

Parental Requirements

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the family and parents are the PRIMARY educators of the faith for their children. It is through your word and example that your children first come to know God and begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When children are baptized, the Church community promises to help parents foster their faith. Our religious education program is designed to assist and support you in this important duty.

Parents are expected to attend Sunday Mass with their children every week. Attendance at Sunday Mass is the most fundamental action of our faith, and the means by which Jesus gives Himself to us here on earth. Attending Mass as a family is a wonderful opportunity for you to introduce your child to the importance of worshiping with the larger faith community.

Parents are always welcome to attend a class. Furthermore, parents, please read the Religious Education corner of the bulletin each week for important calendar dates and announcements.

Religious Education Program Location and Hours

Our classes from 1st grade to 12th grade and Sacramental Preparation for Youth are held in the SVP school, Pastoral Center, and Vincent House on Sundays from 9:30am-10:45am and 12:30-1:45pm.

Please feel free to call us at the parish office if you have any questions or concerns. Communication is essential for the success of your child and our program.



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Elkhart, IN Religious Education 2025-2026 Handbook

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Religious Education (R.E.) classes:

- 1st through 11th Grade, Sundays, 9:30am-10:45am and 12:30pm-1:45pm.
- First day of class: August 17, 2025
- Last day of class: May 3, 2026

Registration deadline: Monday, August 11, 2025.

Registration fee: \$100 per child, \$75 for each additional child. For a family with 3 or more kids in the program, it is a \$250 maximum. Payment is due upon registration. This completely covers the cost of books, materials, and program expenses.

Parish Registration: If you are a new family in our Parish, please register in the Parish Office.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South created a Safe Environment educational program for all children enrolled in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. The diocese established this important program to fulfill part of the mandate of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Article 12 of the Charter reads, "Dioceses... are to maintain 'safe environment' programs... to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people." Children receive this educational program every year within our Religious Education program.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation.

The Church requires a two-year program for those receiving the Sacraments. If your child is to receive First Communion or Confirmation this year, he/she must have attended religious education the previous year.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Families are to attend Mass every weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation. This is not an option, it is an Obligation.
- For those receiving First Reconciliation, First Communion, or Confirmation this year, your registration must include a COPY of your **Baptismal Certificate** and **Birth Certificate**.

- **Due to the importance and the amount of material that must be completed, children preparing for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation are limited to three absences per year.** Any missed work must be completed before the child receives the sacraments. Attendance at all classes is required. **Excessive absences will result in the child repeating the grade level and delaying the initial reception of the sacraments.**

- **Please call Josefina Hernandez at 574-293-8071 to report an absence FOR ANY REASON.** Please limit absence to sickness and emergencies only.

- Classes meet from 9:30am-10:45am and 12:30pm-1:45pm on Sundays. They will begin and end promptly. **If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will not be allowed to enter and will be counted as absent.** Please make every effort to have your children here on time for class and pick them up on time. Weekly attendance will be recorded.

- **Parent/Guardian attendance at all scheduled parent meetings is REQUIRED.**

- **BEHAVIOR:** Christian behavior and manners are expected from every student in the religious education program. Students are expected to:
 - Have a positive attitude before, during, and after class.
 - Treat classmates and adults with respect.
 - Come prepared with the books and materials that have been assigned.
 - Complete all homework assignments.

If a student is disruptive, usually a reminder is enough to correct the behavior. However, repeated disruptions will be treated as follows:

- The Coordinator will speak with the student.
- Parents will be called.
- The parent will attend class with his/her child.

- The student will be removed from the program