

Dear Parents:

Hello and welcome to another fantastic year of Religious Education at St. Peter's Church! To those of you I have not met yet, I would like to introduce myself as the new Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry. I am excited to begin this year with you as another chapter in my own journey of faith toward a closer relationship with God as I follow the call to teach the faith.

I have been intrigued by religious education since I started to volunteer as a Catechist before college. I was introduced to the joy of passing on the faith to the youth with a first-grade class. The following year I became more involved with my youth group, and started teaching a third-grade class. I strongly felt that God was calling me to continue my involvement with education and the Catholic faith, so I began to pursue a Catholic education.

When I made the decision to go to Northeast Catholic College, a liberal arts education with a focus on community in the Catholic faith, I knew it would bring me closer to where God was calling me. My Junior year I decided to focus my studies in a concentration on Theology. I studied some Scripture, Theology of the Body, Medieval Theology, and took an in depth look at the Creed and the Sacraments. I decided by my Senior year that I wanted to continue studying Theology and teach religion at a parish church. I am currently attending an online graduate program in pursuit of an MA in Theology as I continue to follow God's call to bring the faith to each person I encounter.

In addition to my love of teaching the Catholic faith, I also have a background in art and theatre. I have been drawing and painting for over ten years, including digital media design. I started volunteering to teach at an art studio the same time I started teaching religious education before college. While attending Northeast Catholic College I became involved in the theatre program by volunteering as a set painter, and eventually designed my own set for the 2016 *Pride and Prejudice* production. I started acting my Sophomore year as Officer Klein in the 2015 production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and again my Junior year as Charlotte Lucas in the 2016 production, *Pride and Prejudice*. I am excited to bring these talents to St. Peter's religious education program in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your warm welcome! Everyone has been so open and friendly. I feel very blessed to be here, and I am incredibly excited to begin this new school year with all of you. Please feel free to introduce yourself at any time, I would love to meet and chat with you!

God bless you, keep you, and love you!

Sincerely,

Sophia Kelly

Expectations and Policies

St. Peter Parish, Religious Education, 2017-2018

Attendance

Mass: is essential to faith formation throughout our lives. The Catholic Faith requires practicing Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday in observance of the Lord's Day.

We encourage you strongly to come to Mass as a family; this is the most important part of teaching the Catholic faith.

In order to ensure the student has received a well grounded education in the faith, we ask that students attend all classes and consider some of the youth events. If a student misses a class, the DRE will contact the parent(s) of the student with an option of making up the class with an alternate assignment. If make-up work assignments are ignored and the student misses **more than 5 classes**, they will need to complete a summer workbook and answer questions to the DRE's satisfaction, in order to continue in the next grade the following year. **Failure to complete Summer makeup work will result in a grade repeat.**

Any student attending less than 4 classes in an entire year, must repeat the year in full.

Attendance for Sacramental Prep (grades: 2,9,10)

If a student is preparing for a sacrament (First Penance & Communion, Grade 9, or Grade 10), and misses **more than 4 classes**, regardless of completing make-up work, he/she will need to meet with Fr. Michael to discuss if there is a need to catch-up; **this could result in the delay of the reception of the sacrament.**

Any student attending less than 4 classes in an entire year, may be asked to repeat the year in full.

(Exception may be given if there is grave need or student expresses sincere desire to not be delayed in the reception of the sacrament. Makeup work may be assigned as each individual case requires).

Advancing Grades

For those students who seek to advance one or more grades: they enter the grade prior to the grade they are seeking to enter. By the end of the year, they have to complete the book of each grade they missed, and answer the questions given by the DRE. If they fail to do the work or to answer the questions correctly (two chances), they repeat the year they just completed.

Ex. Student seeking 7th grade who has skipped 5th&6th: Student goes into 6th grade, and completes the 5th grade book and questions by the end of the summer following the 6th grade year. The student can then join the 7th grade class in the fall. (A student missing only one year goes into the year they intend, and finishes the work for the year they missed by the end of the academic year.)

Leaving Early

Students are not permitted to leave the premises in the middle of class, nor dismiss themselves. If they do so, disciplinary action will

be taken. This is a safety issue, and a fairness issue. The Director strives for the safety and security of all children present for the entirety of the the class time. If a student needs to leave early, the **parent must come and get their child from class, and tell the Director before leaving.**

*This policy is not concerning bathroom/water breaks.

Behavior

Every student is expected to be respectful of the Pastor, Director, volunteer teachers, and other students. This includes proper volume, kindness, and personal space. Mocking and disrespect of others is not tolerated. Failure to comply with this expected behavior will result in a **call for parents to sit with their child during the entirety of the following class.**

Homework

There is **no homework** during the next year. However, the Director may send out reviews and study recommendations throughout the year. Please take these seriously, as a means of helping your family grow in faith.

Coming into this Program from Another Parish or School

For those individuals who attend another parish/program/school and then choose to join our program, the protocol is: a letter of completion from the school or parish where they were prior.

Faith and Family Pages for Grades 1-6

In the Alive in Christ series for grades 1-6, there are "Faith and Family" pages located at the end of each section. It is **strongly encouraged** for parents to review these pages with their child after their Sunday class.

What is the Remind App?

The Remind app is another way to keep in touch with parents and students about upcoming events for classes and youth group. Remind is used to supplement the calendar, and allows parents to receive emails or texts of event and class reminders. Only one-way chat is permitted to guard the security and privacy of minors.

Signing up for the Remind app is OPTIONAL. I will still send reminders via email, and announcements will be made in the Sunday bulletin.

Sophia Kelly

The following information can also be accessed online at: www.remind.com.

Why Use Remind?

Remind helps you stay connected

You are your child's first teacher. Student success depends on the support of networks that include parents, teachers, and other key stakeholders in their school communities.

To strengthen these partnerships, teachers are using Remind to bring learning home. Remind is a free messaging app that keeps families up to date with what's happening in the classroom.

Teachers can send messages to an entire class, smaller groups, or individuals. These quick, simple messages can help you and your student stay informed about

- Homework assignments
- Field trip updates
- Schedule changes
- Personalized support or feedback
- And more

Remind is built for education

- Personal contact information stays private. Phone numbers aren't exchanged between teachers, students, and parents.
- Messages can't be edited or deleted, so a complete message history is always available to access and download.
- Everyone has the ability to report users who violate [Remind's Community Guidelines](#).
- Students under the age of 13 need to enter a parent or guardian's email address before using Remind. They can only receive messages from their teachers.

Remind is accessible

- Teachers can use Remind to reach students and parents on any device, including texting-only phones—no smartphones necessary.
- Students and parents can receive Remind messages by text (in the United States and Canada), email, and push notifications on the app.

- Remind is free to use for teachers, students, and parents. Standard text messaging and data rates may apply, so check to see if you're on a per-text phone plan or a limited data plan. But you can always log in to your account on the web.
- The mobile app is available in six different languages. If you use Remind in Spanish, French, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese (Brazilian), or German, you can automatically translate messages sent in different languages.

Remind helps save time

- No more outdated school websites or long newsletters. Remind messages are shorter than 300 characters and sent directly to your mobile phone.
- If you have the ability to compose a message, you can reach out to teachers or other parents in a class. Watch for teachers' office hours to see when you'll get the quickest response.
- Stay in touch on-the-go. Send PDFs, personalized voice clips, and quick photos of permission slips or assignments directly from your phone.

Signing up is easy

To join a Remind class, you'll need a class code from a teacher, coach, administrator, or organization leader. Each code is unique, but it always looks like this: *@classcode*.

Once you have a class code, there are three ways to join the class:

1. Sign up for text notifications by texting *@classcode* to 81010.
2. Go to the remind.com/join/classcode and follow the directions.
3. [Download the Remind app](#) from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), [sign up for an account](#) with your email address, and enter the class code when prompted.

To sign up you will need the **class code** for your child's grade group, or youth group:

K-3: @kbfhg

4-6: @4fd84e

7-8: @e9aka4

9-10: @e7e97c

Teen Fire: @ge29kh

St. Peter's Youth: @af8344

ST. PETER'S YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

Youth Ministry is the backbone of Faith Formation in the parish. This is where the youth of the parish experience what it means to be Catholic in community among their peers. Community is solidarity, worship, and culture. Youth Ministry focuses on these aspects in a way that is approachable by middle and high school students: by building friendships, praying together, and joining in fun activities and service projects.

Youth Ministry needs YOU!

Parental support is what helps Youth Ministry programs THRIVE. How can you help support St. Peter's Youth Ministry Program?

- **Prayer:** PRAY for the youth of St. Peter! Prayer is so powerful! God listens to our prayers, and in turn our hearts become more open to His will and more joyful in our love for others. Some amazing saints for the youth to pray to for intercession: St. Maria Goretti, St. Pope John Paul II, St. John Bosco, and St. Therese of Lisieux.
- **Encouragement:** If you have a middle or high school aged child, ENCOURAGE them to attend the meetings, retreats, and service projects provided by the Youth Ministry Program. There will always be dinner and snacks provided for our monthly evening meetings.
- **Time, Talent, and Treasure:** If you have the TIME to help out during our monthly meetings, or to chaperone a retreat or service project; or if you have the TALENT to help support areas of the Youth Ministry program, such as in music, leadership, or a love of God so intense your heart is burning to share it with others; or if you have the ability to GIVE financially to help support the program...do not hesitate to contact me! WE NEED YOU! 😊

OUR PROGRAMS

TEEN FIRE



Teen Fire is for high school students from 9th-12th grade. Each meeting begins with Adoration, putting the Eucharist at the center of the ministry. As the Youth Ministry Program grows this year, we hope to also include a Summer retreat, as well as service project opportunities for **Teen Fire**.

St. Peter's Youth



St. Peter's Youth is for middle school students from 5th to 8th grade. Last year we held a T-Shirt design contest, tons of fun activities, and helped one another grow in faith. We hope to include service project opportunities as well!

NOTE: The Youth Ministry Program is still in the planning stages, but please look out for calendar dates and event notices! 😊

K-3

Sundays at 9:25 AM - 10:25 AM

8/27/2017 Orientation
9/17/2017 Safety Class
10/1/2017
10/22/2017
11/5/2017
11/19/2017
12/10/2017
1/7/2018
1/21/2018
2/4/2018
2/18/2018
3/11/2018
3/25/2018
4/15/2018
5/6/2018 Snow Day

4-6

Sundays, 11:35 AM - 12:35 PM

8/27/2017 Orientation
9/17/2017 Safety Class
10/1/2017
10/22/2017
11/5/2017
11/19/2017
12/10/2017
1/7/2018
1/21/2018
2/4/2018
2/18/2018
3/11/2018
3/25/2018
4/15/2018
5/6/2018 Snow Day

7-8

Sundays, 9:25 AM - 10:25 AM

9/10/2017 Orientation
9/24/2017 Safety Class
10/15/2017
10/29/2017
11/12/2017
12/3/2017
12/17/2017
1/14/2018
1/28/2018
2/11/2018
3/4/2018
3/18/2018
4/8/2018
4/29/2018
5/6/2018 Snow Day

9-10

Sundays, 9:25 AM - 10:25 AM

9/10/2017 Orientation
9/24/2017 Safety Class
10/15/2017
10/29/2017
11/12/2017
12/3/2017
12/17/2017
1/14/2018
1/28/2018
2/11/2018
3/4/2018
3/18/2018
4/8/2018
4/29/2018
5/6/2018 Snow Day