



# St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish

## Religious Education Pre K—11 Handbook 2020 — 2021



Please save your Religious Education information handbook, which includes updates to our safety precautions in light of COVID-19, a removable class calendar for the year, and ways to get involved with our parish community.

St. John the Evangelist Parish  
Religious Education Office

833 Main Street  
Agawam, MA 01001  
www.stjohnagawam.com

YouTube Page: *St John the Evangelist Church*  
Parishioners share activities on the Facebook Page:  
*Friends of St. John the Evangelist Parish — Agawam, MA*  
Email: sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

Tel: 413-786-8105, ext. 103

Fax: 413-455-3100

Mission Statement

*St. John the Evangelist's Religious Education program helps to support parents in their responsibility as the primary educators of their children. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our goal is to provide direction and information to help parents in catechesis, and the religious, moral, and spiritual formation of their children through nurturing, engaging, and faith-filled environments and materials. Through the cooperative effort of parents, catechists, and students, our children will grow and deepen their Christian faith and identity, and build a strong and lasting relationship with Jesus Christ.*

Participation Forms and Fees

All children are welcome.

Registrations are available in the office or on the website. Participation fees are \$55.00 per child, \$100.00 for two or more children.

Cash or check only, please.

The participation fee is waived for children of those who volunteer as catechists. If you are new to the parish, please call the Parish Office and we can assist you in registration.

St. John's 

# What We Practice

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The 10 Commandments</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.</li> <li>2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.</li> <li>3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.</li> <li>4. Honor your father and your mother.</li> <li>5. You shall not kill.</li> <li>6. You shall not commit adultery.</li> <li>7. You shall not steal.</li> <li>8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</li> <li>9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.</li> <li>10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Precepts of the Church</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation</li> <li>2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.</li> <li>3. You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.</li> <li>4. You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.</li> <li>5. You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.</li> </ol> <p>The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Holy Days of Obligation</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 1, 2020 — All Saints          December 8, 2020 — Immaculate Conception          December 25, 2020 — Christmas          January 1, 2021 — Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God          May 13, 2021 — Ascension of Jesus          August 15, 2021 — Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Seven Sacraments</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baptism</li> <li>2. Confirmation</li> <li>3. First Eucharist</li> <li>4. Holy Orders</li> <li>5. Matrimony</li> <li>6. Confession/Penance</li> <li>7. Anointing of the Sick</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Spiritual Works of Mercy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Counseling the Doubtful</li> <li>2. Instructing the Ignorant</li> <li>3. Admonishing the Sinner</li> <li>4. Comforting the Sorrowful</li> <li>5. Forgiving Injuries</li> <li>6. Bearing Wrongs Patiently</li> <li>7. Praying for the Living and the Dead</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Corporal Works of Mercy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feed the Hungry</li> <li>2. Give Drink to the Thirsty</li> <li>3. Shelter the Homeless</li> <li>4. Visit the Sick</li> <li>5. Visit the Prisoners</li> <li>6. Bury the Dead</li> <li>7. Give Alms to the Poor</li> </ol>

*St. John's*

Welcome!

Fr. Pierz, our Religious Education team, and I are excited to invite you to another year of Religious Education at St. John's! Despite all the difficulties of 2020, and planning a program in a pandemic, here we are — feeling ready and excited to welcome you all back together. We are thankful that you are here and look forward to a wonderful year of learning more about Christ and His Church. Despite difficulties, there is much to be thankful for!

The mission of St. John's Religious Education program is to assist you, the parents and primary catechists of your children, to help your child develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Studies show that when parents are involved in their faith, their children develop a greater appreciation of their faith as well. You are their first and primary example—do not take it lightly! Your children follow where you lead them, and live by your example.

To help you in this mission, and in light of the changes with COVID policies, Religious Education looks much different this year. *Our classes will be meeting bi-weekly — one monthly class, one monthly community activity, and two weeks of at home activities.*

**This is not a drop off program, and parents will be expected to attend with their child.** I realize this is a big change, but in meeting with our Religious Education board and catechists, this was 1) the best way to handle the COVID precautions, and 2) we hope it will greatly enhance your faith communication as a family! We are here to support you through it all, so please reach out at anytime.

For in person classes, we will begin our time in the church and be separated into smaller learning groups from there.

We wish everyone a great year, and look forward to sharing a successful and engaging program with you all. You continue to be in our prayers.

God Bless,

Claire Riberdy

# St. John's Religious Education Policies

## Attendance

Many dedicated parishioners come forward as Catechists and volunteer their time and talents to teach your children to reflect and understand God's message. They rely on you for support and reinforcement from home. Your support plays an important role in how open your children are to the Religious Education process. If you are positive and encouraging from home, then the task of a Catechist is made that much easier.

Attendance is necessary for an effective process. If a student is absent, they can complete their work at home. It is important to catch up on all that they missed from class, so that they don't fall behind the other children.

If your child has missed several consecutive classes, you will be notified of the absences and will be asked through home study to bring your child up-to-date with the classes' progress.

**This is not a drop off program.** Parents are expected to come and be with their student during the learning process. Grades 1-6 will accompany their child in the classroom, while grades 7-11 will have a separate group, with some joined time.

If your child is absent, we ask you to please call the office at 413-786-8105, ext. 103 at least 24 hours before the start of class and leave a message on the machine with your child's full name and grade level and date of absence.

## Mass Attendance

Attending Mass with your child is vitally important to their religious education. Throughout the course of their classes, your children will be learning about the different parts of the Mass. As the subject will often be brought up, it is difficult for our Catechists to explain the Mass to your child if they are not regularly attending.

If you, the parent, are unable to attend Mass one week, we have volunteers who are willing to sit with a group of children at the 10:30am Family Mass so they can attend. This will ensure that your child will not miss out on the Sacrament.

If you do plan to have your child attend Mass with one of our volunteers, please inform the Director of Religious Education at least two days in advance.

# St. John's Religious Education Policies

## Cancellation of Class

All Religious Education class cancellations will be noted on our Parish Website ([www.stjohnagawam.com](http://www.stjohnagawam.com)), and local WWLP (Ch. 20). This does not mean that Mass will be cancelled—only Religious Education. If it is a day for your child to serve/greet at Mass, please come at your discretion.

Information may also be available at the Facebook Page (Friends of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish — Agawam, MA), but this is a volunteer run page so please check the other sources as well.

## Fire and Emergency Safety

**From the church:** the fire exits are each clearly marked by signs, as well as a fire exit plan posted in the main entrance of the church. Each family would exit through the closest fire exit, and walk in an orderly fashion across the parking lot to the Pastoral Center. A final sweep of the church will be done by the director.

**From the lower church:** each classroom has a fire evacuation route posted on the wall near the door. Each class will depart the building in an orderly fashion from the identified door, and calmly and in an organized fashion proceed across the parking lot to the Pastoral Center gym where each teacher will then review the names of the children. A final sweep of the building will be done by the director.

**From the Pastoral Center:** proceed out of the identified doorway and continue in an orderly fashion to the lawn area by the garage. Once there, roll call will be taken, assuring that all attendees are in place. A final sweep of the building will be done by the director.

A fire prevention plan will be discussed and/or practiced during the year.

## Sacramental Preparation

Please note that for First Communion preparation and Confirmation preparation, your child must attend scheduled classes at St. John's, as well as regularly attend Mass. All children must first interview/have a discussion with the Director of Religious Education before entering First Communion and/or Confirmation Class. Another interview will take place before the Sacrament takes place.

First Communion & Confirmation students have extra studies/responsibilities to show they are suitably prepared. The Director will be in touch with you to communicate the expectations well before the Sacrament takes place.

Before a student may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, he/she must have a knowledge and understanding of the Faith. This can only be achieved through ongoing study which begins in grade one and continues through the completion of the Confirmation Program. If your child has missed a grade, please call the office to schedule make-up work.

## Communication

In this program, we try our best to support parents in their role as primary educators of their children. To do this, we ask that parents are open and honest with us about their expectations, struggles with behavior, and allergies/special needs.

In return, our DRE and Catechists will strive to be open and honest in what the expectations of the program are, the behaviors we observe in the classroom, and any other pertinent information.

We will also do our best to be prompt with information regarding: scheduling, class routines, at home assignments, or any other class materials.

Please feel free to reach out to the Director of Religious Education at any time with questions, concerns, or complaints.

sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com | 413.786.8105, ext. 103

## COVID Policies

### The following will remain applicable until further notice:

- All persons above the age of 2 years (Catechists, parents, & students) are expected to wear masks, according to Diocesan and State Guidelines
- Families can remain together, separated from others by 6 feet whenever possible
- Church pews and classrooms will be thoroughly disinfected after each class.

(If you are able, we ask that parents please stay and help with this. Many hands make light work!)

# Meet our Catechists!

## Grade PreK-K

Isabel Lamkins & Thomas Dunn

## Grade 1-4

Valerie Manning, Amor Allen, Tasya Marinak

Karen Mellen, Trisha Brown

Anna Grady

Lucy Morton

## Grade 5-6

Marie Brown

## Grade 7-8

Cara Watermann

Ben Kronlund

## Grade 9-10

Deacon Dave Picard

James Manning

## Grade 11

Jack Seaver

Fr. Barrent Pease

Claire Riberdy

## Grade Pre K — 8

- **Class Time:** In person, Saturdays 9:00am-11:00am  
- begins in the church, and grades are separated from there
- **Movie/Video @ Home:** specific information will be sent home @ class  
- movies for the whole family with a questions/answers sheet
- **Community Activity:** Varies monthly, together/separate  
- participating in a social event with other families & parishioners
- **Work-Book Activities:** information will be sent home @ class  
- a few activities per grade will be sent home for children to work on at home

<b>October</b>	17- Class Time	<b>Theme: Creation</b>
	24- Movie/Video @ Home	
	31- Community Activity — Adoration (prayers for the dead) & Speaker on Saints	
<b>November</b>	7- Work Book Activities	
	14- Class Time	<b>Theme: Revelation</b>
	21- Movie/Video @ Home	
	26- Community Activity — Thanksgiving Mass & Blessing 9AM	
<b>December</b>	5- Work Book Activities	
	12- Class Time	<b>Theme: Incarnation/Nativity</b>
	19- Movie/Video @ Home	
	25- Community Activity — Attend Christmas Mass	
<b>January</b>	2- Work Book Activities	
	9- Class Time	<b>Theme: The Communion of Saints</b>
	16- Movie/Video @ Home	
	23- Community Activity	<b>Circle of Grace: 9:00-10:30am</b>
	30- Work Book Activities	
<b>February</b>	6- Class Time	<b>Theme: Forgiveness of Sins/Confession</b>
	13- Movie/Video @ Home	
	20- Community Activity — Date & Time TBD	
	27- Work Book Activities	
<b>March</b>	6- Class Time	<b>Theme: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic</b>
	13- Movie/Video @ Home	
	20- Community Activity — Date & Time TBD	
	27- Class Time	<b>Theme: Crucifixion/Resurrection</b>
<b>April</b>	3- Movie/Video @ Home	
	10- Community Activity — Date & Time TBD	
	17- Work Book Activities	
	24- Class Time	<b>Theme: Our Resurrection/Life Everlasting</b>
<b>May</b>	1- Movie/Video @ Home	
	8- Community Activity — Date & Time TBD	
	15- Work Book Activities	
	22- Class Time	<b>Theme: Mary, Our Blessed Mother</b>
	29- Movie/Video @ Home (Memorial Day: 31st)	
<b>June</b>	5- Community Activity — Date & Time TBD	
	12- Work Book Activities	
	19- No Class Fathers Day: 20th	
	26- Class Time	<b>Theme: Holy Spirit/Pentecost</b>

## Grade 9 — 10

Class — in person, Sundays 6:00-8:00pm

<b>October</b>	18- Class	
<b>November</b>	1- Class	
	15- Class	
	29- No Class — Thanksgiving Weekend	
<b>December</b>	6- Class	
	20- Class	
<b>January</b>	3- No Class — New Years	
	10- Class	
	24- Class	Circle of Grace
<b>February</b>	7- Class	
	21- No Class — February Vacation	
	28- Class	
<b>March</b>	14- Class	
	21- Class	
<b>April</b>	4- No Class — Easter	
	11- Class	
	18- No Class — April Vacation	
	25- No Class — April Vacation	
<b>May</b>	2- Class	
	16- Class	
	30- Class	
<b>June</b>	13- Class	
	27- Class	

## Grade 11

Class — in person, Sundays 6:00-8:00pm

<b>October</b>	18- Class	
<b>November</b>	1- Class	
	15- Class	
	29- No Class — Thanksgiving Weekend	
<b>December</b>	6- Class	
	20- Class	
<b>January</b>	3- No Class — New Years	
	10- Class	
	24- Class	Circle of Grace
<b>February</b>	7- Class	
	21- No Class — February Vacation	
	28- Class	
<b>March</b>	14- Class	
	28- Class	
<b>April</b>	4- No Class — Easter	
	11- Class	
	18- No Class — April Vacation	
	25- No Class — April Vacation	
<b>May</b>	2- Class	
	16- Class	
	30- Class	
<b>June</b>	13- Class	
	27- Class	

*There is not yet a date for Confirmation... information will be shared as soon as dates are set.  
Thank you for your patience!*

### **CONFIRMANDI EXPECTATIONS:**

- attend Mass weekly & on Holy Days of Obligation
  - attend bi-weekly classes
  - Complete 20 service hours, preferably in the parish
- complete the necessary forms & provide Sacramental records for Baptism & First Holy Communion (if not received in this parish)
- seek out an eligible sponsor who fulfills the requirements and can serve as a mentor for the future (typically, the sponsor is/can be the sponsor from Baptism)
- write one letter to the Pastor, explaining why they would like to be Confirmed and how they consider themselves to be prepared for it
- Watch/listen to a talk/study session on FORMED and write a response

## Circle of Grace Program

*Circle of Grace* is a Christian safe environment curriculum that helps to form and educate children and youth about the value of positive relationships with God and others. This program is for grades 1-11 in our Religious Education program, and will take place in all the classrooms in January or 2021. Preschool and Kindergarten will not be participating in the training.

The *Circle of Grace* curriculum teaches children and youth how to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated.

In this program, the children will:

1. understand they are created by God and live in God's love along with the love of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
2. describe the *Circle of Grace*, which God gives each of us.
3. identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
4. identify all types of boundary violations.
5. demonstrate how to take action if any boundary is threatened or violated.

The class will be facilitated by the regular Catechist, or you will be told prior to the class if there will be a substitute that day. Parents are more than welcome to review the material before the class (it will be made available during class on October 27th, or during that week), or fill out an “opt-out” form if you would rather have your child not attend.

Please feel free to contact the Director of Religious Education at 786-8105, ext. 103 with any questions or concerns about the program. We thank you for your cooperation as we work to make St. John's a safe environment for all children, families, and volunteers.

## St. John the Evangelist

833 Main Street  
Agawam, MA 01001

### Pastoral Staff

Fr. Michael Pierz, *Pastor*  
sje.priest@gmail.com

Fr. Barrent Pease, *Curate*  
sje.curate@gmail.com

Deacon Dave Picard  
sje.deacon@gmail.com

### Parish Office

Tel: (413) 786-8105

Fax: (413) 455-3100

Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
Friday — Closed

Andreana Perkins, *Operations Manager*  
sje.operations@gmail.com

Sandy Ross, *Parish Secretary*  
sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

Mary Talarico, *Reception Volunteer*

Francesca Brandt,  
*Ministry to Sick and Homebound*  
sje.homebound@gmail.com

Tony Fernandes, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
sje.maintenance@gmail.com

Marybeth Swindell, *Child Advocate*  
Private Line: (860) 386-6009

### Youth Choir and Music

Isabella Manning, *Director of Music*  
sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

## Office of Faith Formation

Claire Riberdy,  
*Director of Religious Education*

Tel: (413) 786-8105, ext. 103

Fax: (413) 455-3100

sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

### MASS SCHEDULE

LORD'S DAY MASS:

**Saturday 4:00 pm** (*Novus Ordo*) &  
**Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am** (*Novus Ordo*), &  
**1:30 pm** (*Extraordinary Form*)

WEEKDAY MASS:

Mon-Tues & Thurs.-Fri.  
at 8:00 am,  
Wed. at 6:00 pm  
Every First Saturday at 8:00 am

### PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:  
Wed. 12:00 pm - 5:45 pm

THE ROSARY:  
Sat. at 3:30 pm, Sun. at 7:30 am, 10:00 am, and  
1:00 pm

### Confession Schedule

Saturdays 2:45-3:45pm  
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm  
Or by appointment

# ANNOUNCING A NEW PRESCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S!

Now enrolling!



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

## IN THE BEGINNING

PRESCHOOL  
BORN OF GOD

*with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd!*

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY  
&  
SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
833 MAIN STREET | AGAWAM, MA

[SJE.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SJE.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION@GMAIL.COM)



413-786-8105  
[STJOHNAGAWAM.COM](http://STJOHNAGAWAM.COM)

MONDAY-FRIDAY  
AGES 3 YEARS — 5 YEARS

FULL TIME PRESCHOOL  
(7AM-5PM)

PART TIME PRESCHOOL

SUMMER  
PROGRAMS



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