

Precious Blood Church, Chickasaw, Ohio
Religious Education Program

Family Handbook



Mission Statement

Precious Blood Church aims to develop, with God's help, personal intimacy with Christ. This intimacy with Christ is then developed among our parishioners, our community, and our world, as well as love of and obedience to Holy Mother Church. This is done in the context of the student's family (the domestic Church) as well as being supported by the parish community (the parish Church).

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PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Pastor	Rev. Eugene H. Schnipke C.PP.S.
Associate Pastor	Rev. Thomas Brenberger C.PP.S.

Parish Life Coordinator	Sharon Kremer
Coordinator of Religious Ed. (CRE)	Mary Bruns

Mass Schedule: See the bulletin for the current rotating mass
schedule for the Marion Catholic Community

Reconciliation: before each daily Mass 7:15 to 7:25am
Saturday afternoon confession 4:30-4:45pm at St.
John Church Saturday 11-11:30am at the Shrine of
the Holy Relics

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook seeks to inform parents and students about important policies and aspects of the CCD program. In order to better understand and support the philosophy and requirements of the CCD program it is important that you thoroughly read this handbook. The mission of every Catholic parish is to

- Provide opportunities for lifelong transformation in Jesus Christ
- Be a light to the community
- Provide the means of enabling willing souls to the sacred task of serving God and neighbor.

Such service is a privilege and is an authentic way of holiness for the Catholic faithful: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

ROLE OF THE PARENTS

The Church documents state the parents are the primary educators of the child. The religious education program and the religion teachers are there to assist the parents in giving their child a systematic, comprehensive education of the Catholic faith.

TEACHERS

A list of teachers is sent with the student packet at the beginning of each year. All teachers are required by the Archdiocese to attend the Child Protection Decree training as well as fingerprinting and an FBI background check

SERVICE TO OUR PARISH THROUGH YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Prayer works. Any work of God accomplished through us will succeed only to the degree that it is nourished by prayer. Precious Blood's CCD program needs the help of all parents to offer their time to pray for the work being done here.



“Persevere in prayer; pray for us too, that God may open a door to us for the Word, to speak of the mystery of Christ . . . that I may make it clear”. Col 4:3

PRAYER CHART

A copy of the prayers and a rosary CD is given out in first grade and anytime upon request. The rosary CD can be used to assist the parents in teaching the child his/her prayers. Play the first three minutes of track #2 to hear the Apostles' Creed, Our Father and Hail Mary. . . an opportunity for a good bedtime routine with your child.

Your child's teacher will send home a list of required prayers to be memorized for their grade level.



REGISTRATION/FEE/MEDICAL-RELEASE FORMS

1. Registration for students that are new to the program (1st graders and families that are new to the area) is held in August. Watch the bulletin for an announcement. A copy of each child's baptismal certificate must be provided (not the original).
2. Students that have already attended classes in the past do not need to re-register each year.
3. The fee will be enclosed in the family packet. A payment schedule can be arranged if preferred. No child is turned away due to nonpayment.

DRESS CODE/MODESTY

CCD Classes: The same dress code is used as that of the school.

Distributing Holy Communion: Dress clothes or dressy sport clothes. NO jeans, shorts, halters, spaghetti straps, short skirts, bare shoulders, flip flops, or tops showing cleavage. Two possible ways of checking tops for modesty:

- Girls are to bend at the waist and look at their top: if they see hills and a valley, it's probably inappropriate attire. Or,
- Measure four finger widths below the dip of the neck – tops that are lower than this are probably inappropriate.

Remember, a tall person receiving Holy Communion from a young lady has an entirely different view than a young lady looking in the mirror checking her attire for modesty. Also, if the tops are too low, picking up a dropped host can be challenging.

Modestly is an utmost requirement. Fathers and mothers are to remind their children of their dignity and dress accordingly. Especially the fathers are asked to be vigilant, as the special God-given protectors of the family.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



Arrival: Students are not to arrive earlier than 10 minutes before class begins as supervision is not available prior to this time.

Dismissal:

- *Students in grades 1-3* are to wait on the porch with the teachers until an older sibling or their carpool driver escorts them to the vehicle.
- *Students in grades 4-6* are dismissed from the front porch and do not need to be escorted.
- *Students in grades 7-12* may exit any door of the church basement. Dismissal of **students that drive:** Students are to enter and exit the west side of the parking lot using St. Rt. 716. This is for the safety of the children and also helps eliminate the traffic congestion around the rectory.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD’S ABSENCE

A parent or guardian is to call in the absence of their child to the teacher prior to class. If the teacher has not been called, the parent/guardian will be notified.

CHILD SAFETY - TRAFFIC SAFETY

Parents and other drivers are to use extreme caution when driving in the church vicinity. Parents are to discuss common sense safety rules with their children, whether waiting, walking or driving. Driving students, please refer to “Dismissal” for grades 7-12 above.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE

All students are expected to be on their best behavior at all times, both in and outside the building. They are to show respect at all times.



The teacher will discuss specific rules/consequences for their classroom. They will discuss what constitutes inappropriate behavior. As a minimum, it includes fighting, cursing or any vulgar language, talking out of turn, disrespect to the catechist or other students, destruction of property, disruption of the classroom, and failing to cooperate with requests of the teacher.

Cell phones are to be used only after class hours, except in emergency. If a student is suspected of texting during class, the phone will be taken and returned after class.

Other personal electronics are not permitted; they will be taken by the teacher and returned after class.

Damage or theft done by a student to room or personal property must be paid for or replaced by the students.

Students with contraband or weapons: See Emergency Procedures

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR

CHILDREN/TEENS: Children that are handicapped in any way are integrated into the program as much as possible. Contact will be made with the parents to find out the special needs in order to make it a positive learning experience for the child. The parent will be given the text to help tutor the child if needed.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When school is cancelled due to inclement weather, religion classes are automatically cancelled for the evening. Cancellations can be heard on WCSM 96.7FM or WKKI 94.3 FM or local TV.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES



For emergencies, a landline phone is available in both buildings. The phone service is set up for local calls only.

Illness or injury

The CRE or designated party will act in a manner that is both reasonable and responsible.

Tornado

In the event of an imminent tornado, all children in grades 1-12 will go to the church basement until the CRE determines to the best of his/her ability that the danger has passed.

Fire

A fire drill will be held yearly to familiarize students and the catechists with safety procedures and exit plans. Students will be escorted to the tennis courts in the event of fire.

Contraband and weapons

Students who are found to be in possession of an illegal substance or weapons will be subject to seizure of such items, and expulsion from the program. If any teacher or other person suspects there may be contraband on the property during the operation of the religious education program, they are to notify the CRE immediately. We reserve the right to inspect a student's personal property when there is a reasonable belief that the person is violating the rules, regulations and policies of the religious education program.

PERFORMANCE, TESTING, AND PROGRESS REPORTS

(1) There will be a midterm test which will be reported to the parents in their progress reports which is mailed in December along with an attendance report. (2) There will be a final at the end of the year. The results will be mailed or given to the parents with a year end performance report as well as the attendance report. A 70% or better is considered proficient for our parish.



The national NCEA ACRE assessment test will be given to the 8th grade class each January. The individual test scores will be mailed home to the parents after they are electronically scored.

CURRICULUM, ETC.

The curriculum is reviewed approximately every five years by the CRE's in the cluster. The textbooks are chosen from the Archdiocese Preferred List for grades 1-8. There is no list for high school. Only an imprimatur and nihil obstat is required for these texts. (Imprimatur is Latin for "let it be printed." It means there is nothing that is contrary to the teachings of faith and morals of the Catholic faith. Nihil obstat can be declared by anyone given the authority by the bishop to discern whether a piece of literature is in compliance with the teachings of faith and morals of the Catholic faith.)



All grades have special classes such as field trips, a speaker, or a type of class that is out of the normal classroom setting. This adds variety, accommodates different learning styles, and makes learning fun and easier to remember.

DOCTRINE

All students, by Baptism, have a right to hear the truths of the Catholic faith. Therefore, catechists are to present "the word of faith" not in mutilated, falsified, or diminished form but whole and entire, in all its rigor and vigor" (CT #30). All teachers sign a teachers' agreement stating they will teach in accordance to the faith and morals of the Catholic Church.

PARENTAL INFLUENCE

Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children; they are the first educators (NDC 234). "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." CCC #2221

Using the analogy of a relay race, parent involvement is critically important in passing on “the baton of faith” to the next generation. Without the parents’ involvement, the child can easily drop “the baton of faith”. For the above reasons the following is encouraged in your family.

- Allow time each day to make God a part of your family’s lives. Consistent family prayer is crucial.
- Church attendance each week and on holy days of obligation.
- Regular reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Participation in and support of any assignments given in class for homework.
- Participation as a volunteer in the program if it is needed.
- Personal, on-going education and conversion of the heart.

SPECIAL CLASSES/FIELD TRIPS

Field trips and special classes are scheduled for all grades to enhance their knowledge as well as deepen their spiritual life.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS

Call your teacher or CRE for further information.

1. After 9th grade Confirmation, students are highly encouraged to give of themselves in the different ministries in the parish such as lector, commentator, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, etc.
2. Students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to participate in the high school age youth conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.
3. Students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to Haiti each year. Considerable fund-raising is available.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Precious Blood Church admits students of any sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students in this religious education program.

Encouragement and Inspiration

When you don't feel up to the job of parenting:

“The fact that the Lord can work and act even with insufficient means consoles me, and above all I entrust myself to your prayers.” Pope Benedict XVI

When you feel inadequate teaching the faith to your children:

“Lord, make up for what is lacking in me.”
Fr. Michael Scanlan



FAITH-GROWING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Watch the bulletin for announcements

Elementary

CCD Classes and field trips

Children's Christmas Eve Mass at Precious Blood

Vacation Bible School in the summer at Nativity

Kids for Christ – grades 1-4 in the summer at the Spiritual Center

Passion Play by the teens at St. John's during Lent

Mass server

Servers Picnic

Junior High

CCD classes and the field trips

Spiritual Survivor at the Spiritual Center - April

Passion Play by the teens at St. John's during Lent

Mass server

Servers Picnic

High School

CCD classes and field trips

Confirmation service hours

Ministries-youth choir, Mass servers, lectors, commentators,
extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion

Passion Play by the teens at St. John's during Lent

Junior/senior retreat – varies from year to year

Steubenville High School Age Retreat – summer

Cast Your Nets (vocation awareness) by Northern Network of YM

Adult

Mom's Retreat in February at the Retreat House

Men's Conference in Cincinnati in March

Light House CD's by the elevator in Precious Blood Church

Holy Week in an Hour by teens (Nativity) adults invited

Adult education on the Wednesdays in August

Adult education night, usually the second week in October

Ministries-lectors, commentators, ushers, choir, extraordinary
ministers of Holy Communion, Caring Ministry

Chaperone your child's field trip

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

On the Lighter Side for Family Tips

Enjoy Catholic psychologist, Dr. Ray Guerendi's talk radio show archives at your convenience. Dr. Ray's humor and wisdom about babies, toddlers, teens, marriage, dealing with difficult people, etc. has been enjoyed a number of times in our area. Listen to him live on Radio Maria at 88.7 at 1pm Tuesday thru Thursday. To listen to the archives, go to Google:

Enter "Immaculate Heart Radio"

Go to third entry down and click on "Radio Archives"

Then scroll down and click on "The Doctor is In".

The programs are listed by date, not by subject matter.

Visit drray.com to find out more about him.

To contact him, go to his web site and click on "ABOUT."

He lives in the Columbus area.

On the More Serious Side

24-hour Family Crisis Center, Celina 419-586-1133

24-hour crisis line – Foundations Behavioral Health Services

Catholic Social Services, Sidney (variety of counseling) 937- 498-4593 or
800-421-6419

Pastoral Counseling at Miami Valley Hosp. 937-208-6606 or 800-628-9343

There is a website www.mvh.org Go to "services", "P" for Pastoral Care & Counseling, then "About Pastoral Counseling."

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