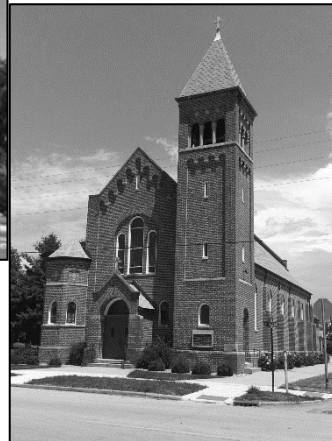


**Roman Catholic Churches of
St. Philomena & St. Michael
(217) 762-2566**

Msgr. Michael Bliss, Pastor



**Religious Education Handbook
2022 – 2023**

**Religious Education Coordinator
Kari Higgins (217) 412-4568**

Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

Welcome to a new CCD year! I am very excited to begin another year rooted in faith, prayer, and learning. As the Coordinator of Religious Education, it is my job to work closely with our Pastor, Msgr. Mike, to maintain a great quality of education and faith throughout the year. I work with the teachers to help them understand how to best fill their role as a volunteer in our parish and to make sure that all students have the resources they need to learn their faith. This includes ordering our curriculum, supplies, choosing a VBS program, and leading the classes in practices for Mass. My goal is for your children to know their faith better.

The Diocese of Peoria, led by the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, gives us some important things to think about. Parents are the first teachers of their children. Give them your faith, pray, bring them to Mass, and find ways to deepen your faith together. Teachers share their knowledge and faith by challenging students to open their eyes to a new aspect of their faith. Students are encouraged to focus each week on learning something new. If we each strive to make true knowledge our goal we will grow in leaps and bounds.

I look forward to what God has in store for us this year. Please pray with me for our teachers and students that they will be inspired by God. Pray also for our parents that God will give them the knowledge they need to impart even more wisdom at home! Thank you for your prayers and I assure you that you have mine!

Kari Higgins, Religious Education Coordinator

Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee is a group of six volunteers who work together with the Religious Education Coordinator to ensure the success of the CCD program. The volunteers meet once a month to discuss and plan upcoming events, and to deal with various issues concerning the program. The Religious Education Committee prepares and serves the Harvest Feast, the First Reconciliation Brunch, a Lenten Soup Supper, and the First Communion Reception. This group is also asked to step in and teach if a teacher is not able to make it to a class.

Religious Education General Policies

Welcome

Welcome to St. Philomena/St. Michael's Religious Education Program! We applaud your sincere desire to pass on the faith to your children and we are happy to join you as partners in that effort. This little handbook is designed to convey basic information regarding our policies and procedures. To comply with the policy of the Diocese of Peoria, parents are asked to read the handbook. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the parish office.

Admission Policy

St. Philomena/St. Michael's Religious Education Program does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, sex, national origin or handicap conditions.

Registration

Each child must be formally registered, each year, prior to participating in the Religious Education Program. Registration forms are available from the parish office. Fees are \$50 per child and \$25 for each additional child. Late fees will be added after August 1. For anyone with a financial need, scholarships may be available – see **Scholarships** in this booklet. Fees are due at the time of registration.

Scholarships

You may apply for a Scholarship through the parish office. Scholarships are limited, so apply early. The Pastor will make the final decisions on all scholarships awarded.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance at all classes is expected, although we realize that sometimes conflicts will arise. We realize how difficult it is these days to juggle the family schedule, and we thank you for making an effort to ensure that your child arrives promptly. Latecomers can be disruptive to the class. Religious Education Coordinator will collect attendance sheets from classroom teachers each week. Class times are as follows:

Pre-K & Kindergarten, Sundays, 10:00am – Students will be returned to parents during Mass after homily
Grades 1 – 6, Wednesdays, 6:15pm – 7:15pm

Textbooks and Supplies

All textbooks, pencils, crayons, paper, scissors, glue sticks, and any additional materials will be provided by the parish. Occasionally, parents may be asked to contribute something for a special project.

Inclement Weather Policy

First through Third Grades (Wednesday evening) will be canceled whenever the Piatt County Schools are closed or dismissed early for snow or ice.

Permission Slips

Permission slips may be necessary for a student to participate in some activities. Only adult drivers are allowed to transport students to and from an activity sponsored by St. Philomena/St. Michael.

Discipline

Students are expected to follow the rules developed by the Pastor and the catechists at the beginning of the year. Courtesy, cooperation, and respect are always expected. Parents will be notified if a student behaves in such a way that continually disrupts the class.

Family Involvement

Our Religious Education Program offers many opportunities for parents and interested adults to become involved and to share their gifts and talents. As parents, it is important for your children to know that you care about their faith development as well as your own. Please take the time to ask your children about their classes and to review any material sent home. Time set aside to pray and read Scripture as a family is also essential to the faith life of your child, as is family participation at Sunday Mass.

Volunteers

We are very grateful to our catechists, assistants, and all who so generously give of their time and talents to minister to the children and youth of our parish. In addition to their weekly commitment they spend many hours preparing for their classes. We ask you to support them, pray for them and express your appreciation whenever possible. We invite you to join our team of volunteers!

Liability Waiver/Policy for all Churches & Schools in the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois

As parent and/or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by my child. I understand the risks that the Religious Education Program 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 the Religious Education Program, I hereby release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless, the Diocese of Peoria, the parish, teachers, chaperones, volunteers, or representatives associated with the Religious Education Program, and their employees and agents, from any liability, except by negligence, 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 the Religious Education Program.

Religious Education Curriculum (Themes & Prayers)

The curriculum used is the Christ Our Life Series by Loyola Press. The following is an overview of the themes and prayers covered in each grade:

Pre-School

Theme: God Made Everything
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross

Kindergarten

Theme: God Loves Us
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father

1st Grade

Theme: God is Good
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer

2nd Grade

Theme: God Cares for Us
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, The Apostles' Creed, Responses at Mass/Genuflection, Order/Meaning of the Mass

3rd Grade

Theme: We Believe
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, The Apostles' Creed, Responses at Mass/Genuflection, Order/Meaning of the Mass, Meal Prayers (Before/After)

4th Grade

Theme: God Guides Us
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, The Apostles' Creed, Responses at Mass/Genuflection, Order/Meaning of the Mass, Meal Prayers (Before/After), Act of Faith, Hope and Love

5th Grade

Theme: We Worship
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, The Apostles' Creed, Responses at Mass/Genuflection, Order/Meaning of the Mass, Meal Prayers (Before/After), Act of Faith, Hope and Love, Morning Offering, Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

6th Grade

Theme: God Calls a People
Formal Prayers: Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer, Act of Contrition, The Apostles' Creed, Responses at Mass/Genuflection, Order/Meaning of the Mass, Meal Prayers (Before/After), Act of Faith, Hope and Love, Morning Offering, Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, Prayer for the Faithful Departed, Angelus, Regina Caeli, Hail, Holy Queen

GUIDELINES FOR RECONCILIATION

1. The second grade child shall be provided with appropriate catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation distinct from catechesis for the reception of First Communion. Each sacrament is a special encounter with Christ. This simple catechesis should have full parental involvement.
2. The individual readiness of the child must be respected as a determining factor in the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Readiness factors include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The child's ability to distinguish between accidental and deliberate wrong.
 - b. The child's awareness of the need for forgiveness and the child's trust in Jesus' forgiving love.
 - c. The child's ability to express wrong-doing and sorrow in his or her own words.
 - d. Free desire of the child to receive the sacrament.
 - e. The child's simple understanding that the priest and the church have a special role in bringing us God's forgiveness.
3. The Sacrament of Reconciliation should normally be celebrated prior the reception of First Communion.
4. The celebration of Reconciliation should be separated from First Communion by a period of at least two months.

GUIDELINES FOR FIRST COMMUNION

1. Children must be instructed in the Mass including the options and manner of receiving the Eucharist. These options are under one or both species; and the manner may be in the hand or on the tongue.
2. Children are to continue in the Religious Education process after the reception of First Communion and attend weekly Mass.
3. The individual readiness of the child must be respected as a determining factor in the reception of the sacrament of First Communion. Readiness factors include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The child has sufficient knowledge to understand the mystery of Christ according to his/her capacity.
 - b. The child is able to distinguish the Body and Blood of Christ from ordinary food.
 - c. The child has a desire to receive the Lord Jesus reverently in Holy Communion with faith and devotion.

GUIDELINES FOR CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a two-year program and those entering the process will take part in a spiritual and liturgical preparation with an appropriate level of Catechesis and faith development. Students are required to follow the Confirmation Parent/Student Handbook. For a student to successfully complete the Confirmation program, a number of requirements are to be fulfilled; for example, Confirmation retreat, test, service hours, etc. Please see Confirmation Parent/Student Handbook for complete information. The Confirmation Program is taught by the Pastor and Confirmation Teachers. The Religious Education Coordinator has no direct involvement with the Confirmation Program.

Religious Education 2022 – 2023 Calendar

Dates Subject to Change

Grades 4-6 CCD Classes are now being held on Wednesdays from 6:15pm to 7:15pm.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Classes will remain on Sundays at 10:00am; however, students will now be returned to parents during Mass after the homily.

August

- 21 Confirmation Parent Meeting 6:00pm
- 31 Teacher Meeting 6:30pm

September

- 7 First Grades 1-6 Wednesday CCD Classes
6:15pm-7:15pm
Religious Ed Committee Mtg 7:30pm
- 11 First Pre-K & Kindergarten Sunday CCD
Classes 10:00am
First Grades 7-8 (Confirmation) Class
5:30pm-7:00pm
- 14 CCD Classes
- 18 Catechetical Sunday Mass 10:00am
Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 21 CCD Classes
- 25 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 28 CCD Classes

October

- 2 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class (Human Dignity)
- 5 CCD Classes (Human Dignity)
- 9 No CCD Classes (4-Day Weekend)
No Confirmation Class (4-Day Weekend)
- 12 CCD Classes (Rosary)
- 16 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class (Rosary)
- 19 CCD Classes
- 23 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 26 CCD Classes
- 30 6th Grade Student Mass 10:00am
Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class

November

- 2 CCD Classes
Religious Ed Committee Mtg 7:30pm
- 6 No Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Possible Harvest Feast 11:00am (We will have
Pre-K & Kindergarten Classes if we are
unable to have the Harvest Feast)
Confirmation Class

November (Continued)

- 9 CCD Classes
- 13 5th Grade Student Mass 10:00am
Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 16 CCD Classes
2nd Grade Parent Meeting for First
Reconciliation 6:20pm
- 20 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 23 No CCD Classes (Thanksgiving Break)
- 27 No CCD Classes (Thanksgiving Break)
No Confirmation Class (Thanksgiving Break)
- 30 CCD Classes

December

- 4 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 7 CCD Classes
- 11 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class (Reconciliation)
- 14 CCD Classes
- 18 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 21 No CCD Classes (Christmas Break)
- 25 No CCD Classes (Christmas Break)
No Confirmation Class (Christmas Break)
- 28 No CCD Classes (Christmas Break)

January

- 1 No CCD Classes (Christmas Break)
No Confirmation Class (Christmas Break)
- 4 CCD Classes
Religious Ed Committee Mtg 7:30pm
- 8 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 11 CCD Classes
- 15 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 18 CCD Classes
- 21 First Reconciliation & Brunch 9:00am
- 22 4th Grade Student Mass 10:00am
Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
- 25 CCD Classes

January (Continued)

29 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class

February

1 CCD Classes
5 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
8 CCD Classes
12 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
No Confirmation Class (Super Bowl)
15 CCD Classes
19 3rd Grade Student Mass 10:00am
Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
22 No CCD Classes (Ash Wednesday)
26 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class

March

1 CCD Classes
2nd Grade Parent Meeting for First Holy
Communion 6:20pm
5 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
8 CCD Classes (3rd & 5th Grade Reconciliation)
12 No CCD Classes (Spring Break)
No Confirmation Class (Spring Break)
15 No CCD Classes (Spring Break)
19 No CCD Classes (Spring Break)
No Confirmation Class (Spring Break)
22 CCD Classes (4th Grade Reconciliation)
26 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class (Reconciliation)
29 CCD Classes (6th Grade Reconciliation)

April

2 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
5 CCD Classes (2nd Grade Reconciliation)
9 No CCD Classes (Easter Sunday)
No Confirmation Class (Easter Sunday)
12 CCD Classes (Divine Mercy)
16 PreK & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
19 CCD Classes
2nd Grade First Communion Banners
23 Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Confirmation Class
26 CCD Classes
First Communion Pictures

(April (Continued))

30 Last Pre-K & Kindergarten CCD Classes
Last Confirmation Class

May

3 Last CCD Classes
First Communion Practice in Church
until 7:30pm
6 First Holy Communion Mass 4:30pm

June

TBA Vacation Bible School