriculum. It provides an overview of the important teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church. Study it! Pray it! Live it! Sections provide a holistic approach to learning, living and passing on the Catholic faith.

Contents include the Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Christian Morality, Christian Prayer and Catholic Quick Facts.

The (parish) Confirmation Preparation consists of:

• regular participation in the basic catechetical program, and

• participation in confirmation sessions and rituals to be held on Sunday evenings twice a month from October through March.
# St. Isidore Catechists

## 2016-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Sandy Hoogland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Jennifer Unash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mary LaGrange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Erin Waldron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jeff Menster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cara Brecht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Ministry Shane Malanaphy/Jenny Malanaphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Ministry Donna Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Ministry Theresa Pennington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Ministry Angie Gloeckner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Ministry Todd Fah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catechist Substitutes 2016 - 2017

K - 8  Marilyn Andersen

K – 12  Ann Lorenz

K – 12  Connie Sjostrom

K-8  John Moravec

K-8  Katie Greene

K-8  Shauna Fah

K-8  Jill Rowell

K-8  Annette Clark
Prayers

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 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 you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. 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.

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.

Morning Offering
Heavenly Father, I believe in you and hope in you. I love you above all things. Thank you for bringing me safely through the night. Today, I give myself and everything I do to you. Keep me from evil. Bless my family, friends and all those I love. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Prayer Before Meals
Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your goodness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer After Meals
We give you thanks, almighty God, for these and all of your blessings; you live and reign, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Sorrow
My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

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.

**Act of Faith**
O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe Your divine Son became man, died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the sacred truths, which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

**Act of Hope**
O my God, relying on your infinite goodness and your promises, I hope to obtain the pardon of my sins, the assistance of your grace and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

**Act of Charity**
O my God, I love you with my whole heart above all things because you are infinitely good and worthy of all my love; and for the love of you I love my neighbor as myself. Amen.

**Nicene Creed**
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Hail, Holy Queen**
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

**The Rosary**
How to Say the Rosary:
1. Begin with the crucifix and say the Apostle's Creed.
2. On the first bead, say one Our Father.
3. On the next three beads, say Hail Mary.
4. Next say one Glory Be. Then announce the first Mystery and say one Our Father.
5. Say ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be.
6. Announce the second Mystery and continue in the same way until each of the five Mysteries of the selected group or decades is said.
7. End with Hail Holy Queen.

Joyful Mysteries (Mondays, Thursdays, Sundays of Advent and Sundays from Epiphany until Lent)
The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Birth of Jesus
The Presentation of Jesus
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the year and daily during Lent.)
The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries (Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Easter until Advent.)
The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Decent of the Holy Spirit
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven

Luminous Mysteries (Thursdays)
The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
The Wedding Feast at Cana
The Announcement of the Kingdom
The Transfiguration
The Institution of the Eucharist

Memorare
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored you help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you 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.

Peace Prayer of St. Francis
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Education in Human Sexuality

Below is the Archdiocesan policy regarding education in human sexuality. Specific guidelines for implementation of this policy are also given in 6141.11.

6141.11 Education in Human Sexuality

Education in human sexuality is mandated in Catholic schools and in catechetical programs and is understood within the context of the dimensions below:

Local boards of education have a responsibility to appoint a resource committee to study comprehensive programs for education in human sexuality. These programs are to be in accord with the guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic bishops. The Catholic School curriculum must also comply with the Code of Iowa 279.50.

That is, education in human sexuality:
- is developed and applied in the individual’s environments - home, church, school and community.
- meets the changing needs of the growing, developing person from early childhood to advanced age
- embraces the entire person—moral, spiritual, psychological, emotional and physical
- includes all the important biological and scientific information regarding human sexuality, and moves beyond that into the fields of values and moral formation
- includes parents in the education process.

Rationale:

“As children and young people advance in years, they should be given positive and prudent sexual education.” Vatican II, Declaration on Christian Education, N. 1 (1965)

“We continue to regard this education in human sexuality as an important priority in Christian education, met in part through diocesan-approved Family Life education in Catholic schools and other instructional programs. ”U.S. Bishops, To Teach as Jesus Did, N. 56 (1971)

“Parents have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring, including matters of sexuality. Educators working in schools, parishes, and dioceses assist them in this task. It is vital that educators involve parents in the planning, programming, and implementation of formal human-sexuality education programs. Educators work not only with children but also with other adults, who continue to grow in their understanding of sexuality.” Human Sexuality, a Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning, USCC, (1991) p.86

“Each school board shall provide instruction in human growth and development including instruction regarding human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal
relationships, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome as required in section 256.11, in grades one through twelve. Each school board shall annually provide to a parent or guardian of any pupil enrolled in the school district, information about the human growth and development curriculum used in the pupil’s grade level and the procedure for inspecting the instructional materials prior to their use in the classroom. A pupil shall not be required to take instruction in human growth and development if the pupil’s parent or guardian files with the appropriate principal a written request that the pupil be excused from the instruction.” School Laws of Iowa, 279.50 section 4, January, 1990

**Guidelines**

These guidelines are given to provide immediate direction to local boards of education in the implementation of Policy 6141.11 and the State of Iowa Code 279.50.

**Guidelines**

Establish a parish resource committee made up of representatives of parents/guardians, teachers, school administrators, directors of religious education, students, health care professionals, priests, members of the parish community. Use the Office of Educational Services as a resource when appropriate.

Tasks of the Committee:
- a. Study the Archdiocesan Policy 6141.11 and Iowa Code 279.50.
- b. Study pertinent church documents.
- c. Develop the parish program in the light of the policies and guidelines.
- d. Inform all parents and parishioners at each step of the program and receive input.
- e. Provide for excused students as required in church documents and Iowa Code 12.5(6).
- f. In-service teachers in the teaching of the human sexuality program.
- g. Follow Archdiocesan board policy 1312 in cases of complaints.

**Components of the Program**

- objectives of the program
- participants in the program
- manner of involving parish/parents/school/catechetical program
- materials that will be used
- preparation of instructors and continued in-service
- timeline of implementation

**Exclusion From Participation**

It is recognized that opinions differ concerning the appropriateness of courses of instruction. Occasionally parent/guardians may find a topic in the Human Growth and Development Curriculum Guide in conflict with their religious/personal views. In these circumstances the student may be excused from participation in the instructional program.
In a catechetical class outside of the school program, a parent may request a similar exclusion.

In notifying the principal or DRE, the parents shall abide by the following:
- the notice shall be in writing;
- the objection shall be based on religious/personal beliefs;
- the objection shall state which activities or studies violate their religious/personal beliefs;
- the objection shall state a proposed alternate activity or study. The principal or C/DRE shall have sole discretion in determining an alternative activity or study for the students.

**Principles of Human Sexuality**

Incorporate these principles in a human sexuality program with an age appropriate approach.

1. Each person is created unique in the image of God.

2. Even though Original Sin has weakened our human nature, making us imperfect and susceptible to temptation and personal sin, all human life in its physical, psychological, and spiritual dimensions is fundamentally good.

3. Each person is created to be loved and to love as Christ, loved by the Father, loves us.

4. Human relationships are expressed in a way that is enfleshed and sexed.

5. Human sexuality carries the responsibility to work toward Christian sexual maturity.

6. Mature Christian sexuality, in whatever state of life, demands a life-enriching commitment to other persons and the community.

7. Conjugal sexuality is an expression of the faithful, life-enriching love of husband and wife and is ordained toward the loving procreation of new life.

Education in Human Sexuality for Christians
United States Catholic Conference, 1981
Help For Victims Of Sexual Abuse: The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other Church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance Coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social service agencies, support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free (563) 556-1225 or 866-319-4636 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the “Policy for the Protection of Minors.”