

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK 2026-2027



MOTHER OF HOPE

— AFC —

ST ANNE WABASSO

ST CATHERINE REDWOOD FALLS

ST. ANNE CHURCH

950 NORTH ST. WABASSO, MN 56293 | 507-342-5190

ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

900 E FLYNN ST. REDWOOD FALLS, MN 56283 | 507-644-2278

Basics of the Faith: Prayers & Teachings

In order to live a life of discipleship, we must understand the basics of our faith. Participants entering our programs may know of the prayers and teachings of the faith. Building on this, we strive to teach as much as possible so all can remember these fundamentals, live them out, and be able to explain them to others.

A balance of knowledge and experience keeps us well prepared to choose life-long faith and to practice it daily. We strive to provide all with a basic understanding of the Catholic faith. Including: the practices, prayers, and beliefs of the Catholic Church, especially the Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Seven Sacraments, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, etc. In addition, a general knowledge of Sacred Scripture and a regular practice of reading it along with a constant prayer life, and how to put the basics we learn into the practice of our daily lives.

Content

We strive to teach our young people in a comprehensive manner by giving them a wide range of experiences. Our program includes praise and worship, Catholic Social Teachings, basics of the faith, service opportunities, and meditation/prayer times. We offer a variety of ways to learn as we know that each student learns individually as well as collectively. We meet in small classes for relationship building and do a wide range of discussion and activities together.

Participation: Class Attendance

It is an expectation that registered participants will attend each class and experience offered during the year, not only to enhance their faith journey but others' as well. Keeping consistent participation is key in faith sharing and growth. Attendance is taken each week, and parents will be notified of absent students. Excessive tardiness is a concern and may lead to a discussion about what is causing the absences or tardiness.

Please call the parish off if your child(ren) will be absent to any class or religious education event.

Participation: Mass

Regular participation in weekly Mass is a part of our Catholic faith, and living our lives as disciples. The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our faith, and it is hoped that anyone involved in our program will attend and enter into the experience of the Eucharist each Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. For Mass times anywhere, please visit: www.masstimes.org

Sacraments

We offer the Sacraments and Sacrament Preparation for: Baptism, 1st Reconciliation, 1st Communion, Confirmation and Marriage. Sacramental prep includes special classes and additional requirements depending upon the Sacrament. A Sacramental preparation registration form is to be filled out, in addition to regular registration forms.

Registration

It is vital that all participants complete a registration form before participating in class because we need parental information and emergency contacts in case of emergency. 1-12 religious education registration fees and forms can be found online or in the parish offices.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to our students during the seasons of Advent and Lent, for additional times offered please see the bulletin each week. Time is taken to explain as well as to walk everyone through the process of Reconciliation. We support our families in sharing this Sacrament often, and recognize the special graces that come from participation in this gift of healing.

Emergencies

Family: If there is a family emergency and you need to pick up your student(s) from class, please call the office and a staff member will get your student(s) from class. Remember when there is a family crisis, the church is here to support and pray with you. If there is anything you need from us, don't hesitate to ask.

Weather: There will be no religious education classes if school is cancelled or let out early due to weather. There are circumstances where late-arriving inclement weather may also cancel classes. Check your email, KLGR, or Facebook for any announcements. We also support any family decision not to send their child(ren) out in questionable weather.

PreK-12th Grade Class Times

Our classes meet on Wednesday evenings each week. Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) at the correct times. It is your responsibility to make sure your ride is here on time, or notified if other arrangements are made. 12th Grade will meet once a month, see page 5 for dates. PreK-Kindergarten will meet on Sunday mornings during Mass for Sunday School throughout the school year.

Expectations

We have a few, simple expectations that are expected to be followed, to help create a positive learning and faith sharing environment:

1. That you respect others as well as the church/school building
2. That you arrive on time for class and leave in an orderly, safe manner
3. That you participate in class and keep a positive attitude
4. That you are self controlled in your actions and your words
5. That you clean up after yourself and others
6. That you support your catechists, aides, and staff
7. That you care for those around you
8. That you share your ideas and questions
9. That you are dressed in clothing that is appropriate for the place and weather conditions
10. That you have fun and enjoy yourself, helping others to have a positive experience

Behavior & Discipline

Because you are choosing to be part of this program, we hope that you are enthusiastic and excited to be part of our community. Negative attitudes and behaviors will not be tolerated, and hurtful habitual actions will lead to parent/guardian meetings and possible consequences.

Along with the expectations we have for our participants; we expect all to support our discipline policies and help implement them. They are as follows:

1. **First Offense:** Ask student to leave the room if behavior is disruptive or distracting other student's right to learn. Student may return to class, if deemed appropriate.
2. **Second Offense:** Same as first offense, and a phone call to parents to discuss the situation. It will be discussed with the parents to determine what needs to take place to improve the situation.
3. **Third Offense:** If behavior does not improve, future action will be taken which may involve: individual classes, mandatory parent participation, and/or homeschooling. Situations will be handled with individual needs considered, and on a case-by-case basis.

Offenses that will not be tolerated in any situation include, but are not limited to:

- Bullying or harassment of any kind - verbal, physical, sexual, or electronic
- Possession of alcohol or drugs - legal or illegal substances
- Possession of weapons of any kind

In the event one of the above acts occurs, proper authorities will be called, followed by a phone call to the parents.

Youth Ministry

Throughout the year, and over the summer, various youth ministry events and camps will be offered. Information will be sent out, along with schedules as the event dates approach.

Communication

Bulletin announcements and weekly newsletters will contain important updates and weekly information. Due to the large number of participants, phone calls are rarely made unless it's an emergency. Rather we will use email as the primary mode of communication. If you wish to receive a phone call, text, or be mailed a letter—please contact the office. For regular updates and daily encouragement please follow us on Facebook at Mother of Hope Area Faith Community.

1st-12th Grade Parent/Guardian Involvement

Every person in the parish has a role to play in the faith journey of youth—by providing positive examples of an actively lived Catholic faith, prayer support, and encouragement. But, parents and guardians are the primary teachers of the faith. We encourage all to participate in our parent gatherings and adult formation to continue your faith journey. Please feel free to call with any questions you might have about any part of our program. Parents/guardians, as the primary teachers of the faith, your children look forward to your prayers, example, and support as they grow and prepare to live the Catholic life.

Schedule

There is a tentative schedule of class times created each Fall, posted in the back of this program guide. Since events may change, it is each family's responsibility to read the bulletin or check their email for updated information. Classes begin for PreK through 12th grade students in the Fall and go through the Spring.

Cell Phones & Electronics

Cell phones and other electronics are distractions and take participants away from the present moment. These may be brought to class if needed, but need to be shut off and left in a basket at the door until class is over. We are not responsible for any electronics lost or stolen that youth may bring with them. When found to be disruptive, it will be taken away and given back at the end of class. In case of emergencies, we will have a phone available in the office.

12th Grade

12th Graders will meet one time a month in each parish during regular Religious Education time, gathering together to continue to grow in faith.

St. Anne: Sep 9, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2

St. Catherine: Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 17, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9

Mass Ministries: St. Anne

Once a month we will be having a Mass led by our youth. Two grades from St. Anne School and Religious Education will lead the Mass ministries and then also host a coffee and rolls fellowship after Mass. We hope to build community between different age groups, expose more youth to Mass ministries, bring young families together at Mass, and offer coffee/juice and rolls fellowship after Mass for the whole parish. More information will be sent home to each grade as their date approaches.

Dates:

Sunday October 4th - 11th Grade and 6th Grade

Sunday November 15th - 9th Grade and 3rd Grade

Sunday January 10th - 10th Grade and 5th Grade

Sunday March 7th - 8th Grade and 2nd Grade

Sunday April 4th - 7th Grade and 4th Grade

Religious Education Schedule 2026-2027

September:

- 9: Religious Education begins
- 16: Religious Education
- 23: Religious Education
- 30: Religious Education

October:

- 7: Religious Education
- 14: No Religious Education, MEA
- 21: Religious Education
- 28: Religious Education - (Reconciliation SC)

November:

- 4: Religious Education
- 11: Religious Education
- 18: Religious Education - (Reconciliation SA)
- 25: No Religious Education, Thanksgiving

December:

- 2: Religious Education
- 9: Religious Education
- **16: No Religious Education, Christmas Concert - St. Anne**
- **16: Family Education Evening - St. Catherine**
- 23: No Religious Education, Christmas Break
- 30: No Religious Education, Christmas Break

January:

- 6: Religious Education
- 13: Religious Education
- 20: Religious Education
- 23: First Reconciliation St. Anne, 10:30am
- 27: Religious Education - (Reconciliation SC)
- 30: First Reconciliation St. Catherine, 10:30am

February:

- 3: Religious Education
- 10: Ash Wednesday, Attend Services
- 17: Religious Education
- 24: Religious Education - (Reconciliation SA)

March:

- 3: Religious Education
- 10: Religious Education
- **17: No Religious Education at St. Anne, Spring Break**
- **17: Family Education Evening - St. Catherine**
- 24: No Religious Education, Holy Week
- 31: Religious Education

April:

- 7: Religious Education
- 10: Confirmation Practice at St. Catherine, 9 am
- 11: Confirmation at St. Catherine, 10am
- 14: Last Class
- 21: Snow Day Make Up Day, if needed
- 21: First Communion Practice St. Anne, 6:30pm
- 25: First Communion St. Anne, 10am
- 28: First Communion Practice St. Catherine, 6:30pm

May:

- 2: First Communion St. Catherine, 10am
- 23: Baccalaureate Masses, 8am & 10am

Vacation Bible School:

June 1-4th at St. Anne

June 14-17 at St. Catherine

Catholic Heart Work Camp: TBD