

**Holy Name Parish**  
Religious Education Program

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**Reverend George Carlson, Pastor**  
**Reverend Martin Dzengeleski, Parochial Vicar**  
**Mrs. Fran Hauck, Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Associate**  
**Mrs. Maureen Broms, Coordinator Grades K-6**

## **REGISTRATION**

The Holy Name Religious Education Program includes Kindergarten through Confirmation, which generally occurs in Grade 10. First Communion generally takes place in Grade 2.

The following students are expected to register in the program:

- Any student in Grades K-8 who attends public school.
- Any student attending a Catholic school other than Holy Name who wishes to receive First Penance and First Communion at Holy Name Parish.
- Any high school student—in public, private or Catholic school—who who plans to be confirmed at Holy Name

First Communion is a two-year program.

- Students must complete Grade 1 before enrolling in Grade 2. Student and parent attendance is expected at planned liturgies, retreats and meetings.
- For students in Catholic schools other than Holy Name, weekly class attendance is not required; however, student and/or parent attendance is required at planned liturgies, retreats and rehearsals.

Confirmation is a two-year program

- Students must complete Confirmation I before enrolling in Confirmation II.

## **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE**

At the time of initial registration, a certificate of baptism must be provided for children baptized in a church other than Holy Name.

## **REGISTRATION FEE**

\$50 per child, \$75 for Sacrament years (First Eucharist & Confirmation)

*Make check payable to Holy Name Religious Education.*

## **DATE AND TIME OF CLASSES** (*refer to calendar*)

Grades K-6: Meet Sunday mornings 10:00-11:00am in Finn Hall; dismissed from parish school. We invite all parents to accompany their children to the 9:00am Family Mass immediately preceding class. *Parents are always welcome.*

Grades 7, 8, Conf I & II: Meet Sunday evenings 5:30-6:45pm in (and dismissed from) Finn Hall. *Liturgical services at other times will be announced in advance. Parents are always welcome.*

## **CHANGES IN FAMILY**

Please inform the rectory of any changes in family life, contact information (phone, address, email) or other pertinent information.

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION—FIRST COMMUNION**

The Religious Education Office coordinates the celebration of First Reconciliation and First Communion for all children attending the Religious Education Program, Holy Name School and other Catholic and private schools. Preparation includes catechetical instruction and liturgical formation. In accordance with the guidelines of the Archdiocese, these sacraments are received in Grade 2.



Preparation for the reception of the Sacraments is 2-year program; attendance in Grade 1 is a prerequisite for enrollment in Grade 2. Parents of Grade 2 children are encouraged to participate in preparing their children for the sacraments. They are expected to accompany their children to the 9:00am Family Mass (if that is not possible, another Mass) as well as the activities and liturgical events pertaining to that preparation.

**First Penance** usually is scheduled for December. Participation in the following preparatory events is required:

- Parent Meeting & Catechesis usually held in the fall (parents only)
- Mass of Enrollment usually held in the fall (children and families)
- Retreat usually held in the late fall (children and parents or parent substitute)

**First Communion** is scheduled for the first weekend of May, Saturday at the 4:00pm Mass and Sunday at the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses.

Participation in the following preparatory events is required:

- Parent Meeting & Catechesis usually held in the spring (parents only)
- Mass of Enrollment usually held in the spring (children and families)
- Retreat usually held in the spring (children and parents or parent substitute)

## **CONFIRMATION**

At the time of Baptism, a child was welcomed into the faith, and parents accepted the obligation of teaching and sharing that faith. In asking for Confirmation, each candidate speaks for him or herself. The candidate professes both his/her Christian maturity and willingness to serve others. Confirmation strengthens what Baptism began. It is a great step in a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a two-year program for students in public, private and Catholic schools. The goals of the program are to develop community and help students develop lifelong prayer habits that will be part of their faith life. Confirmation candidates will attend all classes and liturgical activities, including the Confirmation I and Confirmation II Retreats. In addition, Conf II students will complete faith journey materials with their sponsors or parents, have an interview with a member of the pastoral staff and complete ten hours of service.

## **OTHER SACRAMENTS**

If your child has not been baptized or has not received First Penance or First Eucharist by Grade 3, please make that information known at the time of registration. We will help you make appropriate arrangements.

## **SUNDAY MASS–THE 9:00 AM FAMILY MASS**

The celebration of Sunday Eucharist is our most important activity each week. It is a privileged moment for priests, religious and laity to gather as a parish family and faith community. We gather to praise the Lord and to be nourished with the Word, the Eucharist and with one another. If one person is absent from the sacrifice of praise, we all lose something. If new people join us or return to celebrate with us, we all benefit.

Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to the Sunday Mass, particularly the 9:00am Family Mass. Readings are taken from the Children's Lectionary, the homily is geared to the children, and each week a different class is highlighted as primary participants—serving as greeters, helpers at the homily, collectors, etc.

If your child is in the designated grade, please be sure they arrive by 8:50am in order to find out what they will be doing.

First Sunday of the month: Grade 6

Second Sunday of the month: Grade 5

Third Sunday of the month: Grade 4

Fourth Sunday of the month: Grade 3

(Refer to parish bulletin and the website for exact dates & grades).

Hospitality: fellowship, coffee, juice and munchkins is offered following the 9:00am Mass on the first Sunday of each month in the lower church.

## **VIRTUS • TALKING ABOUT TOUCH**

The USCCB issued its Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. That Charter mandates that all dioceses in the U.S. establish "safe environment" programs both for adults and children. The Archdiocese of Boston selected the VIRTUS and *Talking about Touch* programs to address this requirement.

The VIRTUS program is offered to all parents and adult volunteers over the age of 18. Its focus is to raise the consciousness of adults in how to identify and prevent child abuse. All staff and volunteers who work with children are required to attend a VIRTUS session and must complete a Criminal Offender Record Inquiry (CORI).

The *Talking about Touch* personal safety program is incorporated into the religious education program in Grades K–6 to provide an age-appropriate and straightforward way of communicating with children about personal safety and safe decision-making in a variety of situations, including those involving touch. The curriculum begins with the introduction of everyday safety issues, such as car and bike safety. The concept of "touching safety" is then

introduced with an emphasis on the positive aspects of touch in children's lives. Later lessons focus on increasing the child's ability to stand up assertively for him or herself, to become aware of potentially dangerous situations and to learn to ask for help.

### **CATECHETICAL MATERIALS AND REQUIREMENTS**

Our volunteer catechists are ministers as well as teachers. Parents are asked to oversee regular attendance at class, participation in the 9:00am Family Mass and participation in parish and community service projects.

### **KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 6**

The materials used in Grades K-6 are *Share the Joy*, published by Benziger. Learning the traditional prayers and teachings of the Church is an essential element of the Religious Education program.

Grade level prayer requirements are as follows:

- Kindergarten: The Sign of the Cross
- Grade 1: The Hail Mary
- Grade 2: The Lord's Prayer, Act of Contrition
- Grade 3: The Apostle's Creed
- Grade 4: The Ten Commandments, Act of Contrition
- Grade 5: Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Grade 6: The Nicene Creed

### **GRADES 7, 8, CONFIRMATION I & CONFIRMATION II**

Students meet as a large group for gathering prayer and Scripture reflection. *They can expect to be tested on their Scripture passages.* Grades 7 and 8 use weekly Pflaum Lectionary-based materials, Confirmation I uses Good Ground Press *The Spirit* Lectionary-based confirmation materials and Confirmation II use a program we developed using *Confirmed in a Faithful Community* and other resources, have periodic speakers and programs of interest.