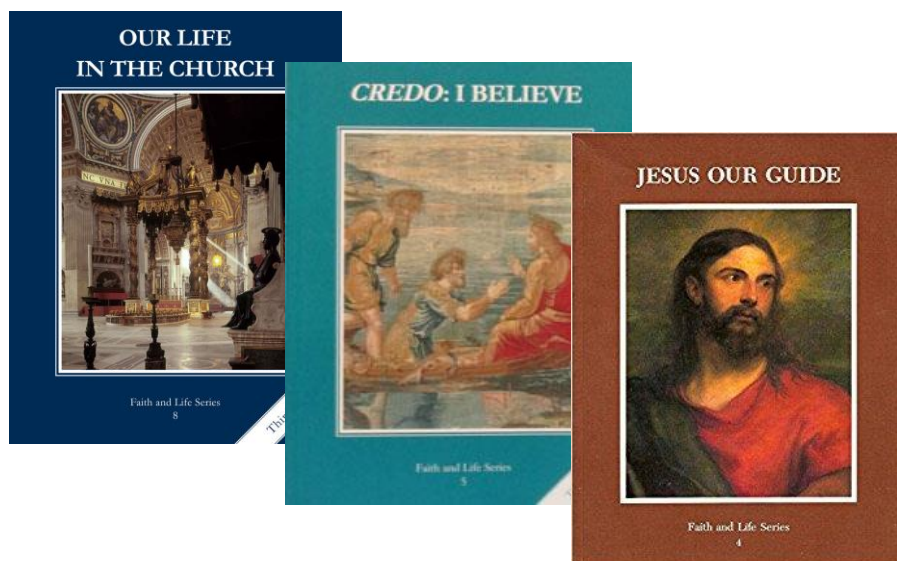


St. Anthony Catholic Church  
**Religious Education 2023-24**  
**Program Guidelines and Expectations**



Mrs. Andrea Foyle, MTS  
Director of Religious Education  
843-662-5674  
dreofficesaintanthony@gmail.com

Your child\_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_class, \_\_\_\_\_  
Catechist's contact information\_\_\_\_\_

Your child\_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_class, \_\_\_\_\_  
Catechist's contact information\_\_\_\_\_

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Your child\_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_class, \_\_\_\_\_  
Catechist's contact information\_\_\_\_\_

**In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the dates and classes posted in this handbook may have to be altered. If changes are made, you will be promptly notified by email.**

**Revised July 2022**

## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

**Kindergarten** – Children enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten in school.

**Eucharist Preparation Level 1 (EP1)** – This class is the first year of Eucharist preparation for students in grades 1, 2, & 3.

**Eucharist Preparation Level 2 (EP2)** – This class is the second year of Eucharist preparation for students in grades 2, 3, & 4 who have successfully completed EP1.

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC 1)** – This class is the first year of Eucharist preparation for students in grades 4, 5, & 6.

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC 2)** – This class is the second year of Eucharist preparation for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who have successfully completed RCIC 1.

**Catholic Education 1 (CE 1)** – This class is for students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who have already received their First Holy Communion.

**Catholic Education 2 (CE 2)** – This class is for students in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade who have already received their First Holy Communion and have successfully completed CE1.

**Catholic Education 3 (CE3)** – This class is for students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade who have already received their First Holy Communion and have successfully completed CE2.

**Catholic Education 4 (CE4)** – This class is for students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade who have received their First Holy Communion and have successfully completed CE3. Also, for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade who have not attended religious education classes since receiving their First Communion. This class is *mandatory*, prior to entering Confirmation preparation.

**Confirmation Preparation Level 1 (CP1)** – This class is for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, who have successfully completed CE4 and are in the first year of preparation for Confirmation.

**Confirmation Preparation Level 2 (CP2)** – This class is for students in 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, who have successfully completed CP1 and are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of preparation for Confirmation.

JMJ

Dear Parents,

Your children are precious gifts. Their simplicity and wonder are a constant reminder of the way to the Heart of Jesus. My duty, as Director, is to assist the catechists as they help you, the primary educator of your children, to hand on the Truth of the Catholic Church.

The purpose of catechesis is to increase the understanding of the Faith as revealed in the Holy Bible, the Tradition of the Church, and especially in the person of Jesus Christ. According to our diocese, certain prayers, Bible stories, a familiarity with the Church calendar, her Saints, and her Sacraments need to be known. To help you and your child grow together in knowledge and understanding of the Faith, you should do the following at home:

- † Incorporate prayer into your family's daily life.
- † Attend Mass every Sunday and each Holy Day of Obligation as a family. Regularly go to the Sacrament of Penance. Model behavior that leads to God.
- † Make use of sacramentals and the blessings attached to them. Does your home have crucifixes, blessed images, holy water, blessed palm, rosaries...
- † Familiarize your child with Bible stories.

In short, you are God's instrument. These are the ways in which our church is here to assist you:

- Parents are always invited to attend classes with their child
- Wednesday morning Bible study is available to anyone interested in a deeper understanding of the Bible
- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and meets on Wednesday after Religious Education classes.
- Parish library is available to you to check out books and videos
- Use the church calendars in your home. Keep up with the Liturgical year.

I am here to assist you. Together, we will grow in faith.

In Christ,

Mrs. Andrea Foyle, M.T.S.  
Director of Religious Education  
843-662-5674 ■ dreofficesaintanthony.com

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### CLASS SCHEDULE AND ATTENDANCE

Religious Education classes closely follow the Florence School District 1 school calendar. If public school is cancelled for inclement weather or any other reason, Religious Education classes will also be cancelled.

**The first day of class is September 6, 2023.**

Class begins at 5:45 pm. Attendance is taken at this time. Classes will conclude at 7:00pm.\* \*\*

Being late to class three times will equal one absence. Five excused absences are allowed in the program year.

Students are responsible for asking for work they missed while absent. Makeup work should be turned in one (1) week after return to class.

Work schedules, sports, vacations, or sudden/unexpected changes to family activities are all examples of common conflicts that can occur between your family life and Religious Education. It is the parents' responsibility to solve the conflict to meet the expectations of the program. All policies, procedures, and expectations of this program are non-negotiable. Any serious concerns may be addressed in writing as soon as an issue becomes apparent.

\*If you arrive to pick up later than 7:10pm, the catechist will take your child to the lobby of the family center and leave them with the DRE. This should be a rare occurrence.

\*\*Classes will dismiss at 6:50pm when there is a Mass scheduled for Wednesday evenings. Please do not be late; your child's catechist may be planning on attending Mass.

### MASS ATTENDANCE

Students not attending Mass are not properly prepared for the sacraments. All students will receive a "Mass Card" for the purpose of tracking attendance. Please have it signed at each Sunday (or Saturday night) Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. They can be signed by the Priest, Deacon, Music Director, Hispanic Minister, their catechist, or the DRE. This will be your proof of attending Mass. I recommend making a copy of it from time to time in case it is lost. One per family is sufficient. These will be collected before Christmas and at the end of the year.

## **PARISH COMMITMENT**

A parish is a community. Families should be registered and active in their parish. The parish is where the family regularly attends Mass, grows in their faith, and supports their church in a variety of ways. If your child is in the St. Anthony Religious Education program, we request that you register your family and commit to making St. Anthony your home for Mass, ministry, and faith formation.

## **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE**

A Baptismal certificate is required to be on file when your child begins the program. Please submit it to the Director of Religious Education. This is due by September 27, 2023.

## **CELL PHONES**

Use of a cell phone is not permitted during the Religious Education program. Any student found using a cell phone must surrender the phone to their teacher or the Director of Religious Education. The parent will have to retrieve the phone after class. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

## **GRADES**

All aspects of education have a grading system. Religious Education is about maturing in a relationship with Jesus. This cannot be tested on paper. However, to be a faithful Catholic, you must have knowledge of the basics of your faith and that knowledge can be tested. Therefore, every child will be expected to maintain at least a 70% average to progress to the next class.

Some classes will have weekly homework assignments and community service requirements.

## **RECONCILIATION**

We try to schedule an opportunity for those in CE3 and up to confess at least once during the year. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that your children receive the sacraments.

**CCC 1457** According to the Church's command, "after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year." Anyone who is aware of having committed a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion, even if he experiences deep contrition, without having first received sacramental absolution, unless he has a grave reason for receiving Communion

and there is no possibility of going to confession. Children must go to the sacrament of Penance before receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

## **PRAYER**

Prayer is an essential element of our Faith. Therefore, knowledge of common Catholic prayers is expected. Teach them these prayers in the language of the home. Below is a list of prayers required for the sacramental years. These prayers are found in the back of your child's textbook:

**First Communion**

- The Sign of the Cross
- The Glory Be
- The Our Father
- The Hail Mary
- The Act of Contrition
- Grace Before Meals
- The Guardian Angel Prayer
- The St. Michael Prayer

**Confirmation**      the prayers listed above and these below

- The Act of Faith
- The Act of Hope
- The Act of Love
- Come Holy Spirit
- The *Memorare*
- The Hail Holy Queen
- The Apostles' Creed
- The Morning Offering

**NOTES:**

St. Anthony Catholic Church

# Religious Education:

## Eucharistic Preparation Handbook



### WHAT IS FIRST HOLY COMMUNION?

It is the first time one receives Jesus in the Eucharist. Who is Jesus? Jesus is God and Man; He was born and died for us to save us from our sins. What is the Eucharist? It is Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine by which we can offer, adore, and receive Him. Why is this important? Because this Blessed Sacrament is Jesus!

### EUCCHARIST PREPARATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS

#### 1. Religious Education

**“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith”. – CCC 2223.**

**“Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith”. – CCC 2226**

To assist parents in laying a foundation of basic Catholic principles, participation in religious education and attending Mass is imperative. Attending a Catholic school or weekly religious education classes enhances the child’s at-home instructions in our beliefs and practices, Sacraments, prayer, and the liturgy.

Absences may not exceed five (5) classes of religious education for the calendar year. Each child must maintain this active participation in both Levels 1 and 2. Class attendance, successful completion of the course, and Mass attendance will be the indicators of the participation of the family in the Eucharistic life of the parish and of the child’s readiness for the reception of the Sacrament.

Some courses will include weekly homework assignments.

## 2. Liturgy

Students and their families are expected to attend Mass. All students will receive a “Mass Card” for the purpose of tracking attendance. Please have it signed at each Sunday (or Saturday night) Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. They can be signed by the Priest, Deacon, Music Director, Hispanic Minister, their catechist, or the DRE. This will be your proof of attending Mass. I recommend making a copy of it from time to time in case it is lost. One per family is sufficient. These will be collected before Christmas and at the end of the year.

Students not attending Mass are not properly prepared for the sacraments. The child, hence, the family, must be Catholic, actively participating in the practice of our Faith. Mass attendance is binding on all Catholics whether you can receive Holy Communion or not. Once your child has been prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, regular Confession is expected because it is good for spiritual growth.

## 3. Readiness

Each child will be evaluated to determine their intention to receive the Sacrament and their understanding of the Sacrament. **The catechesis provided by the parish is meant to *complement* that which goes on in the family and will not alone suffice to adequately prepare the child for this evaluation.** It is **essential** that there be ongoing catechesis in the home which shall include:

- A. Regular Mass attendance –Catechism of the Catholic Church 2180 & 2181
- B. Daily prayer which should particularly focus on children knowing without assistance, the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary*, the *Glory Be* and by the end of the second year, the *Act of Contrition*
- C. An age–appropriate explanation of the nature of God
- D. Knowledge of basic Scripture stories from both the Old and New Testaments
- E. Knowledge of liturgical seasons and celebrations (i.e. Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas, etc.)

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Events for Students in Final Year of Preparation (EP 2)

**A Baptism Certificate** must be on file with the Religious Education office **no later than September 27, 2023**. If your child was baptized at St. Anthony Church, a copy is not



needed. If you do not have a copy of your child's baptism certificate, simply contact the church of their Baptism and request a new certificate be sent to:

DRE Office, St. Anthony Catholic Church, 2536 Hoffmeyer Rd, Florence, 29501.

**Do not wait** – it may take time to receive a new certificate.

February 9, 2024	First Reconciliation at 6:30 pm
April 27, 2024	First Communion Retreat 2 pm/parent attends
May 1, 2024	First Communion Practice 5:45pm/parent attends
May 4, 2024	First Communion Mass at 10:30 am

### CELEBRATING THE FIRST COMMUNION MASS

This is a very exciting day for all. However, sometimes in the excitement children and parents become distracted and lose focus on Jesus, Whom they are about to receive in Holy Communion. If we all make a firm effort to follow these procedures and expectations you can feel confident that this will be a prayerful, beautiful, and memorable experience for your whole family.

**Godparents** are an important part of your child's maturity in faith and are encouraged to be present at the First Holy Communion Mass; however, they do not participate in the procession.

**Attire** and accessories should be neat, clean, formal church attire. This can include any of the following options.

**Girls:** The common white formal communion dress, or white skirt and blouse, veils, corsage, cross or crucifix, etc.

**Boys:** The common white, navy, or black suit, ties or bow ties, arm cuff ribbon, cross or crucifix, etc.

- Please do not have your child wear an accessory that will not stay in place, (i.e. clip on ties, extravagant hair clips or veils). This often distracts the child and those around them from the importance of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- Children are welcome to carry a Bible, Rosary beads, or a candle; however, these items should be unpackaged and, in their hands, *before* they arrive and *not* be opened at the church.
- Also, make sure you explain to the child *before* the Mass *what* they are holding, *why* they are holding it, and *where* to place the item once they are in the pew.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DAY OF FIRST COMMUNION

**Practice is mandatory.**

**At least one parent is to attend the practice with the child.**

Drop the children off with the catechist in the school library at 10:00 am. ONLY the children are to meet in the school library. Parents and family should then go directly to the church for silent prayer. Your cooperation with this procedure is appreciated.

Children will be sitting in the front pews on the ambo side of the church. There will be several other “reserved” pews. Please, kindly avoid these.

Children will present the offertory gifts and process in and out.

A group photograph will be taken after the Mass.

Items to be blessed should be placed on a special table before the Mass. Please put your name on the items that you bring.

St. Anthony Catholic Church

# Religious Education:

## Confirmation Preparation Handbook



### EXPECTATIONS OF THE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE AND FAMILY

When one becomes a member of any group, e.g., a sports team, a business organization, or a university, there is a period of intense practice or study and tangible signs of commitment. The same can be said for becoming a member of the Church. These expectations are not a means of forced participation, but rather as a way of communicating the essence of being a member. **Faith is not a blind leap;** it is God's gift. We were given this gift in Baptism. To grow and mature, it requires daily action on the part of the faithful. **The process of Confirmation preparation gives candidates the opportunity to explore what it means to become a fully initiated member of the Holy Catholic Church.**

**Preparing for Confirmation must be an act of free will.** The expectations outlined in the next few pages will help families and candidates understand what it is to be a member of the Church and, once completed, serve as a sign that a candidate is freely presenting themselves to the Bishop and the Catholic community to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

## EXPECTATION #1 – RIGHT DISPOSITION

<b>THIS</b>	<b><i>NOT</i></b>	<b>THAT</b>
Desire to seek God		Forced attendance and compliance from parents or the church
Positive attitude		Disrespect and/or apathy
An open mind and heart		Tuned-out or closed-off to new ideas and experiences
Willingness to communicate		Fear or apathy about expressing doubts, questions, or concerns
Integrity		Dishonesty in word or deed Disrespecting the ideas and experiences of others
Responsibility		Unaware of program expectations Making excuses for lack of preparation Missing or late documents or assignments

Sincere preparation results in knowledge and understanding. A candidate should not present themselves for the Sacrament of Confirmation without knowledge of the graces attached to the Sacrament and how they will affect them spiritually. With the proper disposition during preparation for Confirmation, candidates can expect to gain this knowledge and understanding of the gift that God wants to give them.

## EXPECTATION 2 – VISIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The most important way a Catholic shows visible participation in the life of the church is by **freely** participating in the Eucharistic celebration with his Church community at every Sunday Mass and Holy Day of Obligation. Please have the bulletin or order of worship signed each week at Sunday (or Saturday night) Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. They can be signed by the Priest, Deacon, Music Director, Hispanic Minister, their catechist, or the DRE. Keep them in order. These will be your proof of attending Mass. One per family is sufficient. These will be collected before Christmas and at the end of the year.

Out-of-town Mass attendance requires a signature. This must be stated: non-Catholic services **do not** fulfill your Sunday obligation and purposefully not attending Sunday Mass or a Holy Day of Obligation Mass is a grave sin.

### EXPECTATION #3 – DOCUMENTS PRESENTED IN A TIMELY MANNER

1. **Baptism certificate and First Communion certificate (CP1)** are to be on file in the church office by September 27, 2023.
2. **Mass Cards to be turned in December 13<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>.**
3. **Sponsor affidavit form\*** (CP1) turned in by Nov. 15, 2023.

**Description:** Sponsors, local or distant, should be involved with the candidate through daily prayer, weekly contact, in person, or by mail, phone or email. The candidate should select their sponsor with parental guidance. Paragraph 1311 of the CCC tells us that to emphasize the unity of the two sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, it is appropriate that this sponsor be one of the baptismal godparents.

The sponsor can be of either sex. If the sponsor is married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church.

For more information, please see the affidavit form on page 16 of the handbook

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CP1 CHECKLIST

1.  All candidates for Confirmation must have successfully completed CE4.
2.  Candidate must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Baptismal and First Communion certificates must be on file in the St. Anthony church office by the end of September 27, 2023.
3.  Candidates must successfully complete CP1 before advancing to CP2. Failing to successfully complete CP1 will necessitate repeating the class.

**Please Note:** The material in CP1 is not difficult but it does require that the candidate read the assignment, do the homework, and STUDY! Remind your child to do the assignments and to hand them in on time. Helping your child by discussing the lesson, checking their homework, and quizzing them on the material will demonstrate that you consider this classwork to be very important. In fact, it is more important because its object is God and eternal life with Him.

4.  The candidate must complete eight hours of community service during the CP1 year. At least five of these hours must be church-related, but they may be all church-related. There are many opportunities during the year, such as working at Catholic Kidz Camp, assisting at fish fries or church picnics, ushering, helping with Parking Lot Mission, volunteering at Manna House, being a substitute for an hour in the Adoration Chapel, being an altar server on the Sunday rotation, etc. The candidate will be given forms to fill out describing their service. These will be due April 24, 2024.
5.  Sponsor Affidavit form due Nov. 15, 2023. See expectation #3.
6.  Mass Cards to be turned in Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 1, 2024

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CP2 CHECKLIST



1. **Successful completion of CP1**



2. **Retreats –**

**Confirmation Retreat** –The date and time will be determined when the date for Confirmation is determined by the Bishop.

**Theology of the Body Retreat** Dates and times are to be announced. One parent must attend with their child.

Dates and times for these retreats will be scheduled well in advance



3. **Letter to Bishop – This is due March 20, 2024**

**Description:** The candidate will write a letter to the Bishop. The purpose of this letter is to express their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and that, with parental guidance, they have consciously and freely made this decision. The letter should include the following: an introduction, tell why they wish to be Confirmed, how they came to this decision, and close on how the Sacrament with its indelible mark will confer on them the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the grace to spread the Gospel effectively.



4. **Ten hours of community service performed during the current year**

At least, seven hours must be church-related, but they may be all church-related. The candidate will be given forms to fill out describing their service. These will be due April 24, 2024.




5. **Saint report due November 15, 2023.**

**Description:** The candidate is to type or legibly write a paragraph on the saint that they are choosing as their patron. This will be


their Confirmation name. Use two sources (a printout from the internet will not be accepted).

The report should include the following information:

- when and where the saint lived
- why they were canonized
- aspects of the saint's life that you find inspiring
- how you identify with this saint & other information you think is important

6.  **Growth interview** – This is due February 14, 2024.

**Description:** The candidate will be given a list of questions to ask their parent(s) about events in their lives.

7.  **Interview with our pastor** – the class will meet with Father to discuss the choice of sponsors, patron saints, the nature of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the responsibilities of being a mature Catholic

8.  **Mass Catrds to be turned in Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> , April 24<sup>th</sup>, and Sept. 1, 2024.**



**ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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**BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION  
GODPARENT/SPONSOR TESTIMONY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a practicing member of \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF SPONSOR NAME AND LOCATION OF PARISH  
testify by my answers and signature below that I have been asked by the parents or the candidate to  
serve and am qualified and willing to serve as a godparent/sponsor for Baptism \_\_\_\_ Confirmation \_\_\_\_  
in the Catholic Church for \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE

\*\*\*\*\*

Please circle either YES or NO for each statement below (Canon 874).

- YES NO I am a Catholic.
- YES NO I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- YES NO I am at least 16 years of age.
- YES NO I am presently active in the practice of the Faith by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and are receiving the Sacraments frequently. I am free to receive Holy Communion.
- YES NO I am the parent of this candidate.
- YES NO I am married.
- YES NO If married, was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon?
- YES NO If your marriage was not celebrated with in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon, was it celebrated outside a Catholic Church with the written permission of a Catholic bishop?

Answer the following ONLY if unmarried:

- YES NO Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple?

\*\*\*\*\*

I declare in the name of the Lord, and in the presence of a Catholic priest, deacon, or a representative of the pastor of a Catholic Church, that my answers are the whole truth.

Signature of Godparent/Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Church Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish City and State \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PARISH SEAL**