

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CATECHESIS  
ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH, ALTOONA, PA.**

Parents are the primary educators of their children in matters of faith, prayer, and spiritual development. The Pastor and Staff of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church are eager to assist all parents with this obligation. We therefore expect all parents with children of school age to reflect on this obligation and commit themselves to the following:

I/We understand that it is my/our duty to see that my/our child (ren):

1. Attend and participate in Masses on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) frequently
3. Participate in the spiritual retreats as provided for the different grades
4. Participate in the occasional activities of the program of Religious Education
5. Arrive on time for all classes, retreats, etc. and complete all assignments
6. Provide a written excuse to the next scheduled class for any missed classes along with any missing assignments

I/We will encourage my/our children to become involved in parish ministries such as acolyte (altar server), children’s choir, usher, and gift bearer. I/We will – when able – volunteer for the Religious Education Program as a catechist (teacher), aide, room parent or retreat chaperone.

I/We realize the expectation to attend continue is grow in my/our understanding of the Catholic faith. Our parish provides classes for and information about adult faith enrichment.

If a child fails to carry out the above responsibilities, or if a discipline problem interferes with classroom conduct, I/we understand that a meeting of the parent, child, and Pastor may be necessary.

I/We have read the religious education guidelines for St. Rose of Lima Parish. I/We understand I/we have the primary responsibility for the faith formation of the child (ren) named below. I/We also understand that I/we can contact the Director of Sunday School Catechesis, Yvonne Gibson, (814-330-2518), [ygibson@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ygibson@dioceseaj.org) and/or my/our child’s/children’s’ catechist/s if questions or concerns arise about the religious education program or a sacramental process.

-----

Name(s) of Parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student(s) in program \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Keep the above portion of this memorandum for your 2022-2023 records. Cut on the above dotted line. Return only the lower portion of this page to the teacher of your oldest child.

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA SUNDAY CATECHESIS PROGRAM**

Yvonne Gibson, Director of Sunday school Catechesis 2022-2023

We owe a debt of gratitude to our catechists. These faith-filled people are committed to giving your child (ren) the best possible religious instruction. They are assisting you in your responsibility to educate your child/children in the ways of faith. Our catechists this year are as follows:

Phone Listing for Teachers, Aides & Substitutes		
Kindergarten	Jennifer Crum – Waite	814-312-0936
Kindergarten Aide & 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Aide	Matthew Waite	814-312-0937

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Jennifer Crum - Waite	814-312-0936
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Jessica Brunner	814-932-5979
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Therese Link	814-312-8971
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Therese Link	814-312-8972
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mary Eiman	814-312-7112
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mary Eiman	814-312-7112
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Carole Housum	814-937-0380
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Beth Sanders	814-327-7133
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade & 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sessions	Catherine Farr	570-651-3839
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sessions	Catherine Farr	570-651-3839
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade & 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sessions	Schawonne Kilgus	412-600-0663
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat Leader	Jessica Brunner	814-932-5979
Assistant Retreat Leader	Catherine Farr	570-651-3839
	<b>UPDATED 11/15/22 Y</b>	
Children RCIC	Yvonne Gibson	814-330-2518
Sub	Darlene Crum	814-946-5249
Sub	Mary Engelman	814-943-3796
Sub	Peach Maschue	814-943-7809
Sub	Tim Link	814-312-8972
Sub	Kelly Zeak	814-312-3653
Office Manager	Debbra Savino	814-931-2954
DRE	Yvonne Gibson Please text or call for immediate answer.	814-330-2518 <a href="mailto:ygibson@dioceseaj.org">ygibson@dioceseaj.org</a>

**NOTE:** We encourage our parents to participate in our program. “Room Parents” assist catechists. We invite all parents to become a “**Room Parent.**” Please contact **Yvonne Gibson 814-330-2518** or email [ygibson@dioceseaj.org](mailto:ygibson@dioceseaj.org) if you are interested

**Tuition**

Tuition for the first child of any **family is \$10 per child.** For additional children the total religious education cost for any **family is a maximum of \$20.** If you have special financial consideration and find the tuition burdensome, please contact Yvonne Gibson at 814-330-2518. Either will honor the confidentiality of your circumstances. Timely registration assists us in ordering books and preparing class rosters and catechetical materials.

**Textbooks**

Students in grades K through 11<sup>th</sup> will receive a textbook for their use at the beginning of the year. At the end of the year, this textbook must be returned in the same condition in which it was issued. If a student damages or loses a textbook, it will be necessary for him or her to **pay a replacement fee.**

## Schedule

Please review the schedule for this year attached to this document. All students receive approximately thirty hours of instructions. In addition, all are expected to be faithful in their attendance at liturgies on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

- **Grades K through 11<sup>th</sup> will meet Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15. Students should be in their classrooms by 9:10 am.**
- Retreats for each grade that will be on a separate sheet of paper. The schedule also states whether the retreat requires parents' participation.

## Absenteeism and Tardiness

When a student has more than **two unexcused absences**, he or she is in danger of repeating the same grade level in the following academic year. If your child/ren does miss a class, it is therefore important that you send a note of explanation on the following week. In addition, frequent tardiness represents a serious matter in terms of religious education classes. If a child is tardy, he or she must present a note of explanation to his or her teacher at the next religious education class. **Reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist (First Holy Communion), and Confirmation will be delayed if the student does not fulfill class attendance requirement.**

## Parental Role in Religious Education

To help the members of the Religious Education Apostolate who give so abundantly of their time and talent, each parent should do the following:

- Assure the regular attendance of his or her child/ren at religious education classes, and grade retreats.
- Show his/her active interest in the progress and achievements of the child/children.
- Give proper attention to weekly homework.
- Provide his or her family with a good spiritual example at home. This example should include serious commitment to weekend Masses, regular Reconciliation, and liturgical prayers.
- Continue the formation of own faith through spiritual reading, personal study, and participation in adult faith enrichment classes.

## Sacramental Life

During the year, St. Rose of Lima Parish will offer opportunities for students in the Religious Education Program to participate in the sacramental life of the Church. These opportunities include the following:

- The second Sunday of each month will be Religious Education Sunday, except the months of September, November, January, April, and May this year. On this day, students from various classes will fulfill the ministerial roles at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass. We will be asking the children, for the different ministries two weeks ahead of time. Therefore, they can practice the week before, during class time. Twice during the year the students will have the opportunity to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Students are encouraged to become part of the liturgical ministry to the parish. Opportunities exist for altar servers, children's choir, cantors, and, after Confirmation, for Eucharistic ministers and lector. Twice during the Year the students will have the opportunity to be present for adoration and rosary.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

### REQUIREMENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR FIRST EUCHARIST

Those who wish to make their first Communion in the second grade must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Faithful attendance at religious education or Catholic school religion classes for two (2) years
- 2) Participate in ALL retreat experiences
- 3) Faithful attendance at weekly Mass
- 4) Attendance at both Eucharist rehearsals

**This schedule applies to both public school and Catholic school students and their parents.**

## Confirmation Requirements

Candidates for Confirmation, normally celebrated in the junior year of high school, must meet the following requirements.

- 1) Faithful attendance at religious education or Catholic school religion classes for grades nine (9), ten (10) & eleven (11)
- 2) Faithful attendance at weekly Mass
- 3) Participate in ALL retreat experiences
- 4) Complete service hours in the community and/or church- **Mandatory - 15HRS INDIVIDUAL each year**
- 5) Complete Group Service Projects –**Mandatory-AT least two a year. If you do more than two a year it can count as personal service hours.**

- 6) **Complete all Confirmation Sessions, for BG and Public School, to be held at St. Rose Lima Church-Mandatory**
- 7) Meeting with your sponsor
- 8) Attendance at Confirmation Rehearsal and Confirmation liturgy
- 9) Mystagogy - For all that were confirmed in **April**. This is BG and Public School Students

**Grades 9, 10 11 have sessions including BG as well as Public Schools. These sessions will be at St. Rose Lima Church, from 9:15 to 10:15am, Sunday Morning. If Students do not attended sessions here, they must be attended at another church. Please call other Churches in the area for their schedule.**

