

Parishes of St. Anthony and St. John the Evangelist

Parent and Student Handbook

Religious Education and Youth Ministry Program

We at St. Anthony's and St. John's are dedicated to helping our students grow in faith in a loving, safe environment that spreads the true message of our Catholic faith so that our students may come to recognize the love of Christ and to help them participate more fully in the life of the Catholic Church.

Program Policies

In order for our Program to run smoothly and ensure safety measures while your children are in our care, we ask that you please read our **Parent and Student Handbook** in its entirety. Included you will find guidelines for safety and security, building entrance and exit, student behavior while attending our program, as well as guidelines for our policy on absences and tardiness.

Safety Policy

These rules are set in place to ensure the safety of our students attending our Program and we follow the guidelines set by the Albany Diocese. Your cooperation is crucial.

1. All children in our program Kindergarten through Grade 11-12 (Confirmation Preparation) may be escorted by a parent or family member to their classroom on the **first day of classes only**.
 - For future dates, if the catechist has not arrived a hall monitor will supervise until the catechist is in the classroom.
 - For subsequent classes and events, only catechists, hall monitors and students will be allowed upstairs and in our hallways.
 - There is comfortable seating available in the cafeteria for parents to wait for their children.
 - Children will be dismissed by grade to designated areas in the cafeteria.
2. The main doors of the Parish Center are locked. The Eastern Avenue rear parking lot door is our entrance and exit to the building. **For the convenience of parents and students the parking lot entrance will be accessible 15 minutes before classes begin and 15 minutes before dismissal.**
 - a. **8:15-9:15AM Session:** Door will be unlocked at 8:00AM and locked at 8:20AM. Door will be unlocked at 9:00AM for parents to return.
 - b. **10:45-11:45AM Session:** Door will be unlocked at 10:30AM. Door will be locked at 10:50AM. Door will be unlocked at 11:30AM for parents to return.
 - c. **12:00-1:00PM Grade 9 & 10 Session:** Door will be unlocked at 11:45AM. Door will be locked at 12:05PM. *Door will be unlocked at 12:45PM for parents to return depending on the availability of a hall monitor. If no hall monitor is available the door will remain locked until class dismisses.*
 - d. **If you are late** please ring the bell at the parking lot entrance and a staff member or hall monitor will let you in.
3. A written note of permission is required from the parent, for anyone picking up his or her child who is not the parent. This person must be an adult, 18 years of age or older (including siblings) A written note of permission is required from the parent if you must pick up your child early from a class or event.



It is expected that all children in our Religious Education and Youth Ministry Program attend Mass each weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation. If Mass attendance is not a family priority we are not able to fully instruct your children in our faith. Parents are the first example of faith; we are here to assist your children in learning the teachings of the Catholic Church. We hope to assist you throughout the year in providing your children with the best faith formation for their future. **"On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of your faith." (Rite of Baptism for Children)**

MASS SCHEDULE

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH

Daily Mass celebrated Monday through Saturday – 8:00AM
Saturday Vigil celebrated – 4:00PM
Sunday Mass celebrated – 8:30AM and 10:30AM (Spanish)
Confessions – Saturday 3:00 – 3:30PM or by appointment

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST'S CHURCH

Saturday Vigil celebrated 4:00PM
Sunday Masses celebrated 7:30AM, 9:30AM and 5:00PM
Confessions – Saturday, 3:00 – 3:45PM

Sacramental Program for Grade 2 and Grades 11 – 12

Sacramental year students will have additional class instruction, parent meetings and retreats. Details for each will be sent via email to all registered families.

Tardiness and Early Dismissal Policy

To help prevent disruptions to the classes already in progress, please make every effort to arrive on time and have consideration for our volunteers and their planned lessons. It is disruptive when students arrive late. Should a student repeatedly be tardy, the Director will contact the parents in hopes of rectifying the issue.

Special Needs/Medical Conditions

Please inform the Director before the first day of class if your child has any special needs or medical conditions. Medication of any kind is not permitted to be carried by a student. If special emergency medication is necessary for your child, such as an Epipen or food used to adjust insulin levels please speak to the Director beforehand. There is a section on the registration form to include this information.

Food Policy – Allergies

Our classrooms are considered a 'Food Free' area during all sessions unless previous notification has been provided to parents for special events such as Christmas and other holiday gatherings and/or retreats.

Absentee Policy

1. If your son or daughter will be absent, please email Dianne Galarneau at dgalarneau@sjchurch.com
2. Excessive absences will be addressed with the student's parent/s.
3. If your son or daughter is enrolled for Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist (Communion) and for Confirmation and absenteeism is noted it may be necessary for the child/student to receive the sacrament the following year.

Home Study Option

Home Study is available to students in all grade levels with the exception of Grade 2 and Grades 11-12 which are sacramental preparation years. Parents selecting Home Study for their children in Grade 3 through 10 must have their student return the text evaluation for the student's file. Progression to the next grade level is adherent to this policy.

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones or electronic devices are not to be used in class. Older students may carry their cell phones for emergency use, the cell phone or any electronic device must be out-of-sight.

First Offense: If the student is found using his or her cell phone they will be asked to give it to the catechist for return upon dismissal. Parents will be notified.

Second Offense: If the student is found using his or her cell phone again, *all students* in the class will be required to put their phones in a personalized envelope which will be returned at dismissal. Parents will be notified.

Email Communication and Family Information

Email is the main source of communication with parents. It is necessary for parents to check their email regularly.

1. If your email, home address, cell or any other important family information changes, please contact the Faith Formation office (518-372-3381 ext.226 or dgalarneau@sjchurch.com)
2. Please add Faith Formation email address; dgalarneau@sjchurch.com to your contacts (both in your email and iPhone) this should help with delivery and decrease messages going to a trash or junk file.

Emergency Closure Policy

For weather related closing, there will be a notification on the Faith Formation office phone at least 3 hours before a scheduled class or event. **Whenever in doubt, please call 518-372-3381 ext. 226.** Every Friday the greeting on this line will include all weekend scheduled classes and events. **Closures are not posted on television or radio.**