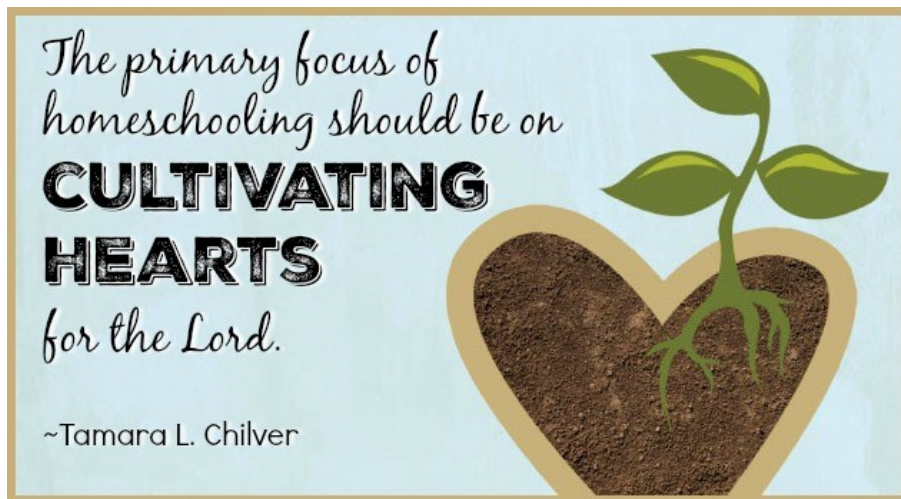




ST. ROSE OF LIMA  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



# Homeschooling Handbook

September 2023 - May 2024

Sheila and Cos are reviewing – 5/4/23



# ST. ROSE OF LIMA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

38 Church Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470

dre@strosechurch.com  
203-426-2333

May 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of our Homeschooling 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 2023-2024, our homeschool program will continue to be an option for those who have found it successful. Our Parent/Parish 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. **We invite all homeschool families to join us for any Religious Education event, Mass, workshop or meeting.**

The program will have three required components:

- Summer 2023 – Initial individual parent meeting with the Homeschool Coordinators.
- Monthly – Monthly Homeschool 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, 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, 7 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. All parents of a student receiving a sacrament must write a letter to Monsignor Robert Weiss, requesting permission to teach the sacramental year at home. This letter should be sent to him mail or email ([parishsecretary@strosechurch.com](mailto:parishsecretary@strosechurch.com)). This letter should be written once you have registered for the Fall school year.

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

Sincerely,

Cate Gosselin  
Director  
Parish Faith Formation

Sheila & Cosmo Civale  
Coordinators  
Homeschooling Program

## ***St. Rose of Lima Religious Education Office Staff and Homeschool 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>
Laura DeFelice	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	Homeschool 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***

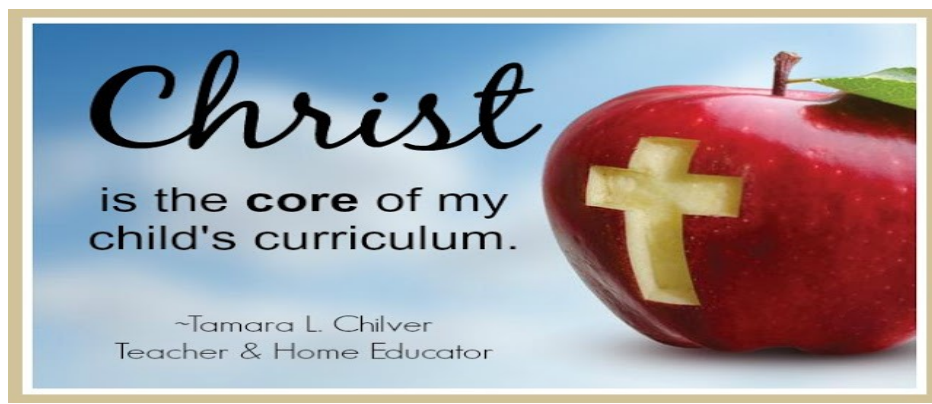
#### **School Year Hours:**

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.



## 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 using Rosary beads.
Grade 4	Introduction to the 10 Commandments. The Mysteries of the Rosary	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i> Able to recite the Ten Commandments and pray the Rosary using Rosary beads.
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. 5 hours of Community Service	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i>
Grade 7	Discussion of the Saints; Choosing a Confirmation (saint) name. Putting Faith in Action (Community Service.) The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Preparation and receipt of Confirmation	<i>Students should be comfortable reciting all learned prayers.</i>
Grade 8	Serving our community of faith  The 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.

## “Class time” for Homeschooling 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 homeschooled.

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.

## Homeschool Meetings

As a way of communicating more information, and making sure we are assisting homeschool 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 homeschool 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.

(All meeting take place in Holy Innocents (HI)).

Sept 15	7:00 pm	Homeschool <u>Parent</u> Kick-off Meeting. – <b>For All Grades</b> (Student workbooks will be distributed at this meeting.)
Nov 10	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 – 4</b> Homeschool Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #1
Jan 5	4:30 pm	<b>Grades 1 – 4</b> Homeschool Student Check-in and Parent Meeting #2

## Student Textbooks

Grade level textbooks are the principle 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.

## **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 Six and is completed before the celebration of the Sacrament in Grade Seven (and Eight for 2023-24 school year), 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 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*