

Saint Therese



2022-2023 Religious Education Handbook

www.sttheresecc.org

DRE: Dcn. Michael Lambrecht

mike@sttheresecc.org

715-298-7366

Direct Office Line

A Message from the Director of Religious Education

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I wanted to thank you for committing to bring your child(ren) to Faith Formation on Wednesday evenings. I know it is not always easy, but I hope and pray that your efforts will bear much fruit throughout the coming year.

In speaking of the family, the Catechism tells us:

In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. It is in the bosom of the family that parents are 'by word and example... the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children.' (CCC 1656)

The fact of the matter is that your child is likely to imitate your behavior in their own lives. If you are living your faith, attending Mass, and praying together, your children are much more likely to develop a strong Catholic faith.

I would like to challenge you to continue your own education in the faith as well. We have several wonderful adult education offerings throughout the school year. Please take advantage of the opportunity of them to further your own Catholic spirituality.

Lastly, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you and may God continue to bless each and every one of you in the coming school year.

God bless,

Michael Lambrecht

Dcn. Michael Lambrecht

The Importance of Attending Mass

The importance of the Mass and Eucharist cannot be overstated. In fact, the Catechism tells us that, “The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ ‘The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.’” (CCC 1324)

As such, it is a very serious tragedy that takes place when we withhold the Eucharistic blessings from our children. For this reason, it is vital to the spiritual well-being of you and your children to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As you know, our actions speak louder than our words. We can tell our children that it is important to attend Mass, or we can show them the way.

Please take time out of your busy schedule to worship God each week at Mass. If you do so, I believe that you will be pleasantly surprised at the results of God’s grace at work in your lives.

Holy Days of Obligation (in the United States)

Each and Every Sunday

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	August 15*
All Saints Day	November 1*
The Immaculate Conception	December 8
Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	December 25
Mary, Mother of God	January 1*

* When these days fall on a Saturday or a Monday, the precept to attend Mass on that particular date is abrogated (removed) in the U.S.

Religious Education Policies

Attendance and Absences:

In order to ensure that the students of our Religious Education Program receive the best faith formation we can provide, we ask that parents of students who miss class call the Religious Education Office to let us know why the child has missed class. This should preferably be done as soon as possible when you know your child will be missing class, but may be done within a couple of days following the class if circumstances warrant. *If no call or email is received, the absence will be assumed to be unexcused by the Religious Education Office.*

Three unexcused absences will require the parents of the child to make arrangements with the Religious Education Office to avoid having their son or daughter repeat the grade. Students will be granted an excused absence for valid reasons. Some examples of *excused absences* include illness, family vacation, and family emergencies. Some examples of *unexcused absences* include sports and too much homework. The Director of Religious Education reserves the right to make decisions on whether an absence is excused or not.

If a student misses a class, there may be make-up work assigned to help keep the child from falling behind his or her peers. Please keep absences to a minimum as they create a lot of extra work for our catechists and students trying to catch up on material missed.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices:

The use of electronic devices including cellular phones, video games, mp3 players, etc. are prohibited during class. Anyone caught with an electronic device may have it confiscated from them at the catechist's discretion. If this occurs, a parent may be required to pick up the device after class from the R.E. Office.

Class Times, Pick Up, and Drop Off:

All classes will begin at 6:30 PM and end at 7:45 PM. *(Please note that evenings with Mass may run a few minutes late.)*

Please do not drop your child off prior to fifteen minutes before class begins. Also, all students should be picked up within ten minutes of class ending. Any student not picked up by 7:55 will be taken to the R.E. Office for pick-up.

It is our policy that students in Grades K-2 should be picked up by a parent or guardian in their classroom at the end of class. All other grades will be dismissed from their classes at 7:45 PM.

Discipline:

It is our desire to provide the best possible environment for Religious Education. Above all, we desire to teach our children to act virtuously based upon Gospel values through our witness and help.

As such, all students are expected to be respectful and cooperative during class. If a teacher deems it necessary to remove a student from the classroom for misbehavior, he or she will be sent to the Religious Education Office.

For lesser infractions, the student will be given a verbal warning. At the discretion of the Director of Religious Education, the student may be sent back to class or wait out the remaining class time in the R.E. Office. Contact to the parents will be made the second time a student is sent to the office or if the first offense is deemed serious enough to warrant it.

In cases of severe or continuing behavioral problems, the DRE reserves the right to suspend or even remove (expel) any student from the program. The following are reasons for immediate suspension or expulsion:

- Actions gravely detrimental to the moral and/or spiritual welfare of the other students.

- Willful and/or open disobedience, disrespect, profanity, or force towards any Religious Education Personnel.
- Use, sale of, distribution, or possession of any illegal drug, alcoholic beverage, or other harmful substance on or near the school premises.
- Fighting on or near the school premises.
- Misuse, stealing, or destruction of indoor school furniture or property, or outside playground equipment or property.
- Leaving the classroom or school premises without administrative permission.
- Remaining outside or in another place while classes are in session.
- The possession of a firearm, knife, or any other weapon perceived to be a threat.
- Possession of pornography of any type.
- Consistent lack of cooperation in the classroom.

Resumption of Classes for Suspended Students:

If a student is suspended, he or she will be required to turn in any missed assignments and/or make-up work prior to resuming classes. At the discretion of the DRE, a parent may also be required to attend classes with their child once the suspension is served until the DRE deems it no longer necessary. Prior to a parent attending classes with their child, they are required to take our Diocesan Safe Environment training. If the parent does not wish to go through Safe Environment training or attend class with their child, they have the following options:

1. They can do home study with their child, for which they will be accountable to the Religious Education Office. (Please note that this option is not available during the sacramental preparation years of second or tenth grade.)
2. They can take their child out of the Religious Education Program. Please note: If this option is chosen, in order to

celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, proof of completing Religious Education Courses in the form of a written examination is required.

Diocesan Assessment Testing

In the Diocese of La Crosse, it is customary to give an assessment test to those in 4th, 8th, and 10th grade. These tests are very important as they allow us to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses so as to improve our religious education program. If you have any questions on this practice, please contact the R.E. Office.

Dress Code:

Hats and jackets may not be worn in the classroom. Bare midriffs and visible undergarments are also unacceptable attire for the Religious Education setting. Parents, please discuss this policy with your children before classes begin so that it does not become an issue the teachers have to deal with.

Food and Drink:

Students are always free to bring bottled water. It is at the catechist's discretion as to whether or not students will be allowed to chew gum, eat food, or drink other beverages inside their classroom. If such a privilege is granted, abuse may lead to it being taken away by the catechist or DRE. Students are encouraged to make sure that they dispose of any waste properly.

Homework:

The student is responsible for completing all work assigned by their teacher and turning it in on time.

Lenten Mite Boxes

Each year during Lent, the parishes in the Diocese of La Crosse take a collection to support the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Mite boxes are given out to the students to give them a chance to

participate in caring for the poor through Lenten giving. Funds raised help to provide food to hungry children, access to education, and more. Please consider giving your child a few extra chores during this time so that they may earn some extra money to give in support of this worthwhile project. More information may be found at: <https://diolc.org/missions/>

Medical Emergencies

In the case of a medical emergency, call 911 immediately. Inform the operator of your situation, building, and area where you are located.

Church Building: 113 West Kort St. Rothschild

School Building: 112 West Kort St. Schofield

After calling 911, please inform the DRE immediately.

Medical Non-Emergencies

If a student becomes ill or receives a minor injury, the student may be sent to the R.E. Office where there is a first aid kit, and the parents can be informed. If a student is injured, even with a minor injury, the student or catechist should write up a report of how it happened and submit it to the R.E. Office as soon as possible. All injuries must be written up and kept on file in the R.E. office.

Parent Attendance Policy

We love to see parents take an active role in the religious education of their children. However, classroom visits sometimes have the disadvantage of being a distraction for the visiting parent's child, other students, or sometimes even catechists.

As such, if a parent wishes to attend a class with their child they must first notify the R.E. Office at least two weeks in advance so that the proper arrangements can be made. All parents visiting classes will need to be trained in our Diocesan Safe Environment policies and procedures. For more information, please contact the R.E. Office.

Parking:

In order to help insure the safety of all of our students, Father has asked everyone to avoid parking on Kort Street from 6-8 PM during Faith Formation. If you are a parent and need to park for an extended period of time, we ask that you please use one of our parking lots located on the south side of the church or on the north side of the school.

By keeping the avenue between the church and school as open as possible, we are hopeful that the greater visibility will help improve safety while drop offs and pick ups are made. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Registration:

All students must register each year. Parents of new students should submit a copy of their child's baptismal certificate if their child was not baptized at St. Therese Parish.

Registration Fees:

First Child	\$60.00
Second Child	\$50.00
Third Child	\$40.00
Fourth+ Child	Free

*Second Grade Sacramental Fee: +\$25.00 per student

The fees listed above are for the number of children in a family currently being enrolled in the parish religious education program. Please contact the R.E. Office if you are in need of financial aid. We don't want anyone not to attend faith formation due to our fees.

Please note: The Confirmation Retreat fee is paid separately from the registration fee and is an additional charge.

Required Service Hours:

The purpose of requiring service hours prior to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation is to encourage students to live the

Christian Life. "...as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Mt 25:40)

As such, a minimum of 30 hours of community service are required prior to Confirmation. Hours are tracked from the beginning of seventh grade through tenth grade. Our parish sponsors several events which help students meet this requirement. Please see the Volunteer Service Hour Form for more details. The form is available online or in the R.E. Office.

Sacramental Preparation:

Any parents of children who have not celebrated Baptism should contact the R.E. Office as soon as possible. Likewise, any parents of children who are past the second grade and have not celebrated Reconciliation or First Eucharist should also notify the R.E. Office at the time of registration in order to arrange for their child to receive these very important sacraments.

Sacraments During Faith Formation:

Father Albert will be celebrating Mass and Reconciliation with the students periodically throughout the year. Please refer to the Religious Education Schedule for details as to when these will be celebrated. On evenings with Mass, students should meet in their classrooms at 6:30 PM as usual. Masses will begin at 6:45 PM, and students will be dismissed immediately afterwards from the Church. Please note that evenings with Mass are likely to run past the normal 7:45 PM dismissal time. Reconciliation will begin at 6:30 PM and will also be held in the Church. Parents are enthusiastically invited to attend.

School Building:

Students must respect the property of Saint Therese School. Any student responsible for not following this policy will be held accountable for replacing any damaged or missing property. In the event that the student responsible cannot be determined or does not accept responsibility, the entire class in which the loss happened may be held accountable.

Snow Days:

Religious Education classes will be cancelled due to inclement weather if D.C. Everest Schools are closed for the day or dismissed early. They may also be cancelled at the discretion of the DRE for other suitable reasons. If able, we will place a notification on our parish website, email the parents, and change the R.E. Office voicemail to reflect when classes are cancelled. As always, if you are not comfortable driving your child to St. Therese due to weather conditions, you may always call the R.E. Office to let us know that your child will not be at class.

Student Envelopes:

Each student will be issued a packet of offertory envelopes. The student is encouraged to give to the Church as acknowledgment of God's gracious gifts to us, as well as to help develop a spirit of charity. The envelopes may be placed in the general collection basket at weekend Masses.

Textbooks:

As noted in the Catechetical Overview (found later in this book), we use the **FAITH AND LIFE** series for grades 1-8. These books contain excellent content for teaching the faith. Students are not allowed to write in the textbooks as these will be used year after year. There is a separate activity book that many catechists use for class which may be written in.

The students will be required to complete any lessons assigned by their teacher in the activity books. At the end of the year, the activity books remain the students to keep. However, all textbooks should be returned in good condition.

Failure to turn in a textbook in good condition will result in the parents of the student being billed \$12 for a replacement text. As such, I strongly encourage the students to cover their textbooks. This will enable us to save money in future years by only reordering the necessary activity books.

Traditional Catholic Prayers

Each year the students are asked to focus especially on one specific prayer to help them grow spiritually. While other prayers will also be used during the year, the list below shows which prayer, in particular, each grade will focus on. By the time the students complete the tenth grade, they will have a solid foundation of basic Catholic prayers on which to rely on throughout their entire lives. Please encourage your child to pray each day to help commit them to memory.

“The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer.” - CCC #2688



K	The Sign of the Cross
1	Hail Mary
2	Act of Contrition
3	Our Father
4	The Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
5	The Apostles' Creed
6	Memorare
7	Prayer to Jesus after Receiving Him in Holy Communion
8	The Morning Offering
9	Praying with Scripture (Lectio Divina)
10	Developing a Relationship with the Holy Spirit

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

+In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy Gifts,
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEALS

We give Thee thanks almighty God for these and all Thy gifts,
who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.
May the souls of the faithfully departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against You,
whom I should love above all things.
I have hurt myself and others.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more and avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

PRAYER TO MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here.
Ever this day (night) be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary
I offer thee my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world.
I offer them for all the intentions of thy Sacred Heart:
the salvation of souls, reparation for sin,
and the reunion of all Christians.
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops
and of all Apostles of Prayer,
and in particular for those recommended
by our Holy Father this month. Amen.

ACT OF FAITH

O my God,
I firmly believe that thou art one God in three Divine Persons:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that thy Divine Son became man and died for our sins,
and that he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church
teaches, because thou hast revealed them,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

ACT OF HOPE

O my God,
relying on thy infinite goodness and promises,
I hope to obtain pardon of my sins,
the help of thy grace, and life everlasting,
through the merits of Jesus Christ,
my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

ACT OF LOVE (CHARITY)

O my God,
I love thee above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because thou art all good and worthy of all my love.
I love my neighbor as myself for the love of thee. I forgive all
who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have
injured. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(At the words that follow, up to and including "The Virgin Mary," all bow)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother:
to thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

PRAYER TO JESUS AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus, I believe in you.

Jesus, I hope in You.

Jesus, I want to love You with all my heart.

Jesus, I thank You for having come to dwell in me.

I welcome You into my heart and I ask you to “crowd out”
whatever might be there that is not of You.

And I desire to give You full reign as my Lord,
my Savior and my King.

Thank You for giving Your life for me on the Cross,
loving me this much and allowing me to receive You
into my heart in this present moment.

And now that You are so close to me,
please help me love You more and more,
and serve You by loving the people around me. Amen.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit,

fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant us in the same Spirit
to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The Joyful Mysteries (Mon. & Sat.)

The Annunciation

The Visitation

The Nativity

The Presentation

The Finding in the Temple

Focus

Humility

Charity

Poverty

Obedience

Piety

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tues. & Fri.)

The Agony in the Garden

The Scourging at the Pillar

The Crowning with Thorns

The Carrying of the Cross

The Crucifixion

Contrition

Purity

Courage

Patience

Self-denial

The Glorious Mysteries (Wed. & Sun.)

The Resurrection

The Ascension

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Assumption

The Coronation of Mary Queen of Heaven

Faith

Hope

Love

Eternal Happiness

Devotion to Mary

The Luminous Mysteries (Thurs.)

Baptism in the Jordan

The Wedding at Cana

Proclamation of the Kingdom

The Transfiguration

Jesus' institution of the Eucharist

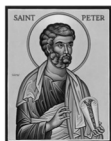
Submission to God

Trust in God

Great Commission

Divine Knowledge

Communion (with God)



THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Wisdom

Understanding

Counsel

Fortitude

Knowledge

Piety

Fear of the Lord



THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Charity

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Perseverance

Mildness

Faith

Modesty

Continency

Chastity

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17)

1. I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet... anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

The Precepts of the Church

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall humbly receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting & abstinence.
5. The faithful have the obligation of supporting the Church.

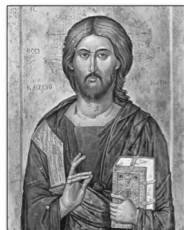
2022 - 2023 Religious Education Schedule For All Students in Grades 1-10

All class times are from 6:30-7:45 PM

September	14	Classes Begin (Grades 1-10) PARENT MEETING (All Parents) <i>*All students & parents should meet in the church</i>
September	21	Class Parent Safe Environment Training (Gym)
September	28	Class TOB PARENT MEETING (Grade 6)
October	5	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 3)
October	12	Family Night @ St. Mark's (Grades 1-10) <i>Please meet @ St. Mark's by 6:10 PM. Parents are encouraged to attend!</i>
October	19	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 4) Grade 2 Parent Meeting (Gym @ 6:35)
October	26	NO CLASSES (Catechist In-service)
November	2	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 5)
November	9	Class TWL Parent Meeting (Grade 1)
November	16	Class & Reconciliation (Grades 6)
November	23	NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
November	30	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 7)
December	7	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 8)
December	14	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 9)
December	21	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 10)
December	28	NO CLASSES - MERRY CHRISTMAS!



January	4	Classes Resume (All Grades) Kindergarten Classes Begin TWL Parent Meeting (Grade 4 - Gym)
January	11	Class & Reconciliation (Grades 3)
January	18	Class TWL Parent Meeting (Grade 8 - Gym)
January	25	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 4)
February	1	Class
February	8	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 5)
February	15	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 6)
February	22	Mass – Ash Wednesday
March	1	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 7)
March	8	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 8)
March	15	Class
March	22	NO CLASSES - HAPPY SPRING BREAK!
March	29	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 9)
April	5	Class
April	12	Class & Reconciliation (Grade 10)
April	19	Class
April	26	Class First Eucharist Rehearsal (Grade 2)
May	3	End of the Year Mass



Special Requirements for Second Graders

Oct. 19	6:35 PM	Parent Meeting (Gym)
	7:30 PM	Alb Fitting (with 2nd graders)
April 19	7:15 PM	First Reconciliation Practice
April 22	9:00 AM	Retreat Day: First Reconciliation, Luncheon, & First Eucharist Practice
April 26	6:30 PM	Final First Eucharist Practice (Meet in the church)
April 30	1:30 PM	First Eucharist

Prayers for Second Graders

Second Graders are to memorize the following prayers prior to receiving First Eucharist:

The Ten Commandments	The Our Father
The Hail Mary	The Glory Be
Grace Before Meals	The Act of Contrition

Blessed: First Reconciliation

Chapter Title

You are Blessed
The Best Version of Yourself
God Sent Jesus to Save Us
Forgiveness and Healing
Your First Reconciliation
It's Only the Beginning

Blessed: First Communion

Chapter Title

Sunday is Special
The Greatest Event on Earth
The Word of God
The Eucharist
Your First Communion
God's Family



2022-2023 Sunday Class Mass Schedule

10 AM Class Mass Schedule

October 2	Grades 1-4
October 9	Grades 5-7
October 16	Grades 8-10
November 6	Grades 1-4
November 13	Grades 5-7
November 20	Grades 8-10
December 4	Grades 1-4
December 11	Grades 5-7
December 18	Grades 8-10
January 8	Grades 1-4
January 15	Grades 5-7
January 22	Grades 8-10
February 5	Grades 1-4
February 12	Grades 5-7
February 19	Grades 8-10
March 5	Grades 1-4
March 12	Grades 5-7
March 19	Grades 8-10

Confirmation Retreat for 10th Graders

Each year, our candidates are required to go on a retreat prior to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat is held in the spring and the date is currently TBD. More information will follow.

Server Training

If your child has received their First Eucharist and is interested in learning how to serve, the first step is to contact the Parish Office at 715-359-2421.

Kindergarten Program

Each January we offer a free program for children in Kindergarten to give them a chance to learn more about their faith. The program will meet during the normal Religious Education class time and will focus on Moses and Jesus using a VeggieTales™ themed curriculum. If you are interested in signing up your child for this wonderful opportunity, please contact the R.E. Office.

Children's Choir

Students in Grades 3 through 7 are invited to be part of the Saint Therese Children's Choir. Tentative plans will be to rehearse each Wednesday from 6:00 - 6:30 PM, before Faith Formation classes.

Children are released directly to class at the end of rehearsal. We will sing once a month at a 10:00 a.m. Mass during the school year, and we will lead music at Religious Education Masses and also at the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve.

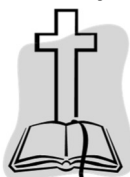
To get more information or to sign your child up contact Lynn Hildebrandt at 715-551-0188 or lynn_hildebrandt@yahoo.com.

Teen Choir

Teens are an important part of our parish who bring their own unique gifts, and among them is their vitality and love of music.

We invite you to become active in the Teen choir. The Teen Choir provides a mix of contemporary and traditional music for students in grades 8-12. We will sing once a month at the 10:00 a.m. Mass during the school year, at the Children's Mass for Christmas, and for First Eucharist.

Come join the fun! To sign up, please contact Lynn Hildebrandt with any questions at lynn_hildebrandt@yahoo.com or 715-551-0188.



Family Fun Nights

Family Fun Nights take place on the third Friday of most months from 6-9 PM in the church hall. The purpose of the event is to bring families together to play some games and have some fun. Bring your favorite card game, board game, or puzzle. We hope to see you there! Please note that there are no FFNs in December or during Lent.

Sept. 16 Oct. 21 Nov. 18 Dec. 16 Jan. 20
Feb. 17 April 21 May 19 June 16

Youth Christmas Eve Pageant Schedule

(All students ages 4 and up are encouraged to participate)

Dec. 3	9:30-10:30 AM	First Rehearsal & Assign Parts
Dec. 10	9:30-10:30 AM	Rehearsal & Costumes
Dec. 17	9:30-10:30 AM	Dress Rehearsal
Dec. 24	3:25 PM	Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Eve Pageant this year will once again be directed by Marcy Stenstrom. Please contact her with any questions at 715-254-6818 or email marcy.stenstrom@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School (TBA Summer 2020)

Children ages 4-12 are encouraged to join us for our annual VBS. Teens helpers and adult volunteers are also needed. Please keep an eye on the bulletin this Spring for more information regarding the exact dates and times.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming Catholic, entering into full communion with the Catholic Church, or receiving missed Sacraments through the RCIA process should contact the R.E. Office at 715-298-7366.

Teaching the Way of Love Series

www.twl4parents.com

The *Teaching the Way of Love* series is a unique parenting program with a primary goal to teach parents how to become the primary educators of their children. It consists of the following 3 parts:

Part I: Embrace Parenthood

Who: Required for **all parents of children in grade 1.**
Parents of children in other grades are encouraged to attend as well.

When: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Where: St. Therese School Gymnasium

Embrace Parenthood is the first and most important step in the series. Parents alone are the target audience for this program; especially those with pre-school children through the third grade. It presents vital information on ten foundational principles that underpin fulfilling family life. Parents will learn what it takes to become a primary educator for their children, compare the differences between what the Catholic Church and the culture says about love and life, and acquire basic discipline and communication skills that will result in disciplined, motivated, and respectful children.

Part II: Growing in the Way of Love

Who: Required for **all parents of children in grade 4.**
Parents of children in other grades are welcome to attend if they would like.

When: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Where: St. Therese School Gymnasium

Growing in the Way of Love is the second presentation in the Teaching the Way of Love series. It is for parents of

children who are nearing puberty. The program teaches you how to guide your children in all areas of maturity; physical, personal, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

You will learn:

- The importance of becoming the go-to person for your child's questions about becoming an adult.
- How to develop a relationship with your children that will make them want to come to you for the answers.
- Why it's important to monitor what your children take in through the media.
- How to lead your children to chastity (sexual self-control) and mature adulthood.

Part III: Bodies and Boundaries

Who: Required for **all parents of children in grade 8.**

When: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Where: St. Therese School Gymnasium

Bodies and Boundaries is the third step in the series and focuses on key topics including sexuality, true love, chastity, and relationships.

Emphasis is placed on strengthening communication between parent and child and the development of behavioral standards that are based on the Ten Commandments.

Bodies and Boundaries provides parents with practical information to share with their young adult on forming solid, loving relationships that avoid the “hook-up” mentality, include discernment of a vocation, and understanding the role that their sexuality plays in the state of life to which they are called.

Recommended Catholic Websites

Saint Therese Parish	www.sttheresecc.org
Official Vatican Website	www.vatican.va
Diocese of La Crosse	www.diolc.org
Catholic Answers	www.catholic.com
List of Mass Times	www.masstimes.org
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	www.usccb.org



Do you have a student who is headed off to College?

If so, enroll him or her in the Newman Connection at:

www.newmanconnection.com

Keep your student connected to the Catholic faith!

Franciscan at Home

Would you like to learn more about our faith from the convenience of your home?

If so, then Franciscan at Home is for you.

There is no cost to you as our parish is already a member!

Go to franciscanathome.com and click on the 'Individual Sign Up' and then click the blue 'Free Sign Up' button. Create a new account to gain instant access to over 50 wonderful Catholic video workshops.

When registering, be sure to choose the Diocese of La Crosse and then click on 'St. Therese of the Child Jesus' parish.

Contact Dcn. Mike for more information or if you need help.

Catechetical Overview

Faith and Life

(Descriptions taken from the Ignatius Press Website)

The **FAITH AND LIFE** religion series has been hailed as a breakthrough in the field of religious education. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original artwork with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation in an easy-to-read and stimulating format that is being praised by teachers, students and parents everywhere.

Grade One: Our Heavenly Father

THEME:

Introduction to the Trinity, with emphasis on the life of Jesus, the plan of salvation, and the child's part in the plan. Acquaints child with Mary, angels and saints. Child learns basic prayers.

SEQUENCE:

Ch.1-8: The Old Testament, God our creator; our home in Heaven lost through original sin; the world prepares for the Savior.

Ch. 9-21: The Incarnation, life, death, & Resurrection of Jesus.

Ch. 22-28: The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Mary our mother.

AIM: To give the first grade student a basic introduction to God, the life of our Savior, and to prayer, with a special emphasis on growing to know, love, and trust God.



Grade Two: Jesus Our Life

THEME:

Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Commandments, Creation and Redemption.

SEQUENCE:

Ch. 1-16: God teaches us through his law; we obey through love.

Ch. 17-23: We find forgiveness of sins through Jesus' sacrifice.

Ch. 24-34: We prepare for life in Heaven by reception of Jesus in the Eucharist and our life in the Church.

AIM:

To prepare second grade students for Confession and Holy Communion, and to help them appreciate God's love for them shown in these two sacraments. There is an added emphasis on the order of the Mass and on prayer.

Grade Three: Our Life With Jesus

THEME:

God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion and the Mass.

SEQUENCE:

Ch. 1-7: The Old Testament covenant with God.

Ch. 8-14: Obedience through love of God and his laws. In Confession we meet Jesus in his mercy.

Ch. 15-25: The life of Jesus and Jesus in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Ch. 26-30: Our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit; our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints.

AIM:

To show the third grade students that they belong to God's chosen people and the child's family is an important part of God's family, the Church. Also, to encourage prayer and love for God's law.

Grade Four: Jesus Our Guide

THEME:

God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

SEQUENCE: B.C.: Before Christ

Ch. 1-14: The fall and the first murder. The sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his people and their leaders.

A.D. In the Year of Our Lord

Ch. 15-30: History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially in the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good.

AIM:

To help fourth grade students understand their purpose and goal in life, and to see God's plan in history and society to lead us all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

Grade Five: Credo: I Believe

THEME:

A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, and the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

SEQUENCE:

Unit 1: God the Father of All. The Old Testament and mankind's participation in and loss of God's life.

Unit 2: God the Son, the Redeemer. The fulfillment of God's plan in Christ, God and Man.

Unit 3: God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. Our call to holiness and witness in the Church.

AIM:

To help fifth grade students acquire a solid and specific knowledge of God and his Church through the understanding of the Creed we profess, and the distinguished truths of our faith from error that leads away from love of God.

Grade Six: Following Christ

THEME:

The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

SEQUENCE:

Part 1: The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God.

Part 2: The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.

AIM:

To help the sixth grade student learn to love the law as Christ did and to cherish and love the Mass as our best prayer to God, and especially to revere and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Grade Seven: The Life of Grace

THEME:

Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

SEQUENCE:

Part 1: God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people.

Part 2: God becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.

Part 3: God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.

AIM:

To help the young person treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works in our soul and its relation to practicing the virtues and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith.

Grades 6-8: Theology of the Body for Middle School

The *Theology of the Body for Teens Middle School* program reflects the pedagogical approach of St. John Paul II's revolutionary teaching.

The program gives sixth through eighth graders the answers to their tough questions concerning their bodies, their sexuality, and their future.

To learn more, please attend our parent meeting on

**September 28th, at 6:35 PM
in the school gymnasium**

Grade Eight: Our Life in the Church

THEME:

The history of the Church--its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

SEQUENCE:

Part 1: The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority. The early Church: Martyrs, Fathers, Saints and Mary.

Part 2: The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death, Judgment, the end of the world.

AIM:

To help the teenager know and love the Church as Christ's Body and the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that the young person may be strengthened through his life in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.

Grade Nine: You - Life, Love, & the Theology of the Body

FIRST SEMESTER THEME:

Identity. Gender. Love. Chastity. The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love.

In an age of “selfies” and egocentrism, *You* cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatable individuals. But the program doesn’t stop there.

YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

Grade Nine: T3 Bible Timeline

SECOND SEMESTER THEME:

Join Mark Hart in this DVD series which explores salvation history. Learn about the “big picture” of the Bible in a way that teens can relate to and understand.

Grade Ten: Chosen Confirmation Preparation

Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation is a program that prepares our students both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ.

All too often we see teens drift away from the Church after Confirmation. *Chosen* seeks to reverse this trend by winning over the hearts of teens at a critical time in their lives and keeping them firmly planted within the faith community of the Church.

Parents and St. Therese Parish: Partners in Religious Education

The Parents' Role in Our Partnership involves:

- Being a witness to your Catholic faith by attending weekly Mass with your family, following the precepts of the Church, performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and celebrating the Sacraments.
- Fostering Christian values in your home.
- Keeping current with Religious Education communications; i.e.: reading the Religious Education Handbook, Sunday bulletins, and any special letters.
- Actively participating in our program by attending parent meetings and volunteering as needed.
- Bringing your children to classes regularly and on time.
- Keeping your children at home if they are ill and communicating with the catechists to ensure all make-up work is completed in a timely fashion.

The Parish's Role in Our Partnership involves:

- Assisting parents in their role as the primary educators of their children.
- Supporting your household of faith by providing resources and prayer rituals to help you to share your faith with your children.
- Providing progress reports for your children when necessary and communicating promptly if concerns arise with your children.
- Monitoring your children while Religious Education Classes are in session.
- Maintaining an atmosphere of love, care, respect, and acceptance.

Safe Environment Training for Parents

Please note: all of the forms, materials, and videos for our Safe Environment Training can be found on the diocesan website at <http://diolc.org/safe-environment/parents/>

Instructions

Step 1:

Read all of the required reading:

- The Red Book
- The Green Book
- 5 Steps to a Safe Environment
- Red Flags in Adults
- Red Flags in Children
- Practical Guidelines

Step 2:

Watch the Safe Environment Video

Step 3:

Complete the Education Receipt form found on the next page of this booklet or complete the training online on the diocesan website.

*Note: All students will go through a safe environment training class that is appropriate to their age group. If you would not like your child to receive this training, you may opt out by filling out the form available on the diocesan website or on page 42 of this booklet and returning it to the R.E. Office by October 1st, For more information, please contact the R.E. Office.

Parents: Please tear out, sign, and return this form to the parish office. Also, please fill out the back of this form if you would like to opt your child out of the Safe Environment training program.

Verification of Parent Safe Environment Training

- I acknowledge that I have reviewed *On Sexual Misconduct for the Diocese of La Crosse*, and (the green book), *Child Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures of the Diocese of La Crosse*, on the diocesan website at: <http://diolc.org/safe-environment/>
- I have attended the training held at the parish.
- I would like to come to the parish to receive the Safe Environment training. Please contact me to set up a time.
- I am declining to take the safe environment training but acknowledge that it has been offered to me.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Name (Printed)

Date

Child or Children's Names

Child or Children's Names

Child or Children's Names

Please return to the Parish R.E. Office by September 30th.
(Form to be kept at the R.E. Office)

Student Training Declination

The Diocese of La Crosse provides Safe Environment training from the Catholic perspective to participating individuals in its programs.

The substance and focus of the training is as follows:

Kindergarten-Second Grade: Students will learn about their dignity (their incredible worth) as children of God and the respect that each person deserves as a child of God. Students will learn about safety, safe environment and the care that is to surround them, the difference between appropriate, kind actions and behavior that makes them feel safe, secure and loved, and inappropriate, harmful actions and behaviors that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Grade Three-Five: Students will learn about the virtue of respect, which is based upon the dignity of each human person. Students will learn the importance of saying “no” to inappropriate, harmful actions, behavior and touch that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Children will be encouraged to tell immediately a trusted adult when these situations arise and will learn about the buddy system.

Grades Six-Eight: Students will learn about how each person, including themselves, must be treated with respect. Students will learn about, and seek to develop or further develop, the virtue of prudence-making good decisions. Students will learn practical tips for keeping themselves safe and will discuss defensive and assertive body language to protect themselves.

High School: Students will understand virtue, which are good moral habits, and vice, which are bad moral habits. Students will discuss the virtue of chastity and modesty; learn practical steps for protecting themselves and others from sexual abuse, including the ability to recognize warning signs and how to react to abuse and to the possible threat of abuse.

I acknowledge that the Diocese of La Crosse has offered my child(ren) Safe Environment education by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and by the Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of La Crosse. I am declining this training and do not want my student(s) to participate in the Safe Environment Program training.

My reason(s) for opting out: _____

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Name (Printed)

Date

Child or Children's Names (Please Print)

*To opt out, this form must be returned to the Parish R.E. Office by the end of September of the current school year as the training will begin during the month of October.



A Note on Confirmation



Confirmation at Saint Therese Parish takes place during the Fall of eleventh grade. Students are to attend religious education classes throughout their tenth grade year in preparation for this wonderful sacrament. The Confirmation retreat date will be given to you as soon as possible to help you plan for your child to attend. The candidate meetings with Father Albert are typically held the summer between the tenth and eleventh grade years. All service hours must be completed prior to Confirmation.



Prayer for Insight

May the Lord Jesus touch our eyes,
as he did those of the blind.

Then we shall begin to see in visible things
those which are invisible.

May he open our eyes to gaze,
not on present realities,
but on the blessings to come.

May he open the eyes of our heart to contemplate God in Spirit,
through Jesus Christ the Lord,

to whom belong power and glory through all eternity.

Amen.