

Boone County Catholic Community **Religious Education and Youth Group Handbook**

St. John and Sacred Heart Locations



Welcome

Welcome to our Religious Education program. This handbook was designed to give parents and guardians basic information about our program. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact the Religious Education Office at dre@shboone.com or 515-432-1971.

Mission Statement

The purpose of our Religious Education program is to help families grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children, teaching by word and example. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are able to assist parents in the religious, moral, and spiritual formation of their children. Through the cooperative effort of parents, catechists, and students, our children will grow in their love for God and knowledge of their Catholic faith and traditions.

Contact Information

Pastor

Fr. Tim Johnson
Office: 515-432-1971

Religious Education

Director

Megan Ulrich
dre@shboone.com
Office: 515-432-1971
Cell: 515-250-8368

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Lizzie Kenkel
youth@shboone.com
Office: 515-432-1971

Catechist Contact List 2023-24

Sacred Heart		
Kindergarten	Deb Franzenburg	development@shboone.com
	Mary Clark	yram719@gmail.com
1st Grade	Elsie Alexander	ec.alexander11@gmail.com
	Molly Alexander	manne.alexander13@gmail.com
2nd Grade Sacrament Prep	Barb MacDougall	macarmy3@hotmail.com
3rd & 4th Grade	Alyssa Balmer	bugaboosmarie@gmail.com
5th Grade	Tanya Flaherty	tmflaherty06@gmail.com
	Jessi Crawford	crawfordjessi@live.com
6th - 8th Grade	Missy Franks	mfjf99@yahoo.com
	Alyssa Balmer	bugaboosmarie@gmail.com
	Benjamin Atterberry	benat985@gmail.com
	Molly Alexander	manne.alexander13@gmail.com
	Marcus Nagl	marcusnagl87@gmail.com
7th/8th Grade Boys	Mike Kruse	mjoekruse@outlook.com
Confirmation YR 1	Charley Braun	c4braun@gmail.com
Confirmation YR 2 - Boys	Mike Kruse	mjoekruse@outlook.com
Confirmation YR 2 - Girls	Anna Balmer	elegantpurplelady@gmail.com
<i>Classroom Aide</i>	Kay Rouse	auntkk9@hotmail.com
<i>Classroom Aide</i>	Kerry Cox	farleykerry@hotmail.com
<i>Classroom Aide</i>	Joan Kerwood	kerwoodj@hotmail.com
Youth Ministry	Lizzie Kenkel	efkenkel@gmail.com
Life Teen (High School)	Charley Braun	c4braun@gmail.com
	Anna Balmer	elegantpurplelady@gmail.com
St. John		
K-5th Grade	Jeanne Hollingshead	jeanne_laurel@hotmail.com

6th-8th Grade	Jess Christensen	jess.christensen7@gmail.com
	Megan Ulrich	dre@shboone.com
Confirmation & Youth Group	Pete Thomsen	petethomsen23@hotmail.com
Youth Group	Emily Crosman	em.crosman@gmail.com

Communication

The following means of communication are used to keep families informed of our program schedule and activities:

- All updates/information will be sent via email.
- Website: <https://boonecountycatholics.org/sacred-heart>
- Text message reminders:
 - St. John www.remind.com/join/stjohnk8
 - Sacred Heart www.remind.com/join/b26bgh6
- Parent Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/889213831999596>

Additional Parish Communication

- Website: www.boonecountycatholics.org
- County-Wide Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sacredhrtboone>
- Parish Bulletin (on our website or pick up at weekend Masses)
- Weekly Boone County Catholic Email - Sign Up Here: <https://boonecountycatholics.org/newsletter>

Class & Youth Group Times <i>All classes are held on Wednesdays</i>		
	St. John - Ogden	Sacred Heart - Boone
Elementary Grades K-5	2:15-3:15pm	5:30-6:30pm
	For K-5th: <i>One Wednesday of each month is a Family Class from 5:30-6:30pm at Sacred Heart. We will do an activity related to what your children are learning and share a meal. St. John families are encouraged to attend as well.</i>	
Middle School Grades 6-8	2:15-3:15pm	6:45-7:45pm
Confirmation Class Grades 9-10	6:15-7:00pm	6:45-7:45pm
High School Youth Group	7:00-8:00pm	7:45-8:45pm

Class Curriculum

Kindergarten (Sacred Heart Only): [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#)

Grades K-5: [A Family of Faith Volume 3: Life in Christ](#)

Grade 5 (Sacred Heart Only): [GPS God's Plan in Scripture](#)

Grade 2: Sacrament of Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation [Renewed & Received](#)

Grades 6-8: [Life Teen EDGE](#)

Grade 9-10: Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation

Tuition and Fees

Suggested fees: \$50 per child with a \$125 family maximum fee

Pay what you are able to pay or nothing at all. No families will be turned away for financial reasons. Fees are waived for catechist's families. [Pay Fees Online](#)

Calendar

Please refer to our website for the most up to date class calendar.

<https://boonecountycatholics.org/sacred-heart-re>

Monthly Youth Mass

Each month students from one grade (or group of grades) at St. John, Sacred Heart R.E. and Sacred Heart School will be responsible for the ministries (lector, gift bearer, altar server etc) at a 10am weekend Mass. Please have your child arrive at the church at 9:45am on their scheduled day. Additionally, if they would like to be in the choir at that Mass, they will need to arrive at 9am for a short practice.

Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30pm Boone

Sunday: 8:30am Madrid, 10am Boone

Procedures

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes.
- We do keep regular attendance records. Parents will be notified after two absences in a row.
- Please notify the Religious Education Director if your child/children will not be attending class.
Call/Text 515-250-8368 or Email: dre@shboone.com

Arrival/Dismissal

- All grades should report directly to their classrooms.
- K-5th grade students **must** be picked up at their classrooms. *(This is especially important when it begins to get dark earlier and we cannot see who is picking children up.)*
- Please let us know if someone other than a parent will be picking your child up.

ST. JOHN: K-8th grade students will walk to the church from the middle/high school. A catechist will be there to

escort them. *It is imperative that you let us know if your child is absent so that we are not waiting on them.*

Cancellations

If the public schools cancel or dismiss school due to severe weather, Religious Education classes/activities are automatically canceled that same day. You will be notified by email, text message and facebook page if classes are canceled for any reason.

Youth Group

High School

All 9th-12th grade students are automatically enrolled in our Youth Group program. Please see our calendar for details. Our High School Youth Group is funded through donations. Participants are expected to participate in fundraising events to help pay for costs of activities and retreats. More information can be found on our website: <https://boonecountycatholics.org/sacred-heart-ym>

Responsibilities

Parent's Role in Faith Formation

"Parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. They catechize informally but powerfully by example and instructions. They communicate values and attitudes by showing love for Christ and his Church and for each other, by reverently receiving the Eucharist and living in its spirit, by fostering justice and love in all their relationships. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others and their practice of frequent prayer, all make meaningful their profession of belief. Parents nurture faith in their children by showing them the richness and beauty of lived faith."

Sharing the Light of Faith - National Catechetical Directory of the United States

Parents and Guardians have the responsibility:

- To partner with the parish in the faith formation of your child, to pray with your child and assist your child in understanding the Catholic faith.
- To worship at Sunday Mass with your child.
- To understand and abide by the policies of your Youth Faith Formation program.
- To review all communications from the Religious Education Office.
- To attend parent meetings, family gatherings and conferences.

Catechists and Aides

All Catechists and Aides are volunteers who are faith-filled practicing Catholics. Every volunteer in our program must complete an online background check and comply with the requirements of the VIRTUS program. They have all completed our diocesan Safe Environment training and complete ongoing training.

Respectful Behavior

It is the expectation that children will come to class ready and prepared to learn and to participate in the class discussions in a thoughtful, prayerful and respectful manner. If a child becomes disruptive or disrespectful he/she will be asked to leave and must meet with the Religious Education Director to complete the lesson. If the behavior continues, the parent will be asked to accompany the child to class.

Sacraments

Baptism

Children who wish to become baptized Roman Catholics may enter the program. Parents must contact the parish office to arrange time for instruction and preparation for their Baptism.

First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion

Preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is the primary focus of the Second Grade curriculum.

Retreats

Two retreats will be held for second grade students along with their parents. The retreats are important times for second graders and their parents to continue to learn about and prepare for these vital sacraments. Please see the calendar for dates and times.

Parents need to be active in answering any questions their children may have during the year, as they learn more about their faith. Children should be encouraged to follow along during Mass and ask questions and be excited in the anticipation of receiving the sacraments.

More information about these sacraments can be found on our website:

<https://boonecountycatholics.org/second-grade>

See the diocesan guidelines for preparing children for these sacraments here:

<https://scdiocese.org/documents/2020/6/Grade%20%20Curriculum%20Guidelines-1.pdf>

Appropriate attire for First Communion is a formal white dress and veil for girls and black dress pants/shoes and white button-down shirt with tie for boys.

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation typically begins in a child's 9th grade year. The sacrament is received in the spring of their 10th grade year.

We utilize a two year Confirmation Workbook that seeks to allow the candidate to explore and reflect more on their faith through reception of the sacraments, discussion with important people in their lives and completing works of mercy. Please see the workbook for more details.

More information about Confirmation can be found on our website:

<https://boonecountycatholics.org/high-school>

We follow the diocesan guidelines for sacrament preparation:

<https://scdiocese.org/documents/2020/6/Grade%20%20Curriculum%20Guidelines-1.pdf>

Safety

Safe Environment

In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children as adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Dallas in June 2002, the Diocese of Sioux City has created a safe environment program that includes:

- A strict Code of Conduct that all clergy, parish and school employees and all volunteers must adhere to.
- Comprehensive background checks on all existing and new employees of the Diocese and entities associated with the Diocese, and all existing and new volunteers who have contact with children
- “Protecting God’s Children”: An education program that teaches how to recognize and report child sexual abuse, and how to recognize potential abusers.

All employees of the diocese, parishes and/or schools as well as volunteers who have contact with children are required to participate in and comply with all aspects of the Safe Environment Program.

In addition to the training, those mentioned above should NEVER be alone with a child behind closed doors or in a secluded area. Another child or adult should always be present and the environment kept so that anyone could enter at any time. For this reason, if your child requires tutoring or other one-on-one attention, it is likely we will ask the parent to attend as well.

If you are an adult who suffered abuse by a member of the clergy or someone who works for the Catholic Church, contact Angie Mack, Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-866-435-4397.

More information can be found on the diocesan website: <https://scdiocese.org/safe-environment-1>