



Parent/Student Religious Education Handbook 2020-2021

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Religious Education
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Dear Parents,

For those of you who have not meet me yet, my name is Father Mark DeSutter. I am the pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. It seems hard to believe that we are getting ready to start a new academic year. When fall comes, families will be bombarded with many demands on their time. It can be overwhelming. I would encourage you to make religious education classes a priority. The souls of children are a precious thing and their education in the faith is very important. No other activity in their life will have such a prolonged impact. They will be engaged with God all their life and for eternity.

You can tell by my words that I believe that the faith development of children is of the utmost importance. I thank God every day for the dedication of my parents as they sought to pass their religious ideals on to me.

For faith development to unfold strongly in the life of a child, it takes a partnership between the Church community and the nuclear family of the child. We need to work together. Our parish staff works hard to have sound religious education programs and we would ask you to make attendance at religious education classes on Sunday part of your regular family routine. Mass attendance would also be important.

I hope, if you are called upon, that you will help our Director of Religious Education accomplish her task of coordinating our parish faith formation program for children.

I thank you for all that you will do in the coming year to educate your child in the faith. Blessings,

Father Mark DeSutter
Pastor

Sacred Heart Parish Vision

Sacred Heart Parish is a Roman Catholic community that builds strong, faith-filled families and individuals. We are all active disciples who share the gospel and God's love as we grow in the knowledge of our faith and share that faith with our community. As good stewards, we discover and use our gifts and talents for the benefit of all. Our faith is central to our lives and our parish brings that faith to life.

Values

- **Our Catholic Faith is a gift from God that calls for a response from each of us**
 - We are called in faith to share God's saving word lovingly and truthfully with others
 - We are called to work for justice that we may abide in peace
 - We are called to participate in the sacramental, liturgical, social, and service life of our church joyfully and prayerfully
- **God's mercy and forgiveness is our hope for salvation**
 - We are called to show God's mercy to each other in all our relationships.
- **We value all God's gifts of creation**
 - We are called to embrace those who are different from us and to recognize that all of humanity is created in God's image and is called to salvation in Christ
- **Stewardship is our response to God's love for us**
 - We are called to share our time, talent, and treasure generously
 - We are called to be wise stewards of our gifts
 - We are called to collaborate within our parish, with other parishes, and with the greater community

Roles and Responsibilities

Pastor – The pastor is responsible for the overall spiritual well-being of the parish community.

Director of Religious Education (DRE) – The DRE is responsible for the overall administration of all Parish Religious Education Programs and reports directly to the pastor.

Catechist - This Catholic person is called upon to be teacher and model of the Catholic life for their students. To insure their faithful and effective ministry, Catechists need to commit themselves to ongoing growth in their understanding and practice of the Catholic faith, as well as to deepening their catechetical skills. They are assisted in their ongoing development by their parish and diocesan religious education staff and the periodic training programs offered.

Co-Catechist - This volunteer may be a high school youth or an adult who is willing to support the classroom Catechist in the classroom. The time commitment involves presence at regularly scheduled classes, plus room preparation and clean up immediately before and after class. The Catechist Helper will be welcomed and oriented to the program by the DRE and given specific instructions by the classroom Catechist they are assisting regarding to tasks they may be asked to complete. Typical roles include assisting students needing individual attention, helping students, especially in the primary grades, with arts and crafts, individual drill/recitation of prayers, small group discussion, or other projects, etc.

Parent Volunteers - Catechists are urged to take every opportunity to communicate with and involve their students' parents. Catechists may wish to invite grandparents or other extended family members to come as guests or speakers (e.g., a grandparent is asked to share their memories of first sacrament reception, celebrating Lent or Advent, etc.). Parents could also be asked to supply a snack for special occasions.

Parent's Responsibilities - Parents are the primary educators of their children. Catholic Faith Formation classes are only a small part of your child's Catholic education. A faith teacher is only as effective as the life and example of faith that the child experience in his/her home. The parent's attitude concerning the importance of this formation and the example they set at home, the respect they show towards authority, as well as an appreciation of the efforts and good judgment of their child's teacher is reflected in the attitude of the child. To demonstrate their responsibilities the parent shall: 1. Accompany their children to Mass on Sundays and Holy days. (See the list of Holy Days of Obligation.) 2. Teach their children how to act at Mass, i.e. when to genuflect, sit, stand, kneel, follow the Missalette, when and how to respond to the Mass parts, etc. 3. Help your children with their faith homework. The primary homework will be to memorize the prayers assigned by the teacher(s). As a parent, you should also practice saying these prayers with your child at home. Praying with your child before meals or at bedtime is an easy way to ensure the prayers are being practiced in

everyday life and that faith is important in your child's life. 4. Notify the child's teacher and the Director of Religious Education of any special needs, including attention deficit disorder, autism, restroom issues, and any food allergies. From time to time, teachers may bring snacks or treats for the children, so it is very important we know about any allergies. 5. Ensure the children are dropped off and picked up on time. 6. Following each class, talk to their children about what was discussed in class. Did they bring any completed work home from class? Was there homework assigned? Discuss the lessons and what was learned in class. 7. Understand that communications with teachers is recommended and welcome. 8. Contact your Director of Religious Education in your parish by phone or email with any questions about the responsibilities or any other information contained in this handbook. (Contacting the child's teacher is also an acceptable means to communicate any concerns or questions about a specific class.) 9. Parents must SIGN AND RETURN the paper stating that you received and are aware of your responsibilities specified in this document to your Director of Religious Education or Parish Office.

Student's Responsibilities - Students must be responsible for their actions. To do this, the students shall: 1. Treat others as you want to be treated. Jesus Himself said, "Whatever you do for these least brothers of mine, you do it also for me." (Matt. 25:40) 2. Respect the Parish/School property. 3. Be respectful of the property of students/ministries who use the same parish classroom at different times. Please do not open desks or handle other ministries' property; refrain from writing on desktops or tables used for your class. 4. Handle the Catholic Faith Formation textbooks with care so they can be used for many years to come. Please do not write in the textbooks. Treat the Activity Books with care. If the activity book has been taken home, it must be brought back to class the next week. 5. Come to class prepared; ensure any assignments are complete and ready to turn in; pay attention and participate in class and be ready to answer any questions. 6. There is to be no cell phone use in class unless specifically instructed by the teacher. 7. Seating may be assigned. Please remember where you sit so the teacher can begin class on time

General Policies

Parish Religious Education – Religious Education in the Catholic Church is done either through attending a Catholic school or by joining the parish religious education program from grades K through 8. Through this, we prepare children to receive sacraments: First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. In the Diocese of Peoria, religion classes for public school children begins in kindergarten, and classes are held each year until the Sacrament of Confirmation in 8th grade.

Commitment – It is expected that your child will be at all classes unless sick. We do expect that you and your child(ren) will make the program a priority. The role of the parent is critical by attending weekly liturgy with your child(ren) on a regular basis and in overseeing your child(ren)'s attendance at religious education class. During sacramental years, if a child is absent five (5) or more times, parents will be asked to

meet with the DRE and the Pastor to assure they are fully prepared to receive the sacrament.

Interrupted Religion Classes – The Religious Education Program recognizes that some children may have missed significant time in religious training or may be coming to the Program without having received the Sacraments typical of that child’s age group (i.e. First Reconciliation and First Communion are usually received in the 2nd Grade). All missed training must be successfully completed before a child can be put on track to receive the Sacraments. Each child’s situation will be determined on a case-by-case basis as various factors impact each case including, but not limited to, the age of the child and the amount of training missed. The Director of Religious Education (the “DRE”) will recommend a course of training to accomplish this goal. Such a recommendation may include attendance at a religious class level different from the child’s school class level, home schooling, extra schooling, and/or some combination thereof.

Confidentiality – It is always important that strict confidentiality be maintained. Catechists are not permitted to discuss students and student situations outside of the classroom.

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy – The Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Program admits students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to program participants. We do not discriminate based on sex, race, color, or national origin in the administration of our programs or the recruitment of our Catechists.

Special Needs Policy – Children with special learning needs (i.e., mentally, or physically challenged) are welcome and included in our programs. Parents are asked to indicate their child’s special needs at registration time so that any additional help or materials needed in the classroom may be obtained.

Homeschool Families

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2223: Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Code of Canon Law 528. 1 (in speaking about the canonical role of the pastor): He is to have particular care for the Catholic education of children and youth.

The parents and the religious educators of the parish led by its pastor are in partnership when we educate children in the faith. The child is obviously a part of its nuclear family, but everyone is also part of the family of the God. Both families are important in a Catholic’s faith life. To carry out this task of catechesis, the pastor of Sacred Heart would like to review the curriculum being used to prepare children.

Further, it would be advisable for the parents to register their children for the Sunday Religious Education program during the year that their child would be receiving the Sacrament as a supplement to what the child would be receiving at home, and to provide community support to the child and the family at such an important time. At a minimum, the family should register with the parish for the Sacrament, attend the retreat(s) required for that sacrament(s), and make the Sacrament with the community.

Policy and Procedures

Medication Procedures The administering of medicine to a child outside the doctor's office or a health institution is a parental responsibility and should not be delegated to religious education program personnel except under unusual circumstances. Only when absolutely necessary is the religious education program willing to accept responsibility for administering medications, and then under the following guidelines: 1. The religious education program will never administer/dispense medicines (including "over the counter drugs") to students without specific authorization by both a licensed physician and the parent of the students. An "Authorization for Medication" form must be completed and submitted by the parent. The name of the medication and dosage must be indicated on this form. 2. All medication must be brought to the office with a parent's authorization. 3. Only prescription medication can be brought to religious education program and must be stored in a religious education program office; no over-the-counter medication is allowed unless a doctor's written authorization is submitted. 4. Prescription medication must be in the original bottle which must be labeled and must have the exact dosage. 5. The religious education program will not dispense medication, so students are responsible for their own medication. 6. All medications will remain in a secure location. (By exception, students who are asthmatic may carry a prescribed inhaler with them during the religious education program day.) A written log will be kept of dispensed medication.

Supervision The students are supervised by an adult from the time of their arrival until all students are picked up after religion class. No student may leave the parish/school grounds during religion class unless they have a note from parents and permission from the Director of Religious Education.

Catholic Education Policies Catholic Faith Formation follows and abides by the all the Catholic Education Policies and Norms established by the Roman Catholic Church and the Catholic Diocese of Peoria in Illinois.

Envelope System When sending money or messages for any reason please enclose them in a sealed envelope with the student's name on it, the amount of money enclosed and what it is for.

Formation in Human Dignity Our children are God's great gift to us, and we must do all we can to keep them safe and healthy. In previous years, we have implemented a program, provided by the Diocese of Peoria, called Formation in Human Dignity and most of our children have participated in this program. This program is aimed at helping parents and their children to become aware of their great dignity as children of God, to appreciate the gift of our life and to be safe. It is not a sex education program. The Diocese of Peoria remains committed to the safety and protection of all God's Children.

BEHAVIOR POLICIES

Communications If a problem or question concerning a child should arise, parents should contact the teacher, and/or the Director of Religious Education.

Care of School Property The abuse or destruction of property by any student, whether it belongs to others, the school/parish or themselves, shall not be tolerated. If this occurs, the student will be responsible for repairing the damage; if a text or activity book is lost or destroyed the student will be responsible for the cost of replacing the book.

Student Drug Abuse Policy Direct involvement or participation in the consumption, use/misuse, sale or gift of alcoholic beverages, marijuana, look alike/counterfeit drugs, prescription/nonprescription drugs other controlled substances, at any time on the school/parish property, is a violation of program policy and will be subject to the following disciplinary actions: 1. Direct involvement or participation in consuming or use/misuse of any of the above mentioned substances could result in one of the following: 1. Notification of parents/guardians and other proper authorities. 2. Suspension up to four (4) classes. 3. A hearing to determine expulsion. 2. Selling or distribution of any of the above-mentioned substances will result in the following three (3) procedures: 1. Notification of parents/guardians and other proper authorities. 2. Immediate suspension for four (4) classes. 3. A hearing to determine expulsion.

Gang Policy "Gang" as defined in this policy, shall mean individuals who associate with each other primarily for criminal, disruptive, and/or other activities prohibited by law and/or Church policies. The presence of gangs and gang activity interferes with the required appropriate discipline in the program. Gangs also foster anti-social behaviors, attitudes and practices which may endanger the health, safety, and welfare of our students. Therefore, students are prohibited from participating in any activity related to a gang or secret society while attending religion classes. Unsanctioned activities include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Soliciting and/or recruiting others for membership. 2. Participating in and/or inciting physical violence 3. Extorting or soliciting money and/or services; requesting any person to pay for protection, insurance, or payment of dues. 4. Coercing, harassing, and/or otherwise intimidating, threatening, or causing harm to any person or living creature. 5. Wearing, possessing, using, displaying in any manner, distributing, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other item commonly associated with membership in or affiliation with a gang or secret society. 6. Using any communication, verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes etc.), suggesting or showing membership in, or affiliation with a gang or secret society. 7.

Engaging in any activity or omission intended to promote or further the interests of any gang or gang activity or society including, but not limited to, distributing literature, drawing or displaying unauthorized symbols on any surface, or teaching others to “represent” or act like a member of a gang or secret society. 8. Any act or activity which violates any law or any policy of the Parish Catholic Faith Formation Program when such act or activity is taken to further the interests of a gang or secret society. Disciplinary action could result in one or more of the following: 1. Warning 2. Notification of Parents/Guardians 3. Parent/Guardians Conferences 4. Suspension up to ten (10) classes 5. Police Referral 6. Expulsion warning and/or hearing to determine expulsion.

Student Harassment Policy

We strive to provide for the needs of children and adults in a caring and supportive Christian environment. When this trust is broken the gospel calls us to search out the truth for justice to take place so dignity and respect may be restored.

These behaviors include: 1. Unwelcome verbal, physical, or sexual advances. 2. Unwanted requests of the victim. 3. Unwanted verbal comments of a sexual nature. 4. Unwanted verbal, physical, or sexual conduct on the part of the person harassing.

What to do if you are being harassed 1. Student should tell the harasser what their feelings are and ask the harasser to stop. This can also be done in a written form such as a note. If this is too difficult to do alone, the student should seek help from a teacher, parent, friend, and/or director. 2. If the behavior is repeated or is a major offense, report it to a teacher or the Director of Religious Education. Reporting sexual or other harassment will not affect grades or assignments. Both the reporter and the accused have the right to confidentiality. 3. After an investigation that proves the report true, the harasser will be subject to the discipline code, which includes suspension, expulsion and/or police involvement. An adult will be subject to legal charges.

Weapons Policy Rights and Responsibilities of Students Possession, distribution, use, purchase, or sale of an explosive, firearms, or any other object that can reasonably be considered a weapon shall be prohibited in parish/school buildings, or on parish/school grounds. Students found in possession, distribution, use, purchase, or sale of any explosive, firearms, or any object that can be reasonably considered a weapon could result in one or more of the following: 1. Notification of parents and other proper authorities 2. Immediate suspension pending a hearing to determine expulsion.

Discipline It is strongly related to our Christian values. We understand that in all education, the principles for discipline are set at home. Because we are a Christian Catholic Community, we still continue to foster discipline and do not tolerate lack of respect toward God, self, persons in authority, and classmates in our Catholic Faith Formation Program; nor will we tolerate abuse of property or parish/school rules. Every child is to be treated as an individual and accorded the dignity of a child of God. The teacher’s own poise, refinement, and discernment give him/her the ability to create a social atmosphere conducive to proper student conduct, to handle disorders in terms of

their causes, to know when and where it is the last resort. In guiding the student's growth in Christian attitudes, values, and behavior, it is well to emphasize the positive rather than the negative. The following procedures for handling unacceptable discipline are to be avoided. 1. All forms of corporal punishment. 2. Personal indignities such as striking, sarcasm, ridicule, name calling, nagging, and comparing. 3. Indiscriminate punishment of all students for the misconduct of some.

Permanent Dismissal of Students This procedure for permanent dismissal of students from the Catholic Faith Formation Program has been designated in accordance with the principles of justice and mercy, church law, diocesan educational policy and administrative civil law where it applies, and local educational policy and administrative regulations. The procedures consist of three main parts: A. Notifications of Dismissal. B. Meeting with the director with the 3. Reasons for considered dismissal; 4. Copy of dismissal procedures including the right to recourse process; 5. Possible dates and times for a hearing; 6. Forms on which parents can indicate which date and time is convenient for them. This form is to be signed and returned to the Director of Religious Education's office as soon as possible, usually not longer than two (2) working days after it has been received. B. Meeting of student, parent/guardian with the director. 1. The purpose of this meeting is to give the student and his/her parents/guardians a chance to ask questions about the reason for dismissal, to present their accounts of the situation and/or respond to reason given for dismissal. 2. The director presides at this meeting with student and parents/guardians to be present. Teacher or staff members, if involved may also be in attendance. In some instances, the pastor will be present. 3. The meeting should be kept as informal as possible. Tapes or verbatim records are not encouraged at this level. As soon as possible, usually no longer than twenty-four (24) hours, the student, parents/guardians are informed of the decision. C. If the decision is for permanent dismissal the parents/guardians should be given the opportunity to withdraw the student. Student and parents/guardians. C. An opportunity for recourse with a disciplinary committee of the Education Commission. A. Notification of Dismissal 1. When the director believes there is a reason for the permanent dismissal of a student, that student, (depending on age) and the parents/guardians are informed, verbally, in person or by phone. 2. Written notification should follow:

Religious Education Procedures

Arrival/Dismissal Times - We expect students to be on time for class each week. A schedule of dates and times is mailed home prior to the start of class. Also, see the Parish website: www.sacredheartmoline.org for the schedule. Classes are held on Sunday morning and there will be three (3) Parent/Student Days throughout the year.

Arrival: Parents may drop off their children inside the entrance to Culemans Hall on the Fellowship hall side. This will be the **ONLY** entrance/exit for Religious Education programs throughout the year. Please refrain from dropping the students off too early since we do not allow students in the classrooms without the

Catechist present. Students will go to the gym so we can start our classes together with prayer.

Dismissal: Students are to be dismissed from the classroom at the appropriate time. All children will be dismissed to parents from the hall. Parents will need to park in the Seton Catholic School parking lot and come into the hall to pick up their child. Children WILL NOT be released to come out to the parking lot without a parent/guardian present in the hall.

Parents are required to submit in writing a request for early dismissal of their child. Parents are to come into the building and meet the child at the attendance desk. No child is to leave the building early before reporting to the attendance desk.

Attendance – Please email the DRE for absences at: dpatronagio@sacredheartmoline.org. Parents are encouraged to cover the material in the syllabus for the date that the child missed. During sacramental years, if a child is absent five (5) or more times, parents will be asked to meet with the DRE and the Pastor to assure they are fully prepared to receive the sacrament.

Building Usage Rules – It is the responsibility of each Catechist to faithfully enforce the building usage rules. The Catechist should review these rules with their students at the beginning of the year and secure their cooperation.

Child Abuse Policy:

Child abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Engaging in a sexual activity with a child.
- Denial of proper or necessary substance, education, medical care, or other care necessary for the child's health.
- Use of restraint procedures on a child that cause injury or pain.
- Administration of prescription drugs or medication without the ongoing supervision of a licensed physician.
- Providing alcoholic beverages or controlled substances; and
- Commission of any act, other than by accidental means, that threatens or results in any injury or death to the child.

The DRE is required by Diocesan Policy to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities. Catechists who observe actual or suspected child abuse must report the matter in confidence to their DRE immediately. All volunteers who work with children will be required to attend a Safe Environment workshop and a background check including fingerprinting.

Class Cancellations – Announcements regarding cancellation of any Parish Religious Education classes will be sent out by email to all families and publicized on the local television stations.

Curriculum – The curriculum used in the Religious Education program must conform to guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Peoria. Only those textbooks/series may be used

that are found in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Catechists follow the outline of study as found in the Catechist Guide in conjunction with the guidelines set forth by the Diocese, which accompanies the book series used in the program. The Director must approve all additional materials and subject content incorporated into the program prior to its use in the classroom.

Discipline Policies – Every effort will be made to keep students in the classroom. This is a team effort. It is essential that students come to class prepared and parents have spoken with students about behavior. If the child does not follow the classroom expectations, the Catechist will request the DRE to speak with the child. If negative behavior continues, the DRE will then speak to the parents.

Medications – If students have a medical condition that would require an intervention (i.e. inhaler, epi pen, etc.), this must be brought to the attention of the DRE immediately. All necessarily medications must be brought to every Religious Education event.

Medical Emergencies – In an event that a child is unable to continue to participate in the classroom activities, the Catechist/Co-Catechist should bring the child to the office so that the parent may be called. If the parent cannot be reached, the DRE will call the person listed as the emergency contact.

Parent-Catechist Communications – In addition to the normal parent communications that originate from the Religious Education Office, Catechists are encouraged to stay in touch with their students' parents.

Prayers– At each grade level, the students are required to memorize and recite certain prayers. These prayers will be sent home so that parents/students can pray them together regularly. Students will be asked to recite these prayers individually.

Student Resources – Each student enrolled in our Religious Education Program will use a variety of different resources during their class time

Sacramental Preparation

- At least one parent of students preparing to receive Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation must attend parent meetings. These meetings are mandatory for the reception of sacraments. (Check calendar for dates).
- Children must fulfill all grade level requirements to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Preparation for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist takes place in second grade. The child must have completed two full years of catechetical instructions to be prepared to receive these sacraments.

- All children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation must attend a retreat day. (Check calendar for dates).

Dress Code - Students are required to dress modestly and appropriately for class. NO halter tops, short shorts, bare midriffs, pajama-like pants (flannels) or T-shirts with inappropriate wording are not to be worn.

Cell Phones – Cell phones should not be sent to class. Between the Catechists, Co-Catechist, administrative staff, and the DRE, plenty of phones will be available in case of an emergency or if your child needs to call home for any reason.

Miscellaneous

- Students should be on time for class every week.
- Students should refrain from bringing food or drink to Religious Education without prior approval from the DRE.
- Everyone will be treated with dignity, respect, and common courtesy.
- Students should not touch, use, or play with items found in the classroom.

Visitors to Classrooms – All visitors are to stop at the Attendance Desk and speak to the DRE. Children are welcome to bring friends to class with prior approval and notification to the DRE. Catechists may invite parents or guest speakers. The DRE should be notified of these plans. Parents may visit the class at any time. During times of elevated sickness, no guests will be allowed, this is for the safety of our students.

First Reconciliation Preparation

Reconciliation is the sacrament of forgiveness and peace. It is one of the ways in which God chooses to forgive our sins. Whenever people sin, they separate themselves from God's love. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we return to God, our loving parent. This loving forgiveness is reflected in our homes and with our families every day.

Reconciliation begins with the family:

- Pray together as a family. Ask God's forgiveness as a family. Prayer itself can be a very powerful means of achieving reconciliation with God, with one another, and with ourselves.
- Listen carefully to your child. Discuss the process, concerns your child might have, and practice how he/she will go to Reconciliation. Remember to reinforce that your child's conversation with the priest is private and that they do not need to tell you, or anyone, what is said.

- **MODEL IT!!!** Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation yourself! Even second-graders can detect a double standard if they are asked to do something that you do not.
- **LIVE IT!!!** Show forgiveness and reconciliation in your own life. Our lives as Christians should be models of reconciliation in all that we do and say.
- **Attend Mass together as a family on a regular basis.** The Mass provides an opportunity for the community to gather and be reconciled with one another and with God.

Act of Contrition

Simply put, the Act of Contrition serves as the formal apology. There are many versions of the Act of Contrition.

An effective apology (the Act of Contrition) consists of:

- Acknowledging an infraction
- Showing remorse
- Expressing the sincere intent not to repeat the offense
- Resolving to amend behavior in the future.

Concepts Your Child Should be Familiar With

Understanding Sin: First, and foremost, children need to understand that sin is something they **FREELY CHOOSE** to do that is **WRONG**. Children are introduced to the concept of sin within the context of understanding the nature of their relationship with God. They learn about the loving relationship through their experiences of family and of friendship. Through these experiences and stories about Jesus' special love for them, young children begin to understand the complexity of sin. Sin is presented in terms of how these relationships are changed because of willful wrongdoing or free choice.

In human friendships, there are serious disruptions in these relationships. There are also less serious offenses which pave the way to carelessness about their relationship. In coming to understand this, children learn that there are offenses that can affect their relationship with God in a similar way.

Communal Aspect of Sin: The Church is the family of God. We become part of this family at Baptism. At Baptism we become children of God. Any time a member of God's family sins, the entire family is touched by this separation. This why the Sacrament of

Reconciliation is sometimes a communal celebration where the parish family comes together asking for forgiveness before individual reconciliation.

Sorrow for Sin: Parents teach children to be sorry for their sins by helping them understand the meaning of the words, "I am sorry." This is begun in ordinary family situations. Parents help children experience apology situations by letting the children witness a loving sincerity of words and actions when one adult apologize to another or to a child. Parents should not hesitate to apologize to their children when the occasion arises. This is done not only with words, but also through actions and behavior.

Examination of Conscience Examples

Thinking about your sins is hard for an adult and is even harder for a child as they still just want to desperately please everyone. Here are two examinations that you could use with your child that use things that are already familiar to the child.

Using the Our Father:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

- Do I think about God every day?
- Do I say my prayers?
- Do I pay attention and participate at Mass?

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- Am I kind to others?
- Do I do what Jesus wants me to do?
- Do I share with others?
- Am I helpful to my family?
- Do I show respect to my teachers and classmates?

Give us this day our daily bread

- Do I remember to say thank you?
- Am I sometimes greedy?
- Do I appreciate the good things I have in my life?
- Do I think of ways to help those who have no food?
- Do I take things that do not belong to me?

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

- Do I say I am sorry when I have been wrong?
- Do I forgive and forget when someone does something bad to me?
- Do I help solve problems between my friends or do I cause more trouble?
- Do I say bad things about people who have hurt me?

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

- Do I play fairly in sports and games?
- Do I cheat in school?
- Do I tell the truth?
- Do I set a good example by my kindness?
- Do I let other kids tempt me to do things I know I should not do?

Using the 10 Commandments:

- 1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.**
Have I wanted more things, making things or money more important than God?
Have I made an idol of sports or entertainment figures (celebrities)?
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
Do I use God's name carelessly?
Do I use God's name in anger?
- 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**
Do I attend Mass on Sunday (or Saturday evening vigil)?
Did my behavior make it difficult or impossible for my parents to get to church on time?
Have I remembered to pray each day?
- 4. Honor your father and your mother.**
Do I obey my parents?
Have I done my chores without complaining?
Do I do my chores without being reminded?
Have I been disrespectful to my teachers, coaches, or others in authority?
- 5. You shall not kill.**
Do I keep my patience, or do I lose my temper?
Do I hold grudges and try to get even with others?
Have I been unfair to others, especially those who are different than I am?
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
Do I show respect for my body?
Do I respect the bodies of others?
Do I avoid harmful things like drugs, tobacco, and alcohol?
- 7. You shall not steal.**
Have I taken something that belongs to someone else?
Have I "forgotten" to return something that I borrowed?

- Have I used money responsibly?*
8. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
Do I play fairly, or do I ever cheat at school or games?
Have I been honest, or have I lied?
Have I hurt someone by what I have said or done?
Have I copied someone else's homework?
9. **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**
Have I been jealous of the friends that someone else has?
Have I tried to be kind to others?
10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**
Have I been jealous of the things that my friends have?
Have I nagged my parents into buying things because my friends have them?
Have I helped others when they needed help?

Reconciliation for Second Graders

Greet the priest when he welcomes you.

Make the sign of the cross.

Listen while the priest prays for God to help you make a good confession.

Say "Amen" at the end of the prayer that the priest says.

Listen what the priest says.

Make your confession.

Begin by telling him how long it has been since you made your last confession. If this is your first, you say, "This is my first confession." Then begin to tell the priest the things you needed to do and did not, and the things you did that hurt God, other people, or yourself. It is OK to bring a written note to remind you of what you want to say.

Listen to the Penance that the priest gives you.

Pray the Act of Contrition.

Listen to the priest as he prays the words of absolution.

Thank the priest, leave the priest, and do your penance as soon as you can.

10 Ways for Parents to Prepare Children for First Holy Eucharist

(Adapted from Sr. Janet Schaeffler)

Moms and Dads: If you're asking the question, "How can we prepare my child for First Holy Eucharist?", your child is already growing up in the atmosphere where believing, knowing, and experiencing God just runs in the family. It is part of the fabric of your everyday life.

The first and foremost "things to do" to prepare your child for First Holy Eucharist are:

1. Realize that you already have been preparing your child for First Holy Eucharist since the day he/she was born. Eucharist is about the absolute love of God for us. The way you have loved, cared for, and modeled forgiveness speaks of the unconditional love of our God. Our most intimate experiences of God's presence with us often occur within the everyday moments, interactions, and relationships of family life. The challenge is that sometimes we are so busy that we miss them. Family life is holy and sacred. That is where God is.
2. Talk together. Tell stories about your God moments. Use Scripture stories. Answer their questions, even the ones they are not asking!
3. Stress the connection of Baptism and Eucharist. Get out your photo albums and recall your child's Baptism. Unpack the Baptismal garment and tell its history, when and where you bought it or who made it, who else wore it, etc. Participate in the Easter Vigil as a family.
4. Celebrate the liturgical seasons at home: observe Lenten rituals but remember that Easter lasts for fifty days – how will you celebrate that? Read Scripture stories, celebrate baptismal anniversaries, take out family members' Baptism and First Holy Eucharist photos, etc.
5. Put a little extra into family meals (they have a big connection to Eucharist!). Let your child decorate the table for an evening meal. Talk about special meals your family has shared.
6. Pray often as a family and make it a natural part of family life: mealtimes, bedtimes, happy times, worrisome times, after an argument, when someone is in trouble, always on special occasions (Thanksgiving, birthdays, and baptismal days, etc.).
7. Make Mass a family event. Sit near the front. Point out one or two things each week for your child to watch for. Talk about the homily on the way home. Before liturgy talk with your family about who you want to pray for during the General Intercessions; and what you want to thank God for during the Eucharistic Prayer.
8. Grow together in appreciation of God's Word. On Saturday evenings, read the Scriptures you will hear at Mass. What is God saying to your family this weekend?
9. Take a tour of your church. Point out to your child where they were baptized, show him/her the altar up close, the tabernacle, the oils, etc.
10. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that celebrating Eucharist commits us to the poor (#1397). Together fix a meal for a neighbor in need, sort through toys and clothing for gifts to the poor, visit a nursing home, add family money to a charitable donation.

First Holy Eucharist Preparation

Attire:

- Girls
 - White dress and veil or wreath of flowers – traditional
 - Any nice dress is acceptable
 - Gloves are not permitted – we receive Jesus with our bare hands as a sign of respect.
 - Dress shoes
- Boys
 - White shirt, dress pants, and tie – traditional
 - Any dress shirt, dress pants, and tie are acceptable
 - Dress shoes

Mass Particulars:

- Students will be seated with their family.
- Each family will receive a pew, reserved with the banners they make.
- Group and individual pictures will be taken of all students.
 - Details including times and prices will follow.
 - A photographer is present to take all pictures, including students receiving their First Holy Eucharist.
 - No other pictures are allowed.
- This is a solemn Mass celebration.
- Videotaping will only be allowed in specific areas.
- Family members who would like to participate in the Mass should let the DRE know as soon as possible.
- There will be a short parish reception where Communicants will receive a gift and their certificate.

Confirmation Preparation

To Know God

Mass Attendance and Reconciliation

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ. *Eucharistic Prayer III*

Besides being a weekly obligation for every Catholic, Mass is the preeminent means for learning about, loving, and serving God and each other. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Faith. This is our central act of worship which allows God's grace to be present and working in our lives. **Sunday Mass attendance is expected of all Confirmands.**

In addition, reconciliation throughout the year is encouraged. Regular opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered in both Seton School and in the Religious Education program.

Commitment and Registration

Those of you who seek to complete your Christian initiation, are you prepared to listen to the apostles' instruction, gather with us for prayer, and join us in the love and service of others? *Rite of Acceptance*

Commitment is an overwhelming theme throughout the Old and New Testament. At Baptism, we begin the journey of commitment. Parents and Godparents make the commitment for us at infant baptism. At Confirmation, we assume this commitment more fully, exercising our own wills, and determining that they will claim the Christian Identity.

The traditional definition of the term Sacrament is, "A visible sign, instituted by Christ, that gives grace."

What this means is:

1. "A visible sign"

This is simply what you can see/feel. It is the sensorial (of the senses) aspect of our faith. An action is performed by a minister (usually a Priest). For example, when a baby is baptized in the church the Priest pours water over its head and at the same time says the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." That is a visible sign.

2. “Instituted by Christ”

Jesus Christ instructed His Church to offer the seven sacraments to His followers. For example, His directive to His disciples in Matthew’s Gospel (28, 19) “Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

3. “To give grace”

The way we describe grace to small children is with the word “strength.” Grace is God’s free gift of Himself as the controlling influence in our life and the decisions we make once we have committed ourselves to Him in faith.

We celebrate the Sacraments to know God. We celebrate them as a community because together, we are the living, breathing, working body of Christ. Through prayer, service, communal life, and striving to be firm in our beliefs, we come to know God. Together, we do this as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

When we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation, we are bringing the Sacrament of Baptism to completion. We see in Acts of the Apostles that the Apostles laid hands on the baptized so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. Confirmation is considered as perfection of Baptism, because, as the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation states:

By the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

Confirmation is the last of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states “Lay the foundations of every Christian life.” It further states, “By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.”

To Love God

“Pray and learn to pray! ... Deepen your knowledge of the Word of the Living God by reading and meditating on the Scriptures.” – Saint Pope John Paul II, Dilecti Amici

First and foremost, Mass (and the Liturgy of the Hours) is the public prayer of the Church. In addition to that, we are all called to develop a prayer life to deepen our relationship with God. We come to know God better and more perfectly through direct conversation, just as we do with our friends. Through prayer, we learn to not only talk but, also, to listen.

For many, formal prayer provides the starting point. Because of this, students in the Diocese of Peoria are required to memorize formal prayers. It is the responsibility of the Religious Education teachers at both Seton Catholic School and Sacred Heart Catholic

Church verify that these prayers are successfully memorized and communicated to the DRE.

Prayers to be memorized for Confirmation include: The Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Fatima Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, Come Holy Spirit, St. Michael's Prayer, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Charity, Morning Offering, Angelus, Anima Christi, Regina Caeli, Prayer to St. Francis, and Memorare.

To Serve God

Remember: *"God doesn't require us to succeed, He only requires that you try."* – Saint Mother Teresa

The real mark of a mature Christian is looking out for our brothers and sisters and serving their needs. The Church continually calls us to share our talents and our time with and in service to others. It is only in this way that the world will ever come to know Jesus: by seeing him at work in us.

To get used to the idea of SERVICE, the Diocese of Peoria has called on each Confirmation Candidate to perform 25 hours of donated service to others as a prerequisite for Confirmation. Although, **ALL** Sacred Heart students are performing 25 hours of service, Seton Catholic School students have different guidelines set forth by the Religious Education teacher. Seton students need to follow those guidelines and return their paperwork to their Religious Education teacher. Sacred Heart Religious Education students will follow these guidelines and return the paperwork to their teacher. Half of the service hours (12.5 hrs.) need to be for Sacred Heart Parish. The other half can be for the community.

For the community portion of the service hours, students may turn to prayer. For many people, formal prayer provides the starting point for the development of prayer life. Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI tells us "through prayer, God reveals His saving power." He further states, "Life without meaning has no points of reference."

We know, through the Catechism of the Catholic Church, that the Christian family is the first place for education in prayer. We will provide resources for the Rosary, The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, and a Novena. There are hundreds of resources for these and other formal prayers. We are providing just a few.

Confirmands in the Religious Education Program will need to fill out the Service Hour Reflections documents and return to the DRE by a date to be determined.

The work you do does not need to be big, fancy, or showy. Jesus taught us that even giving someone water in His name is an act of love. Service hours should be those that we give of our time, without any compensation.

Suggestions for Service Hours

Here are some suggestions but there are many more that you could come up with. Whatever you do, do it out of love. Remember: To receive credit, compensation will not be accepted.

Altar server
Babysit
Cook a meal
Do the laundry
Go to adoration
Greet at Mass
Help a teacher
Help clean the church
Help decorate the school/church
Help someone with homework
Help with Vacation Bible School
Mow grass
Pray a chaplet
Pray a novena
Pray a rosary
Rake leaves
Shop for a shut in
Shovel snow
Sing in the choir
Usher at Mass
Visit a sick person
Work at a food pantry
Write a letter to the military or a veteran

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE WELCOME AND ACCEPTANCE **CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO STAND**

PRESIDER: Blessed are you, O Lord, Our God. You give us times for glad celebration. We give you thanks for giving us our life together and for letting us welcome others to it. Today, we also thank you for the young men and women of our parish community who will join us on the Way to Jesus. Look lovingly on them Lord, as we welcome them with joy and formally accept them into the program of preparation for Confirmation.

(To the Candidates) My friends, in Baptism you passed through the waters of life and your journey on The Way began. You started your life in the Holy Spirit. Over the years, we have gathered again and again around the Table of the Lord. Today, we extend a renewed welcome. We invite you to grow closer to us and to join with us by celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring.

We, the people of Sacred Heart Parish, invite you to discover the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit in your lives. To discover the mission given by Christ, we invite you to discover the ministry that is yours. May you find new and exciting ways to act and live out your faith and may you truly find yourself only by giving yourself away. We, the people of Sacred Heart Parish, invite you to discover your place in the people of God.

(To the Candidates) My friends, we know that this invitation is not one you can accept casually. Therefore, before you accept it, hear the commitment, and pledge we, your parish family, make on your behalf.

I ask the congregation to respond: **AMEN, WE PROMISE AND WE WILL**

PRESIDER: We pledge ourselves to be friends to you, to share the story of Jesus with you, and to be competent and compassionate with you.

PEOPLE: AMEN, WE PROMISE AND WE WILL

PRESIDER: We pledge ourselves to share our hopes, dreams, visions, and mission with you and to support you with our ministry and our prayers.

PEOPLE: AMEN, WE PROMISE AND WE WILL

PRESIDER: We pledge ourselves to be for you a real church, a true people of God.

PEOPLE: AMEN, WE PROMISE AND WE WILL

PRESIDER: Friends, if you are ready and willing, I invite you to come forward with your sponsor or a parent, to accept our pledge and our invitation to the Way of Jesus, your journey in the Spirit.

CANDIDATES AND SPONSORS ARE CALLED BY NAME AND LINE UP ON THE FIRST STEP OF THE ALTAR FACING THE CONGREGATION

PRESIDER: I ask those to be confirmed, please respond "I do." Candidates, do you commit:

- To attend Mass regularly and participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

RESPONSE: I do

- To participate fully in all aspects of the Confirmation program and to study the truths of the Catholic faith to the best of my ability.

RESPONSE: I do

- To pray regularly and to show love for others through Christian service and my attitude.

RESPONSE: I do

- To assume more responsibility in my family, the parish, and the community.

RESPONSE: I do

PRESIDER: I ask the sponsors or parents to place their right hand on the shoulder of the person they sponsor, and I invite all present to extend their hands over them in blessing.

Let us pray:

Gracious God be with these young men and women, as together with this community, they travel in the Spirit to their Confirmation. Support them should they stumble, travel with them as they grow in your grace, we ask this through Christ our Lord. **Response: AMEN**

Bless these young men and women, O gracious God. Bless them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Response: AMEN**

As a sign of our Parish community's confidence in these young people's ability to travel The Way, let us give them a round of applause.

CANDIDATES RETURN TO SEATS AND CLOSE LITURGY

Regulations for Sponsors of Candidates Confirmation

To become a Confirmation sponsor, a person must:

1. Be asked by the confirmand.
2. Be at least 16 years old.
3. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith.
4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
5. Not be either the father or the mother of the one to be confirmed.

Non-Catholics and non-Christians may not be Confirmation sponsors. Because the sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith, the person, if married, must be in a valid marriage recognized by the Church. A Confirmation sponsor may act through a proxy. One who is to act as a proxy for a sponsor must meet all the same requirements the sponsor must meet.

Sponsor certificates which declare that one is fit to serve as a sponsor for a candidate for confirmation are normally issued by one's own pastor. These are normally presented to the priest or deacon administering the Sacrament. The Church takes very seriously the role of the sponsor.

The Catechism tells us, "For the grace of baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized (child or adult) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function. The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at baptism." (*Sources: Code of Canon Law, Canons 872-874 and 892-893; Catechism of the Catholic Church #1253-1255*).

Remember, we are bringing the Sacrament of Baptism to completion.

Guidelines for Confirmation Candidate's Letter to the Bishop Requesting to be Confirmed

- This letter is due on:

- Please send or bring your letter to the attention of:
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Attn: Director of Religious Education
1307 17th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

- The letter should be written to:
TBD

- Guidelines for your letter:
 - Introduce yourself using your full name, and your parish. Tell something about your family, your background.
 - Request the Sacrament of Confirmation. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed. "I'm old enough" is not a good enough reason.
 - Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other Sacraments, your service for others exercised at home and within the parish, etc.
 - Explain who you chose as your sponsor and WHY this person was chosen.
 - Provide the name of the Saint you have chosen for your Confirmation and the spiritual reason for that choice.
 - Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Prayers

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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.

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, is seated 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.

Come, Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now, and at the hour
of death. Amen.

The Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus,
forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell,
and lead all souls to heaven,
especially those in most need of
Thy mercy. Amen.

St. Michael's Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard, rule, and guide.
Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy 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. Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

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 that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help 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 above all things with my whole heart and soul because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

Angelus

Verse: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

Response: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

All: Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with Thee; Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Verse: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Response: Be it done unto me according to thy word.

All: Hail Mary....

Verse: And the Word was made Flesh.

Response: And dwelt among us.

All: Hail Mary

Verse: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

Response: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from Christ's side, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malicious enemy defend me
In the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
and with Thy angels
Forever and ever. Amen.

Regina Caeli

Verse: Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

Response: For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Verse: Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

Response: Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Verse: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

Response: For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer to St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And 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. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Act of Contrition

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.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his name, My God, have mercy.

The Rosary

Joyful Mysteries (Prayed on Mondays, Saturdays, and on Sundays during Advent)

- a. The Annunciation
- b. The Visitation
- c. The Nativity
- d. The Presentation in the Temple
- e. The Finding in the Temple

Five Sorrowful Mysteries (Prayed on Tuesdays, Fridays, and on Sundays during Lent)

- a. The Agony in the Garden
- b. The Scourging at the Pillar
- c. The Crowning with Thorns
- d. The Carrying of the Cross
- e. The Crucifixion and Death

The **Five Glorious Mysteries** (Prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays of Ordinary Time)

- a. The Resurrection
- b. The Ascension
- c. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- d. The Assumption
- e. The Coronation of Mary

The **Five Luminous Mysteries** (Prayed on Thursdays)

- a. The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
- b. The Wedding Feast at Cana
- c. Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God
- d. The Transfiguration
- e. The Institution of the Eucharist

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the **Apostles' Creed**.
3. On the first bead, say an **Our Father**.
4. Say one **Hail Mary** on each of the next three beads.
5. Say the **Glory Be**
6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the **Our Father**.
7. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, next say ten **Hail Mary's** while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a **Glory Be**.
8. After finishing each decade, say the **Fatima Prayer**
9. After saying the five decades, say the **Hail, Holy Queen**

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Optional Opening Prayers:

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

Pray

(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed

For each of the five decades *(On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray)*

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Concluding prayer *(Repeat 3 times)*

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Prayer to Know One's Vocation

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen

Catholic Websites

Parish

<http://sacredheartmoline.org/>

<http://catholicquadcities.org/>

Diocesan

<https://cdop.org/>

World

<http://www.usccb.org/>

<http://www.ewtn.com/>

<http://www.newadvent.org/>

<http://www.vaticanstate.va/content/vaticanstate/en.html>

Vocations

<https://comeandfollowme.org/>

<http://www.sistersofmaryofthepresentation.org/>

<https://www.bvmsisters.org/>

<https://altonfranciscans.org/>

<http://www.smmsisters.org/>

Prayer

<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/>

Saints

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/>

References

<https://www.loyolapress.com>

Sponsor Certificate



THIS IS TO CERTIFY

_____ (Name of Confirmation Sponsor), a member of
_____, is a practicing
Catholic and is qualified to act as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for
_____ at Sacred
Heart Catholic Church, 1608 13th Street, Moline, IL 61265.

Rev. _____

Church: _____

Address (including city, state, and zip code): _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Please mail or fax this form to:

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
c/o Director of Religious Education
1608 13th Street
Moline, IL 61265
Fax: 309-757-5502

Reflection

Name: _____ Date of Activity: _____

Description of Activity: _____

Reflection of Activity

Write at least one paragraph of how you felt after you completed the activity as well as how this activity has brought you closer to Christ in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Works of Mercy

Describe the Work of Mercy your activity falls under. (Ex: If it is a Spiritual Work of Mercy, which one? And why/how?)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Moline, IL

**Religious Education Program
Student Medical and Information Sheet**

Student/Minor

Name (First, Middle, Last): _____

Address: _____

Phone (including area code): _____

Medical Condition

Please list any medical conditions of the student/minor (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.):

List any allergies or allergic reactions to medications of the student/minor:

List any medications the student/minor is presently taking:

Other pertinent medical information:

Date of student/minor's most recent tetanus shot: _____

Medical Insurance Information

Company: _____

Plan Number: _____ Employee Identification #: _____

Emergency Contacts

Parent/Guardian

Name (First, Last): _____

Phone (including area code): _____

Other Contact

Name (First, Last): _____

Phone (including area code): _____

Relationship (Grandparent, Friend, Neighbor, etc.) _____

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment

This information will be kept in the possession of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Moline, IL. A copy will be distributed to the person in charge of each trip, retreat, or activity in which the student/minor participates. Should the need arise this information will be given to the proper medical authorities.

I, _____ (parent/guardian), understand that in the case of illness or injury to my child, _____ (child's name), the parish will try to notify me or the person I have listed above as an emergency contact. In case of medical emergency concerning my child, at a time when I or my listed emergency contact cannot be notified, I grant full power to Sacred Heart Catholic Church or its agent (Pastor or Director of Religious Education) to: 1) arrange for the transportation of my child, whether by ambulance or otherwise, to a proper facility where emergency medical treatment would normally be administered, including but not limited to, an emergency room of a hospital, a doctor's office, or a clinic, and 2) sign releases as may be required in order to obtain any medical or surgical treatment as is required in the judgment of medical authorities at the facility.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the parents/guardians, acknowledge that we have access to the handbook on the website and will review this with our children. We may request a hard copy from the office. Sacred Heart Religious Education Parent Handbook for Sacramental Preparation 2020-2021.

Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date

Phone number where I may be contacted **during Religious Education Classes:**

We, the student(s), acknowledge that we have discussed the handbook with our parents for the Religious Education 2020-2021 school year.

Name (print)

Student Signature

**Diocese of Peoria
LIABILITY WAIVER – CCD PARTICIPANTS
2020-2021**

As a parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the below named student(s). I understand the risks this activity may present to my child, including but not limited to, a serious personal injury or death.

In consideration of my child being allowed to participate in this activity, I hereby release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless, the Diocese of Peoria, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, teachers, chaperones, volunteers, or representatives associated with the event, and their employees and agents, from any liability for injuries, damages, medical expenses, or any other loss to my child, family, or me (including attorney's fees) arising from or related to my child's participation in this activity.

Name (print)

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date

**Diocese of Peoria
PUBLICITY WAIVER – CCD PARTICIPANTS
2020-2021**

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Moline, IL 61265

On occasion, Sacred Heart Catholic Church will take photographs or make an audio/video recording of children and/or adults involved in parish activities. Such photographs or video records may be used by staff and participants to remember the activities or participants. In addition, such photographs and audio-visual records may be used in parish publications or advertising materials to let others know about the parish. Also, local news organizations may learn about the parish's activities or events, and the parish may invite or allow them to photograph or record such events to be used, distributed, or displayed as the agents of the parish see fit.

I hereby expressly grant to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and/or the Diocese of Peoria the right, privilege and license to use the picture or likeness of my child/ren in any photograph, movie, video production, or any other form of media publication and to use the verbal or written statements or declarations of my child/ren for the purpose of publicizing, fostering, and promoting the parish and its programs, or for any other purpose in furtherance of the mission of the parish and/or the Diocese of Peoria.

Name (print)

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA, IL

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION COVID-19 WAIVER

2020-21

Parish _____
Child's Name _____ DOB _____
Parent(s) Name(s) _____ Phone _____
Name of Physician _____ Phone _____
Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

STUDENT COVID-19 WAIVER

We, to include but not limited to the above referenced parish and the Diocese of Peoria, have taken enhanced health and safety measures for your child. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the CDC, senior citizens, adults and children with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By your child attending the above referenced Faith Formation Program classes, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 by your child. I also understand that if my child is exposed to, develops symptoms of or someone in my family tests positive, I will self-report that information to the above referenced parish.

I have read the above and understand that my child could be exposed to COVID-19 while attending during the 2020-2021 term. I also understand that if my child has any symptoms or a temperature upon arrival my child will not be admitted. The undersigned do hereby release, forever discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless my parish, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, IL, and their staff, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all liability, for injuries, damages, medical expenses or any other loss to my child or family, including attorney fees, arising from claims of any kind or nature whatsoever for my child's participation in this event.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed 6-30-2020



Online Catechetical Formation Option

In light of the current pandemic of COVID-19, we are providing the option for Religious Education to be online for the following grades: Pre-K, Kindergarten, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth.

The grade levels of First and Second are crucial for in-person teaching as these students prepare for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

For those families who have students preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and you do not wish your child to be taking in-person classes, please contact the DRE, Debbie Patronagio by email at dpatronagio@sacredheartmoline.org to discuss the situation.

I grant permission for my child _____

To participate in the parish online Catechetical Formation Option under the supervision of our catechists and to be in communication with them.

Parent Signature _____

Parent Name Printed _____

Child's Name and Grade Level _____

Date _____