



ST ANTHONY

PARENT HANDBOOK RE & CONFIRMATION 2025-2026

Revised June 27, 2025

15 Indianola Rd.
Des Moines, IA 50315

Phone: 244-4709 (Monday-Friday) ♦ Phone: 243-1874 (Class Day)

♦ stanthonysm.org

Class Schedule and Times

Classes:

Sundays from September 2025 through May 2026.

Time: 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

The calendar can be found on the parish's website (stanthonydsm.org), RE Facebook page, and available upon request.

Parents are expected to take their student(s) to the classroom.

Communication

Primary modes of communication:

- Facebook: St. Anthony's Religious Ed & Confirmation 25-26'
- Email: it's the parents' responsibility to have an updated email address on file
- Web Site: stanthonydsm.org

In the event of inclement weather, cancellations will be posted on Facebook at 7:00am.

Registration/Enrollment

Completed registration forms, required documentation, and the registration fee are necessary prior to your child attending his or her first class.

Registration is open until September 14th After this date no further registrations will be accepted.

You must be a registered parishioner to participate in our Program.

Students are to be re-enrolled every year.

New to the Parish

New Students must supply the following when registering:

- A copy of your child's baptismal certificate.
- Documentation of prior religious education or Catholic school completion (letter of verification, including attendance record) Students who enter the program without having celebrated the sacraments of initiation, and who are beyond the usual age for reception of these sacraments, may need additional formation.

Catechetical Volunteers

In this ministry, catechists work as assistants to the parents who are the primary catechists. Our catechists are members of the parish who volunteer their time to help. Our role is to help, not to replace, the vital role parents have as the primary catechists. It is our role to help the parents' journey with their children as they deepen their faith and love for our Lord.

Parent Participation

To participate in our program, we ask ALL parents to participate in the events that the RE/ Confirmation Program has throughout the academic year.

This is an opportunity to show our children our active participation in our faith and parish.

Attendance

Regular attendance is important to the ongoing faith formation of students and should always take precedence over all extra-curricular activities. The sessions are built on each other and carry a central focus throughout the year.

Much like attendance in elementary/middle school, absences can have an adverse effect on your child's growth.

The student must complete all the class work and homework. If a student is ill, the parent should notify prior to class to report their absence. To report absences please send email to dbalmaceda@stanthonydsm.org or ashmiranda@herdsm.org

Students in First Communion preparation (2nd year) may not miss more than 3 scheduled classes to be considered ready for reception of the sacrament.

Non-Sacramental students may not miss more than 4 classes for the year to be counted.

Students in 2nd year Confirmation preparation may not miss more than 1 scheduled class to be considered ready for reception of the sacrament.

Students in 1st year Confirmation preparation may not miss more than 2 scheduled classes to be considered ready for reception of the sacrament.

Please contact us immediately if there is a family situation that will impact your child's attendance.

Tardiness

Please arrive on time. Parents and children who arrive late not only miss out on important information and class time, but they also disrupt the class.

It is suggested that every child come to class each week prepared to fulfill their class time obligation. Late arrival/early dismissal is counted toward attendance and will impact their overall attendance record. **3 late arrivals/3 early dismissals are the equivalent of 1 absence.**

Learning Environment

A welcoming and respectful environment is necessary to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to sharing and learning. Courtesy and cooperation are expected of each person and respect for the catechist, assistant, and fellow students is required.

Students are required to follow the rules and regulations discussed herein, as well as the rules set forth in their respective classrooms.

- Cell phones/ electronic devices (including headphones) **Not** allowed during class. If there are issues with phones parents will be notified. St. Anthony's is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or other electronics.
- Appropriate dress is encouraged. NO hats or hoodies.
- No food or drink is allowed in classrooms.
- No chewing gum.
- No toys or games.
- Students may not write on white boards unless it's part of classroom instruction/activity.
- Students may not enter a classroom without a catechist, assistant, or other staff member or volunteer present.
- Care must be taken of classroom property: tables, desks, chairs, walls, posters, books, projects, etc.

Discipline

Most of the children in our program are interested in learning about their faith. At times, some children are unable to control their behavior and disrupt the class. All students are expected to come to class willing and eager to learn.

If a child displays behavior that is inconsistent with the rules and values established in their classroom and/or the program for the good of all, their behavior will be redirected in a positive manner. Catechists and/or staff members shall have a conversation with the child, modeling positive behavior and encouraging positive alternative choices and virtues.

Continued behavior concerns (even over multiple class sessions) may necessitate the catechist to request intervention by the Director to discuss with the student possible solutions to the problem.

If a catechist refers to the Director a second time (even over multiple class sessions), the parents will be notified, and the parent and child will meet with the Director to address the behavior and resolve the situation. The parents will be required to attend class with their children until the behavior is amended.

If the disciplinary problem cannot be resolved and the student cannot control his/her behavior, an alternative setting for the child's learning experience will be recommended.

Mass Attendance

Attending Mass is the primary way in which children and adults learn about their faith. During Mass, we hear the word of God proclaimed and participate in the heavenly banquet that is the Eucharist.

Every family will be required to place a tithing envelope in the Sunday collection basket each weekend. A monetary contribution is not required. Envelopes will be recorded to track Mass attendance. A weekly report will be provided to the Pastor.

Academic Expectations for Each Grade Level

The children will be expected to memorize specific prayers and have a good knowledge of other prayers at each grade level. Please pray with and encourage your child to say these prayers frequently to foster the memorization process.

<p><u>Kindergarten</u> Sign of the Cross Great Commandment</p>	<p><u>First Grade</u> Same as Kindergarten, plus Our Father Hail Mary Glory Be to the Father</p>
<p><u>Second Grade</u> Same as Grades K-1, plus Grace Before Meals Act of Contrition</p>	<p><u>Third Grade</u> Same as Grades K-2, plus Prayer to the Holy Spirit</p>
<p><u>Fourth Grade</u> Same as Grades K-3, plus Corporal Works of Mercy</p>	<p><u>Fifth Grade</u> Same as Grades K-4, plus Stations of the Cross Apostle's Creed Seven Sacraments 10 Commandments</p>
<p><u>Sixth Grade</u> Same as Grades K-5, plus Beatitudes Rosary Hail Holy Queen</p>	<p><u>Seventh Grade</u> Same as Grades K-6, plus Nicene Creed</p>

Sacraments

Each Sacrament requires two consecutive years of preparation.

First Communion Preparation

The best preparation that the child can receive is by accompanying their parents and family each week to Mass as they grow to have a sense of community and understand the importance of the Mass in the life of a Catholic.

It is a **requirement to attend Mass** as a family every Sunday, and days of obligation.

Each Sacrament **requires two years of preparation**; therefore, First Communion preparation begins in the first grade. For example, if a child misses first grade, they will receive the Sacrament in third grade.

Children must **receive First Reconciliation before** First Communion.

All children are **required to attend retreats** and parents **all meetings and classes** prior to First Communion.

Confirmation Preparation

Each Sacrament **requires two years of preparation**; Confirmation preparation usually begins in the 8th grade (“Year I”).

It is a **requirement to attend Mass** as a family every Sunday, and on days of obligation.

Confirmation Sponsors need to have already been confirmed (**we will need proof of all their sacraments**) and will be expected to attend a retreat. According to Canon Law, sponsors who are not members of the parish will need to provide a letter from their Pastor stating they are in good standing.

Students must **attend all meetings and retreats** before confirmation.

Second year confirmation students must complete **10 hours of volunteering**, 5 hours in the parish and 5 hours outside the parish. These hours can’t be with a family member, can’t be paid and must be aligned with our faith.

Young people are confirmed in their faith by being incorporated into a community of believers. This is an on-going process in which the adult community plays a vital role. These young people must witness a community that learns, shares, worships, and serves together. It is the

responsibility of parents and other adult members of the community to help those who are newly confirmed to understand that Confirmation marks the beginning of their renewed commitment to the Church.

CONFIRMATION IS NOT GRADUATION!

**CONFIRMATION MARKS THE
BEGINNING OF A COMMITMENT TO LIVE
AS A DISCIPLES OF CHRIST**

Social Media Disclaimer

Our program may take photographs of students, these photographs document learning and activities of the students. Please be advised that your child's photo may be included in communications, which may include but is not limited to programs, newsletters, flyers, parish bulletin, parish website, newspapers, etc. If you are concern about this, let us know.

Handbook Agreement Form

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I have read the entire content of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook and accept the policies, regulations, directives, and procedures contained in the Manual and agree to abide by them.

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I understand that the policies and procedures contained herein may be subject to change after the printing of this document.

Parent Name(s) _____

Student Name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____