



## Religious Education Policies

Immaculate Conception, Ege, and St. John Bosco, Churubusco place a high priority on the religious education of our children. Our goal is to share our faith in Jesus Christ and his Church, to help the children know Jesus and their faith, and to joyfully claim their Catholic identity. We are in the business of helping the children become “saints” while on the journey ourselves. We recognize that the parents are the primary religious educators of the children; Father Francis, Judy Egolf, Donna Macino, and all the catechists are the supporting members of the faith team. We are the Body of Christ, and imitating St. Paul (I Corinthians) we pass on “what we have received.”

To help us “echo” the faith, we use the diocesan recommended *Alive in Christ* textbook series published by Our Sunday Visitor. This series includes a required Confirmation book written by Bishop Rhoades specifically for our diocese. Our Sunday Visitor also has developed a catechetically-strong website with many resources for catechists and families. We encourage you to spend some time at <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/family>.

The Diocese also requires us to teach John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body* to the 7<sup>th</sup> Graders through a series of two workshops separate from regular religious education classes. Please see our calendar for this year’s dates. The textbook is *The Theology of the Body* by Ascension Press. This program also requires a parent meeting prior to the classes. Again, please see the current calendar for the specific date.

Much faith, love, time, talent and financial resources is invested in our religious education programs. To help them run smoothly, we ask that you become familiar with our calendar and the program policies. We hope that you take the time to meet your child’s catechist and always feel free to discuss any issues with him or her, or the DRE. We are here to serve the children and families of the parish.

### Program Policies

1. All families with children in either religious education program must be **registered** either at Immaculate Conception or St. John Bosco. All children must also be registered separately in the Religious Education Program. There are two registrations: one for the parish and one for religious education. Please remember to alert the DREs of any phone number changes during the school year.

2. If a child was baptized at a parish other than Immaculate Conception or St. John, a copy of his or her **baptismal certificate** must be on file at the parish office. If you do not have a copy, you can request it from the parish of baptism by phone. Please have the copy mailed to the Church office at 216 N. Main, Churubusco, IN. 46723, ATTN Judy Egolf or Donna Macino. There is no charge for this service.
3. **First Reconciliation** (Penance) and **First Communion** are received in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. A child must have attended 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Religious Education before entering a sacramental program. Attending religious education at another parish fulfills this requirement. Regular attendance is expected, and parents are encouraged to attend scheduled meetings concerning the sacraments. If a parent has a calendar conflict, please talk to the DRE to receive any materials.
4. **Confirmation** is received in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. While we hope each student can attend both the Diocesan Confirmation Rally (in the early fall) and our Confirmation Retreat (generally the Saturday before Confirmation), at the minimum each Confirmation candidate must attend one. Religious Education for Grades 1-7 is a prerequisite unless special pastoral arrangements can be made. The date and place of Confirmation is set by Bishop's Office and we will alert the families as soon as we receive word.
5. Seventh Grade Students are expected to attend the **Theology of the Body** sessions required by the diocese. Please see the calendar for dates and plan to attend the parent meeting for further information.
6. ATTENDANCE – Please see attached page concerning attendance policies and return the attached verification form.
7. **Safe Environment and Boundaries Training**

#### POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

It is the policy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that all diocesan priests, deacons and other personnel, lay and religious, paid and volunteer, must adhere to the diocese's [Practical Guidelines for Conduct When Interacting With a Child or Young Person](#). All must report any suspected incident of the physical, mental, or sexual abuse or neglect of a child or young person to appropriate civil and diocesan authorities consistent with the [Diocesan Guidelines on Reporting Incidents of Child Abuse or Neglect](#). All priests, deacons and other personnel, employee and volunteer, are subject to and obligated by this policy. (From the Diocesan Youth Protection website: <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Youth-Protection>).

In addition:

Every parish religious education program and each Catholic School across the diocese is required to present safe environment and "boundaries" training to each child every year. The diocese has provided the lesson plan for one short session for Grades Pre-school through 6, and lesson plans for several sessions for Grades 7 and 8. These lessons are presented in the fall, and materials are available for parent perusal.

Every parish employee and each volunteer who works with children is required by the diocese to have a background check by Barada, Assoc., and to complete the required Safe Environment Education before they begin his or her job or ministry. All of our employees and all the catechists and aids have gone through this process. Employees and volunteers are required to be re-screened every 5 years.

8. St. John Bosco Safety - Because of the location of our Church and Religious Education Building several policies pertain to our program only:
  - a. Children must cross the street at the light only—no jaywalking.
  - b. All Pre-School (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) and children in Grades 1 and 2 must be walked to class by a parent and picked up in the lobby. We will not let any child in these grades go off by themselves. If different arrangements need to be made (such as an older sibling or grandparent being responsible) please let the catechist and DRE know.
  
9. **Inclement Weather**- While it is always a difficult and last-minute call, it has been necessary in the past to cancel religious education because of dangerous weather conditions. Please check with Channel 15. If in doubt, you can always call the DRE. If the classes are not cancelled and you feel the conditions are too treacherous around your home, please stay at home. Better safe than sorry.