



ST. ROSE OF LIMA  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## **Home-Schooling Handbook**

September 2022 - May 2023

*Please note: This Handbook is for general use and does not address the concerns and alterations we will need to consider due to the COVID virus, nor does it list state and local guidelines for the return to classes.*

*This document is only meant to provide parents and guardians with the expectations and guidelines for Religious Education's Home-Schooling program during a typical school year.*



# ST. ROSE OF LIMA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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38 Church Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470

dre@strosechurch.com  
203-426-2333

May 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Home-Schooling Program:

Thank you for your decision to keep Jesus Christ in the center of your family and home. We appreciate the tremendous commitment you accept to teach your child(ren) on a weekly basis.

For 2022-2023, our home-school program will have a new look and level of commitment. We are calling this new program, our Parent/Parish Partnership. This partnership is designed to provide additional parent support, enhanced communication between Religious Education staff/coordinators, and opportunities for spiritual growth and education for parents/guardians.

The program will have three required components:

- Summer 2022 – Initial individual parent meeting with the Home-School Coordinators.
- Monthly – Monthly Home-School parent meetings and student check-in (attendance will be taken, and the meetings are mandatory.)
- Ongoing - Continuous monitoring of student progress and achievement through the year, providing additional resources and support as needed.

If you are new to teaching your child, we will assist you with the necessary tools to start the year, but you already have the most effective “tool in your toolbox”: The desire to share your faith with your child. By sharing your faith journey with your child, giving them daily support to learn and recite their prayers, and by bringing them to Mass (either in person or virtually), your child will see how we truly depend on our faith every day to get through the big and small “stuff” and to show how important the words “Thank you” mean, when give our thanks to God for the many blessings we have.

For those who will be teaching a sacramental year of Grade 2 or 8, we ask you to make sure all of the upcoming events (masses, retreats, workshops, rehearsals and ceremonies) are on your personal calendar. Please make these dates a priority in your life, and in your child’s, so they can have the best experience in their sacramental year.

May God bless you and we thank you for your dedication to the Catholic faith.

Sincerely,

Cate Gosselin  
Director  
St. Rose Religious Education

## **St. Rose of Lima Religious Education Office Staff and Home-School Coordinators**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>PHONE #</b>	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>
Cate Gosselin	Director – Parish Faith Formation	203-426-2333, ext. 1	<a href="mailto:dre@strosechurch.com">dre@strosechurch.com</a>
Sandy Jarvis	Coordinator, Grades K-3 1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion	203-426-2333, ext. 4	<a href="mailto:cre@strosechurch.com">cre@strosechurch.com</a>
Mary Craig	Coordinator, Grades 4-8 and Confirmation	203-426-2333, ext. 2	<a href="mailto:sacraments@strosechurch.com">sacraments@strosechurch.com</a>
Silvia Harper	Database Administrator & Registration	203-426-2333, ext. 3	<a href="mailto:database@strosechurch.com">database@strosechurch.com</a>
Sheila Civale	Home-School Coordinator Grades 1 – 4		<a href="mailto:homeschooling@strosechurch.com">homeschooling@strosechurch.com</a>

### **Religious Education Office Hours:**

#### **Summer Hours:**

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
(or by appointment)  
Friday Closed

#### **School Year Hours:**

Monday - Wednesday: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
(Staff are in classroom building after 3 p.m.)  
  
Thursday – Friday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
  
Saturday / Sunday: **CLOSED**  
(Building is open Sunday for classes only)

### **Communication:**

St. Rose Religious Education webpage can be found as a tab on the home of St. Rose of Lima Church website ([www.strosechurch.com](http://www.strosechurch.com)). We strive to keep an updated and informational webpage for all St. Rose Religious Education families, but please contact the office if there is something you would like to suggest for our webpage.

The St. Rose Religious Education Newsletter is sent each Friday afternoon to all registered families in Religious Education. This newsletter is our prime source for weekly updates, changes and additions to our program. It is sent via email address, based on our registration records. Occasionally, our office sends emails to families. **It is the family's responsibility to notify the Religious Education office of any updates or changes to your email address. Please do not unsubscribe from our emails.** By doing so you remove yourself from all new emails containing updates and/or changes to classes, events or sacraments.

## Parents are called to be the First Catechists of their child.

### What is Family Catechesis?\*



#### What is Family Catechesis? by Joe Paprocki

Joe Paprocki, DMin, is National Consultant for Faith Formation at Loyola Press. He has been involved in the catechetical ministry for over 35 years.

*“Most parents understandably react to being told that they are their child’s primary catechist by reminding us that they are not teachers. My friend David Heimann, Director of Religious Education at St. Andrew Parish in Chicago, explains that he reminds parents that they teach their children all the time: parents teach children how to walk, how to talk, how to tie their shoes, how to look both ways before crossing the street, how to know right from wrong, how to say “please” and “thank you,” and so much more. When it comes to family catechesis, we need to remind parents that they are not called to be theologians with extensive knowledge of Catholic doctrine, but rather role models who believe that God calls us to live as Jesus lived. They are called to teach their children not primarily doctrines, concepts, and dogmas, but a way of life.”*

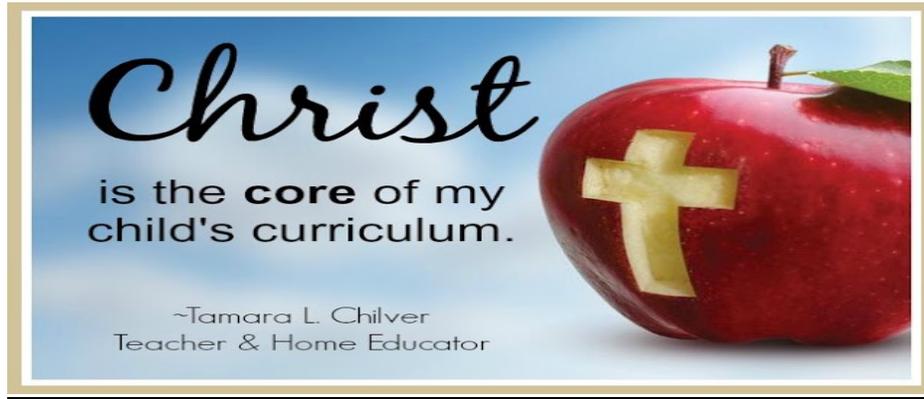
*“Our first responsibility in equipping and empowering parents to embrace their role as the primary catechists of their children is to reassure them with the words, “You can do this!””*

**\* Please note: some parishes in our area offer Whole Family Catechesis. This is not the program that we offer at St. Rose of Lima Parish. Our program is based on approximately 25 weeks of in-class, on-campus sessions, taught by volunteer catechists or Home-Schooling by a parent or guardian.**

### Student Textbooks

Grade level textbooks are the principal teaching resource we use for faith formation. We strongly encourage all families to utilize the textbook every week during home lessons. Students in grade 6 are issued Bibles, and they should be used in conjunction with the textbook for grades 6 – 8.

Parents are encouraged to use various methods in teaching their child; this includes and is not limited to, textbook, meditations, music, art activities, community based service, etc.



## Religious Education Curriculum

The Diocese of Bridgeport has developed curriculum guidelines to assist us in the instruction of the Roman Catholic faith, as required for each grade level. St. Rose of Lima adheres to curriculum and Diocesan guidelines. **It is essential that students complete all grade levels, starting with Grade 1. This is a prerequisite for celebrating the Sacraments (see Sacrament section).**

GRADE	THEME / TOPICS COVERED	PRAYERS / DOCTRINE TO BE LEARNED
Grade K	Introduction to both God as Creator of all good things, and Jesus, His Son.	Introduction to the Sign of the Cross and how to pray.
Grade 1	Introduction to the Trinity, Holy Family, Holy days of Christmas and Easter	Sign of the Cross; Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be
Grade 2	Jesus forgives our sins; Preparation and receipt of First Reconciliation. Jesus lives in the Eucharist; Preparation and Receipt of First Communion.	Act of Contrition, as well as those learned in Grade 1.
Grade 3	Introduction to our role in the Church and our relationship with Jesus. The Rosary.	Apostles Creed, as well as those learned in Grade 1 and Grade 2. How to pray the Rosary.
Grade 4	Introduction to the 10 Commandments.	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i> Able to recite the Ten Commandments.
Grade 5	Introduction to the Seven Sacraments.	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i> Able to recite the Seven Sacraments.
Grade 6	Introduction to the Bible; Students receive their own copy of the bible. Introduction to the Old Testament.	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i>
Grade 7	Introduction to the New Testament; In-depth discussion of the Saints; Choosing a Confirmation (saint) name.  Putting Faith in Action (Community Service.)	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i>
Grade 8	Serving our community of faith; Students will have a Day of Community Service as part of their curriculum.  The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Preparation and receipt of Confirmation.	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i>  Able to recite the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## Attendance Policy for Home-Schooling Children



To provide the best faith formation experience for your child, it is important that parents set aside an hour each week to teach their child(ren) at home. Setting aside a particular time of day and day of the week for religious studies will be beneficial in keeping up with the weekly chapters listed in the Schedule of Chapters for your child's grade. It is important (and extremely helpful) that students develop good, consistent learning habits while being home-schooled.

We know that each child learns differently. Please consider breaking up the lesson into smaller "chunks" or sections to learn, review and assess. Do not overwhelm children with too much work in one sitting, and always make sure they have had an adequate break from their daily school work before delving into the week's religion lesson. Some children will benefit from having their religion lesson on the weekend or away from primary school commitments.

### Home-School Meetings

#### **New for 2022-2023!**

As a way of communicating more information, and making sure we are assisting home-school families on a regular basis, we are holding six meetings during the school year. Please see the General Calendar located on the St. Rose Religious Education webpage for the list of home-school meetings that will take place throughout the year.

Attendance at these meetings is mandatory for both students and parents, so that we have adequate time to check in on student progress, offer a timely/seasonal lesson for students and parents, handout materials and resources to parents, and answer any questions that parents/guardians have.

Sept 15	7:00 pm	Home-School <u>Parent</u> Kick-off Meeting in HI. – <b>For All Grades</b> (Student workbooks will be distributed at this meeting.)
Nov 10	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 – 4</b> Home-School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #1 in HI
Nov 17	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 5 – 8</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #1 in HI
Jan 5	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 – 4</b> Home-School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #2 in HI
Jan 19	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 5 – 8</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #2 in HI
Feb 2	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 - 4</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #3 in HI
Feb 16	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 5 – 8</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #3 in HI
Mar 2	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 - 4</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #4 in HI
Mar 16	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 5 - 8</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #4 in HI
Apr 20	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 – 4</b> Home-School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #5 (Final) in HI
Apr 27	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 5 – 8</b> Home School Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #5 (Final) in HI

## **SACRAMENTS**

### **Baptism**

The Sacrament of Baptism is scheduled through the Parish Rectory Office. Pre-Baptism classes are held for parents on a regular basis. Please call the Rectory (203-426-1014) for more information.

### **Profession of Faith**

As we prepare students for the sacrament of First Communion, we must have a copy of their Baptism Certificate on record. If your child was not baptized in the Catholic Church, then we will discuss preparing your child for a Profession of Faith.

### **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

Preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist begins with the Instructional/Enrollment Mass in the Fall. This is an essential component for preparation for these Sacraments, and attendance of parent/guardian and child is required. A detailed informational packet that outlines the schedule of events and classes related to the sacramental preparation and celebrations is usually distributed at this gathering. First Reconciliation takes place in January. First Eucharist takes place in the May. Students enrolled in Grade Two religious education are considered candidates for these Sacraments.

### **Confirmation**

Active Confirmation preparation begins in Grade Seven and is completed before the celebration of the Sacrament in Grade Eight, provided the child has fulfilled Diocesan Guidelines listed above. Confirmation is usually celebrated in the Spring. The actual date of the Sacrament is determined by the Bishop's office. The following foundational topics are addressed over the course of this two-year preparation period:

- Saints (understanding the Communion of Saints/Choosing a Patron Saint)
- Faith in Action (Community Service)
- Holy Spirit (Gifts and Fruits received during Confirmation)
- Development of Spirituality (retreats)
- Development of Moral Thinking and Decision Making
- Social Justice
- Role of Confirmed Catholics in the Church

## **SUMMARY**

*The mission of the St. Rose Religious Education program is to offer a practical and fully engaging religion instruction to students in grades K – 8, with each grade paying particular attention to the teachings of the Catholic Faith, as advised by the Diocese of Bridgeport.*

*Our mission is to foster the faith of our youngest parishioners and those of the greater Newtown community to understand their faith, develop a relationship with God, and a spirit of compassion and service for their “neighbors”.*

*The sacraments are celebrated in Grades 2 and 8 in accordance with Diocesan Guidelines. We will work with families to attain all necessary instruction to be ready to celebrate the sacraments within a timely manner, with the assistance of the parents/guardians to either tutor their child or pay for a tutor as necessary.*

*Families enrolled in St. Rose of Lima Religious Education will adhere by all policies and procedures, including resolution of any outstanding tuition balance in the current year prior to registering their child for the upcoming/new school year and BEFORE their child receives the sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation. (Balances will NOT be allowed to roll over from one school year to the next.*

*All decisions, resolutions, policies and procedures will be the final approval of the St. Rose of Lima Religious Education office and through the advisement of the St. Rose of Lima Board of Religious Education, the Parish Finance Council and/or Monsignor Robert Weiss, Pastor.*

*Signed,*

*Cate Gosselin, Director of Parish Faith Formation*