

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

2026-2027

“I want every young person in our Diocese to discover the new life that comes from Christ and to experience the grace of belonging to His Body, the Church. We must make sure that all our young people feel at home in the Church where they are loved with Christ’s love and learn to live their faith with joy. We need our young people to be missionary disciples and to give new energy to the Church!” –Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jenny Caylor

rel.ed@iccauburn.com

(260) 925-3930

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Religious Education Program supports parents in fulfilling the promise made at their child’s Baptism: to be the primary educators of the Catholic faith for their children. To guide their families, parents are encouraged to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith and model habits of daily prayer, works of charity, and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

**We encourage all parents to attend the first session of each month
with Father Jake in the Parish Hall.**

CURRICULUM

Our catechists use the Word of Life curriculum whose motto is *Build Strong Catholics*. Each grade level follows 4 main principles:

Salvation history. Students know their place in God's divine plan.

Christian anthropology. Students find their true identity in Christ.

Heroic virtue. Students build good habits with the help of God's grace.

Discipleship. Students understand why being Catholic really matters.

KINDERGARTEN/GRADE 1: Kindergarten and first grade students receive a mix of Word of Life and Catholic ABCs Curriculum, which incorporates hands-on activities with crafts, songs & stories, and prayer.

GRADE 2: Salvation History: God's Presence in the Sacraments Students in second grade prepare to receive their Sacrament of First Communion as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

GRADE 3/4: Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace/The Creed: Truth and Our Response of Faith

GRADE 5/6: Liturgy and Worship/The Word of God: Jesus Christ and Sacred Scripture

GRADE 7: Jesus Christ and the Call to Discipleship. Students participate in the Diocesan program Envision: Theology of the Body for Middle School which explores God's teachings as it pertains to our human form in God's image.

GRADE 8: The Saints: Friends of Christ Jesus. Grade 8 students will prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and be fully initiated into the Church. Throughout their preparation, they will use a variety of resources, including the *Word of Life* series, *Decision Point*, and attend a Confirmation retreat with other students from the surrounding area.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Grades K/1	Main Hallway	Room 2
Grade 2:	Office Building	
Grades 3/4:	Main Hallway	Room 3
Grades 5/6:	Main Hallway	Room 5
Grade 7:	Main Hallway	Room 4
Grade 8:	Office Building	

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is key to your child's faith formation. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If a student must miss a session due to illness or an emergency, parents should notify the Religious Education Office prior to class.

CODE OF CONDUCT

By registering in the Religious Education Program, parents and students express their willingness to cooperate, attend, and actively participate in all scheduled class sessions. Catechists will set and explain the rules and behavioral expectations for each class. Although each catechist will set the tone for their classroom, certain basic rules of behavior will apply to all students. They are:

1. Show Respect: Treat catechists, volunteers, and fellow students with kindness. Student behavior must respect others' right to learn without disruption
2. Participate Fully: Engage respectfully in class discussions, group activities, and assigned work. Cell phones and other electronic devices are expected to be turned off and put away during class time.
3. Honor the Sacred Space: Maintain a reverent tone during prayer, scripture reading, and sacred moments.

When a student struggles to follow classroom rules, the goal is always to restore focus, support the student, and maintain a respectful learning environment for everyone. Parents and the DRE may become involved if student behavior becomes disruptive.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

To help ensure the safety of all our families, please walk your student into the building no earlier than 5-10 minutes before the start of class. If your student wishes to grab a donut before class, please encourage them to eat in the Gathering Space before heading to class at 9:15 to help keep our classrooms clean. Please meet your student in the hallway outside the classroom door at dismissal.

WEATHER-RELATED CLOSINGS

Indiana weather can be unpredictable! If DeKalb County is placed under an ORANGE Travel Watch, classes will be automatically cancelled. If class has not been canceled but you feel that travel might be dangerous in your area, please stay home and stay safe.



TEXT ALERTS

Want to stay up to date with Religious Education news?
Be sure to sign up for text alerts. Text ICCRE to 84576

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

All students will participate in the Diocesan Safe Environment Program in October/November during class. This material is available for preview on [the Diocesan website](https://diocesefwsb.org/human-resources/safe-environment-program/youth-protection). (<https://diocesefwsb.org/human-resources/safe-environment-program/youth-protection>) Parents who wish for their children not to participate in this program must submit an Opt-Out Form to the DRE by Sunday, October 4th. The Opt-Out form can be requested from the DRE or the child's catechist.

DIOCESAN DIRECTIVES

All existing Diocesan policies are in effect for all matters not contained within this handbook. These may be found on the Diocesan website.

ICC REGISTRATION

Is your family currently registered at ICC? If you are not receiving envelopes, you are not currently listed as an active member of the Parish. Please call or email office@iccauburn.com if you need help.

ICC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Religious Education Calendar 2026-2027

Classes meet Sunday morning 9:15am-10:15am

Parents are encouraged to attend the first class of each month.

We will meet in the Parish Hall with Fr. Jake.

September

13: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

20: Religious Education Class

27: **NO** Class- Pancake Breakfast

October:

4: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

11: **NO** Class (Fall Break)

18: **NO** Class (Fall Break)

25: Religious Education Class- Pancake
Breakfast

November

1: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

8: Religious Education Class

15: Religious Education Class

22: Religious Education Class

29: **NO** Class (Thanksgiving weekend)

December

6: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

13: Religious Education Class

20: Religious Education Class

27: **NO** Class (Winter Break)

January

3: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

10: Religious Education Class

17: Religious Education Class

24: Religious Education Class

31: **NO** Class- Pancake Breakfast

February

7: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

14: Religious Education Class

21: Religious Education Class

28: **NO** Class- Pancake Breakfast

March

7: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

14: Religious Education Class

21: **NO** Class (Spring Break)

28: **NO** Class (Easter Sunday)

April

4: Religious Education Class- **Parent Meeting**

11: Religious Education Class

18: Religious Education Class

25: **NO** Class- Pancake Breakfast

May

2: LAST DAY of Religious Education

Confirmation Retreat: Saturday, Feb 27, 2027, Blessed Sacrament, Albion

Confirmation Mass: Friday, April 2, 2027 @ 7:00pm, St. Joseph, Garrett

First Communion: Sunday May 2, 2027 @ 10:30 am, ICC