



**St. Andrew's Catholic Church
Christian Formation
Program Handbook
2022-2023**

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St Andrew's Elementary Religious Education

YEARLY Religious Education attendance is vital so that your child continues to grow in their Catholic Faith and develops a close relationship with God. **Bringing your child to classes every year shows that you think this is an important part of their life and who they are.**

Your continued support for our program and your child's religious education is greatly appreciated!



Parents & Parish in Partnership



The “formal” education programs provided by St. Andrew's Parish, even when faithfully attended, offers only 24 to 30 hours of instruction and prayer each year. This amounts to less than two days of instruction out of 365 days! The role of the parish is limited, compared to the role of the parent in the task of evangelization.

The goal of the Religious Education Program in the parish is **to support families**; not only by providing religious education programs but also by providing materials to support parents' efforts to raise faith-filled Catholic children.

In light of their responsibility to teach their children “to know and worship God,” **parents are expected to bring their children to Mass weekly and help them at least 10 minutes every day to memorize prayers.** Parents should take every opportunity to discuss faith with their children and to model the faith for the children on a daily basis. Parents are encouraged to participate as adult leaders in the religious education of the parish. The bond you develop with your children through this shared experience is invaluable to your family's faith formation. Children learn by example and treasure what is important to the family. Your service shows them not only that religious education is important but also that service to others is vital to the life of a Catholic.

SUPPORT OFFERED FOR PARENTS

MAGNIFICAT CLASSES: Offered Sep-June through the Diocese of Yakima in person or via ZOOM. A variety of topics throughout the year in a 2-hour presentation in English or Spanish. For English calendar schedule visit

<https://yakimadiocese.org/2018/09/05/magnificat-english-2/>

for Spanish visit

<https://yakimadiocese.org/2018/09/05/magnificat-v-encuentro-spanish/>

English Classes

Sat, Sep 10
Sat, Sep 24
Sat, Oct 1
Sat, Oct 22
Wed, Nov 9
Thr, Nov 17
Sat, Nov 19

English Classes

Thr, Dec 1
Sat, Dec 10
Tue, Dec 13
Sat, Dec 17
Wed, Jan 4
Tue, Jan 10
Sat, Jan 14
Tue, Jan 24
Sat, Jan 28

English Classes

Wed, Feb 1
Thr, Feb 23
Sat, Mar 11
Sat, Mar 25
Sat, Apr 15
Sat, Apr 29
Sat, May 6
Sat, May 20

Spanish Classes

Sat, Sep 10
Sat, Sep 24
Sat, Oct 1
Sat, Oct 22
Wed, Nov 9
Tue, Nov 15
Tue, Nov 29
Sat, Dec 3
Tue, Dec 6
Fri, Dec 15

Spanish Classes

Wed, Jan 4
Sat, Jan 7
Thr, Jan 12
Sat, Jan 21
Wed, Jan 25
Thr, Jan 26
Wed, Feb 1
Sat, Feb 4

Spanish Classes

Tue, Feb 14
Sat, Feb 18
Sat, Mar 11
Sat, Mar 25
Sat, Apr 15
Sat, Apr 29
Sat, May 6
Sat, May 20

ZOOM LINKS

ENG: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84116935317>

SPN: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090870889>

formed.org: Visit www.formed.org and set up your FREE account using our church code 449536. Thousands of titles to choose from covering numerous topics in English and Spanish; podcasts, presentations, movies, children's movies/productions.

Parent Meetings: Will be offered during the school year. When they are planned out, you will be notified and expected to attend. Watch the bulletin.

Helping out in classes is one way to have a hands-on experience with your child/youth. We are never too old to learn something new. You are welcome to join the discussion.



Catechesis

*shapes the minds, hearts and spirits
of believers forming them as disciples.*
General Directory for Catechesis, 87

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS:

- ◆ Bulletin board in east hallway
- ◆ Weekly bulletin (also posted on our website)
- ◆ This booklet
- ◆ Notices brought home from class
- ◆ Bad weather update during winter months: check our webpage and facebook.

Religious Education Fees

Cost is \$40.00 per elementary child, \$50.00 per middle/high school youth, with a maximum of \$90.00 per family. Scholarships are available.



Discipline Policy



Any child/youth who disrupts class will be brought to the Religious Education Director who will discuss the situation with him or her. The child/youth will then have the chance to make new behavioral choices when he or she returns to class.



Clothing Policy

Clothing worn for Mass and church related activities should be appropriate. Immodest clothing (such as shorts that are too short, tube tops or other skimpy tops, etc.) should not be worn to youth activities. Likewise,

clothing with sexual, violent, or un-Christian messages is inappropriate for parish activities. Youth who wear inappropriate clothing may be asked to change or cover the inappropriate garment.

Wearing modest and appropriate clothing is a sign of love and reverence for God as well as a sign of honor and respect for fellow Christians.

Two-Year Preparation Policy for receiving Sacraments

ELEMENTARY: Those enrolled in **Second Year Sacrament Preparation** must have attended first year religious education the prior year, in order to receive their First Communion in the Spring of 2023. Please see pages 7, 8 & 9 for additional information.



CONFIRMATION: The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated every other year. The Current Confirmation preparation cycle at St. Andrew's is **YEAR 2 for the 2022-2023 school year**. As with First Communion, students in the Confirmation class must participate in our program for two consecutive years (2021-2022) and (2022-2023) to strengthen their understanding of the Catholic faith before celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation preparation is open to High School students in grades 9-12. Please see pages 11 & 12 for additional requirements. We are in the midst of preparing to offer Confirmation Preparation in middle school grades 7 & 8, versus high school. This project will take place over multiple years. Thank you for your patience in this transition.



Elementary Child Drop Off and Pick Up Policy

In an effort to uphold the Safe Environment Guidelines at St. Andrew's, all elementary students must be checked in and out of class every Sunday. Children should be escorted to their classrooms and are not allowed to be dropped off in the parking lot. This will also help parents to remember that we take some Sundays off during the school year. This will eliminate the possibility of a child being left here alone for an hour or more with no adult supervision.

On class Sundays, please bring your child(ren) to the their classroom(s) and sign your child(ren) IN on the attendance sheet. At the end of class, you will pick your child(ren) up in their classroom(s) and sign them OUT on the attendance sheet.

Class time is 10:10 AM to 11:20 AM, please **be prompt** in bringing your child(ren) for class. If you are attending the 9 AM Mass, **children may have a quick donut before class. Please be prompt in picking up your child(ren) at the end of class.** It causes an unnecessary burden on our program volunteers and anxiety for your child(ren) when they are not picked up on time.

Safety and Security of Children

Our desire at St Andrew's is to draw people to Jesus. This includes even the youngest children. We take our responsibility to care for children/youth very seriously. The Diocese of Yakima and St. Andrew's guidelines are intended to provide a safe and nurturing environment where children/youth can come to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our guidelines are designed to protect and promote faith formation for each child/youth (and each adult volunteer) involved in children/youth ministry. Everyone who teaches, helps, or cares for children/youth must agree to follow these guidelines. They represent minimum requirements. Please refer to St. Andrew's Religious Education Handbook (available soon on the parish website www.st-andrewsparish.org/safe-environment) and <http://www.yakimadiocese.org/policies2/safe-environment-2> for detailed information.

Elementary Schedule

Sunday Mornings ~ 10:10 – 11:20 a.m.
Classes are scheduled ONLY on the following days:

<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sep 18	Nov 6	Jan 8	Apr 2
Sep 25	Nov 20	Jan 22	Apr 16
Oct 2	Dec 4	Jan 29	Apr 23
Oct 9	Dec 11	Feb 5	Apr 30
Oct 16		Feb 12	May 7
Oct 23		Feb 26	May 21
Oct 30		Mar 5	
		Mar 12	

Children are expected to attend all scheduled classes. As required by the Diocese of Yakima, attendance records will be kept.

Class attendance is not a substitute for Mass attendance. It is expected that all children will attend Sunday Mass weekly in person or virtually. Many of the classes refer to parts of the Mass, Mass prayers, Mass readings, or the liturgical seasons are referred to in an effort to help children better understand what they celebrate at Sunday Eucharist.





FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION SACRAMENT PREPARATION

Requirements:

- ◆ Child is registered for and attending **Sunday Religious Education Program**
- ◆ Parents will attend scheduled **Parent Education Classes**.
- ◆ YEAR 2 Child and parents are registered and attended the **First Communion Banner Retreat** in January and the **First Communion Retreat** in April.
- ◆ Celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** when scheduled.
- ◆ **All registration paperwork turned in** by November 30. Includes copy of Baptismal Certificate, if your child was not baptized at St. Andrew's. If your child was baptized in another country, please request the certificate **NOW**. All paperwork must be complete and turned in before you can reserve dates for First Holy Communion (Year 2). No exceptions.
- ◆ Schedule Reservation for First Communion Mass (Year 2).

**There are no opportunities for make-up dates.
Please arrange your calendar accordingly.**

Be sure to check out our online bulletin for updated information.

FIRST COMMUNION BANNER RETREAT

January 2023, TBD

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

April 2023, TBD

Parents and child are REQUIRED to attend the above retreats. Please do not bring siblings. There are no make up days scheduled. Please plan accordingly.

FIRST COMMUNION MASS SCHEDULE

Year 2 Sacrament Preparation Children
will celebrate
THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION in

May 2023, TBD

Children must arrive in the activity center foyer no less than 20 minutes before Mass starts. Please make sure that children have visited the restroom before Mass. Girls must remove hand gloves before entering church.

Your child's religious education does not end when they receive the Sacrament of First Communion. Take every opportunity to pass on your Faith to your child/ren on a daily basis. Registration for the next year's classes will be in August & September 2023. Please remember to register them for their next classes.

Middle School Schedule

Mondays
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Middle School youth will meet ONLY on these days:

<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sep 19	Nov 7	Jan 9	Apr 3
Sep 26	Nov 14	Jan 23	Apr 10
Oct 3	Nov 21	Jan 30	Apr 17
Oct 10	Nov 28	Feb 6	Apr 24
Oct 17	Dec 5	Feb 13	May 1
Oct 24	Dec 12	Feb 27	May 8
		Mar 6	May 15
		Mar 13	May 22
		Mar 27	

We welcome all Middle School-aged youth to
our weekly meetings.

Through our program, we will encourage all students to
experience their faith through prayer, worship, service and
community, while building on the fundamentals of the beliefs and
traditions of our Catholic Faith.

Come and join us!

Middle School youth are expected to attend meetings regularly.
Records of attendance at Middle School sessions will be kept as
required by the Diocese of Yakima.

Watch online bulletin for current information
We hope to offer retreats, special events and
summer activities in 2023!

High School Schedule

YEAR 2 Confirmation Preparation 2022-23

Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Open to High School students who are in grades 9-12. There is a two-year
preparation requirement. Preparation students are REQUIRED to attend all
Confirmation meetings on the Wednesdays listed below.

<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sep 21	Nov 2	Jan 4	Mar 15
Sep 28	Nov 9	Jan 11	Mar 29
Oct 5	Nov 16	Jan 18	Apr 5
Oct 12	Nov 30	Jan 25	Apr 12
Oct 19	Dec 3 DYC	Feb 1	Apr 19
Oct 26	Dec 7	Feb 8	Apr 26
	Dec 14	Feb 15	May 3
		Feb 22 Ash Wed	May 10
		Mar 1	May 17
		Mar 8	May 24

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High School youth are expected to attend meetings regularly. Records of
attendance at High School sessions will be kept as required by the
Diocese of Yakima.

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Confirmation Requirements

- ▶ Youth will be required to complete 1 mandatory retreat in each of the 2-years of preparation. Retreats must be attended in order to qualify to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year 2. Please plan accordingly.
- ▶ Parents are required to attend scheduled Parent Education Nights.
- ▶ The Diocese of Yakima, and our Catholic Faith, requires that students and their families preparing for Confirmation must attend either Saturday or Sunday Mass throughout the year. If students are noticed to be missing Mass regularly, they are considered to be unready to receive the Sacrament and will be asked to attend the program at a later time. Please speak with Fr. Alex if you need to be attending Mass at another time.
- ▶ Service hours is an important part of Confirmation preparation. We have some opportunities available this year, and will have more next year, as ministries open up at St. Andrew's. Please speak with the parish office for some suggestions.
- ▶ All Confirmation Candidates are expected to take their preparation seriously. Missing more than two sessions over the course of the year will require the Pastor's approval. Make-up sessions will be offered on a very limited basis.
- ▶ Each Confirmation Candidate requires a Sponsor. This person should be selected by December 31, in the YEAR 1 preparation time. Eligible sponsors are at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation, and be faithful Catholics. If married, sponsors must be married in the Catholic Church. Sponsors are expected to be active in the preparation of the youth for Confirmation. Distance is not a factor with today's technology. Attendance at the Sponsor & Candidate Retreat (TBD) is mandatory.
- ▶ A copy of your Baptismal Certificate is required, if you were not baptized at St. Andrew's. We may already have a copy on file from your First Communion. Please verify with us.