

# ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FAITH FORMATION

## HANDBOOK

FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS & CATECHISTS

*"Do not be afraid to be saints"*  
SAINT JOHN PAUL II





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Handbook



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# CLASSES & EXPECTATIONS

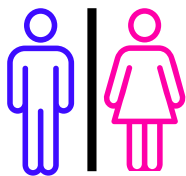


**Attendance is an important part of our program!**  
**Every hour spent is valuable time to learn more**  
**about our rich Catholic Faith.**

- 365** Days in a year
- 52** Sundays in a year
- 24** Hours in 1 day
- 25** One Hour Classes scheduled in the Year

We have your children for roughly  
**1 day of 365 in a year!**

That's a lot of information in a very  
limited amount of time. Every class counts!



## Gender

Parishes, schools, departments, ministries, and facility will, at all times, act toward and refer to a person in accordance with his or her biological sex at birth. In all cases we will act in accord with all Christian charity. This applies to all students, parents, sponsors, etc.

This includes:

- being called by their proper pronoun in accordance with their biological sex at birth while attending our programs.
- We will not use they, them, their, etc. when speaking to and about the individual.
- Sacraments will be received in the biological sex at birth.
- Students, Parents, Sponsors, etc. will dress according to their biological sex at birth.

## Expectations

Just as regular public/private schooling every year is equally important. We encourage families to register their children every year, not just sacramental years.

Students will participate in as many classes as possible in the year. If a student misses 5 or more classes in the year, especially during a sacramental year, there is a possibility that they will need to take additional classes to make up what was missed or the reception of the sacrament may be postponed for a determined amount of time. This will be determined on a case by case basis with the Pastor and Director of Religious Education.

## LOW Tuition Costs

- Our tuition comes out to roughly a little over \$2 per class for the year!
- We never want cost to prohibit any family to sign up their children for the program.
- If cost is something that you need assistance with, please reach out to our Religious Education Office for assistance.

## Bullying (will follow Diocesan Policy 5170)

Any action, word or behavior which harasses, intimidates or causes physical, emotional or psychological harm to another student or students is strictly prohibited. This prohibited conduct also extends to the use of technology ("Cyber bullying") as a tool to harass or cause harm.

# SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

## First Reconciliation



## First Communion



## Confirmation



### TRADITIONAL SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Reconciliation & First Communion are traditionally celebrated in the 2nd Grade.

Confirmation is traditionally celebrated after the child has, *at least*, completed the 6th grade.

Our formation program uses textbook materials to help form the child with a deeper understanding of the sacraments.

2nd Grade students and one parent, will be expected to attend a retreat and complete their 1st Reconciliation before receiving their 1st Holy Communion.

Confirmation students will be expected to attend a retreat day prior to reception of the sacrament.

Sacraments will take place at a date and time determined by the pastor and Director of Religious Education.

### NON - TRADITIONAL SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacraments being celebrated outside of the traditional 2nd & 6th+ years will be discussed with the pastor and Director of Religious Education to determine when the appropriate date and time will be for reception of the sacrament.

Please note: each situation is unique, not everyone is in the same place on their faith journey so each will be looked at one by one to determine the appropriate date to celebrate the sacrament in the child's faith journey.



## PHONE/EMAIL/SOCIAL MEDIA

### Phone

815-965-2761 ext 6

### Email

stanthonyre10@gmail.com

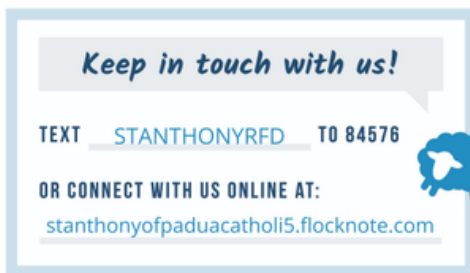
### Social Media

Facebook Page

St. Anthony Church Rockford, IL

@stanthonyrockford

### Flocknote



## CLASS DOJO

Parents and Catechists have access to this FREE App/website. Upon registering your child you will be sent a link to connect to your child's class. **This will be our form of communication for the year. We ask that every parent signup and regularly check messages to keep up to date.**

Information that will be sent includes: reminders of class sessions, family gathering dates, meetings, cancellations, homework or supplies needed, etc.

This tool allows us to provide families with instant communication so you are always in the loop with what is happening.

Feel free to message your child's teacher directly if you have any questions about your child's class or comment on posts to the school story.

**School Story:** information that pertains to all classes will be posted here

**Class Story:** information that only pertains to this particular class will be posted here

**Messenger:** send a private message to the teacher from here

# COMMUNICATION

# FAMILY FORMATION EXPECTATIONS



## PURPOSE

To deepen our knowledge of our Catholic Faith at all age levels as a family.

To provide an activity based learning environment.



## FREQUENCY

Once a month during the Faith Formation Year.

Traditionally held from October - April/May



## TIME

Family Formations are scheduled on Sunday's at the same time as regularly scheduled religious education classes are held.



## ATTENDANCE

While not a student class period, it is expected that students attend a family gathering day with at least 1 family member each month. All siblings and other relatives are welcome as well!

# CANCELATIONS

# SAFETY & EMERGENCY SITUATIONS



## INCLIMATE WEATHER

Is class cancelled?

Weather can change quickly, we try our best to determine if classes will be cancelled as soon as we are able. In any instance parents will be notified via the Class Dojo app when classes are cancelled.

\*Please note: many of our families travel from various towns/cities, if the weather is bad where you are please use your best judgement. If it is not safe for you to travel, contact us via Class Dojo, phone or email to let us know that your child will be unable to attend classes.



## EMERGENCY SITUATION

Where do I pick up my child?

In addition to annual safety drills and our locked doors during class time, our catechists are trained on a communication system via walkie talkie to ensure that we do not panic any child while attending classes. We have instant communication with our catechist team to let them know to lock their door, keep indoors, or don't dismiss classes until we give them an all clear signal.

If we are in an emergency situation, we will first contact parents, via class dojo app or phone to come pick up their child and notify them where the safe location is to pick up their child. If we are unable to reach a parent, we will contact the emergency contact provided for your child on the registration form.

If your child needs immediate medical attention, we will provide the medical information you provided on your registration form to the medical team.



The amount of time that we have with your children is important to us and we put a top priority on doing everything we can to keep them safe while in our care. Our program completes yearly safety drills and our volunteer team is trained on safety procedures for the building.

There is a locked door system in place while classes are in session. Parents picking up their children are asked to wait in their vehicle or come to the Pedrini Center (South Door) Dining Room to pick up their child. No parent will be permitted to wander the hallways while classes are in session. Parents are welcome to visit classrooms for short periods of time with prior permission from the Faith Formation Office.

# The Team



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## BERNADETTE GOLDBECK

Faith Formation Office Assistant



**& Volunteer Catechist & Aide Team**