

Mission Statement

Welcome to St. Columba's Religious Education program. Our program is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers with a strong focus on service to our church family and our community. Our goal is to provide a welcoming environment that will challenge students to learn, experience and develop a deeper relationship with God and grow as members of the Christian community.

We ask that you review our Religious Education Policies with your child before the first day of class.

{CCC #1653}

“Parents are the primary religious educators of their children”.

St. Columba Religious Education Program aims to work in partnership with parents to assist them in educating their children in the faith.

Responsibilities of Participants

Parents

Please do your best to ensure that your child attends Mass & class regularly.

Students

Please place a high priority on your faith and attend Mass & class regularly.

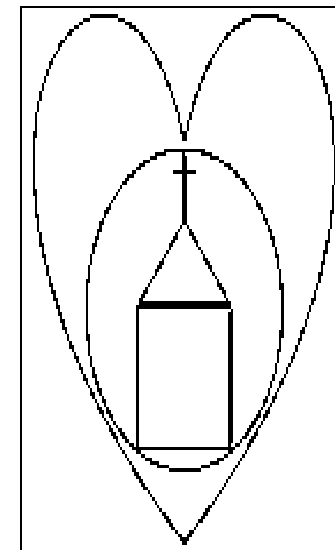
Parish Ministry Team

We promise to do our best to assist you in fulfilling the promises you made at your child's Baptism.



St. Columba Church Religious Education Policy Guide

2016 ~ 2017



PASTOR

Reverend David E. Doiron

**RELIGIOUS ED.
COORDINATOR**

Jerry A. Nummelin

Celebrating the Sacraments

All Christian education finds its source within the sacramental life of the Church. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that children are given the opportunity for frequent participation in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and weekly attendance at Holy Mass.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation precedes First Holy Communion and is celebrated at St. Columba in the fall. Parents are required to attend one parent meeting with the Pastoral staff before reception of the sacrament. The meeting is designed to assist parents in the preparation of their child for the reception of the sacrament.

First Holy Communion

St. Columba's First Holy Communion Program is a two year process beginning in grade one and is celebrated in the second grade. Preparation prior to First Communion includes: one parent meeting; special liturgies; and a retreat day for both parent and child.

Confirmation

St. Columba's Confirmation Process is a two-year program beginning in grade 9 & 10. Confirmation is celebrated in Grade Eleven.

Students who have not attended a Religious Education Program in Grades 1-10 will be required to participate in a review program and/or meet with the coordinator of Religious Education/Pastor to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the material covered in those grades.

Parent Meetings

Specific Sacramental requirements will be addressed in required parent meetings that are held in September.

Registration

Registration in the parish is a **Pre-requisite** to entering the Religious Education Program.

Note: Parochial Students must register and attend parish instruction for Sacrament years. Gr.2-Penance & First Communion

Gr. 11: Confirmation Preparation

New Students

Once registered into the parish, please register at the Religious Education Office with the following documentation:

Baptismal Certificate and if applicable, record of previous religious education and sacraments received.

Children will be placed in a grade corresponding to their grade in school, provided that they have successfully completed prior religious education classes or participate in a review program offered at St. Columba.

Program Fee

The program cost is \$60 per students not to exceed \$180 per family. There is an additional fee of \$20 for students registering for grades 2 & 11 due to additional sacramental expenses. If payment is not possible please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education or the Pastor. No family will ever be turned away!

School Calendar & Cancellations

As a rule, we follow the calendar year of the Wachusett Regional School System. If there is no school, there will be no classes. If school is canceled or released early due to inclement weather there will be no afternoon or evening classes.

Absences

If a student has four or more absences, the student and parent will be asked to meet with the Religious Education Coordinator to discuss a way to work with families to resolve the problem. For students

in sacramental years, sacraments may be postponed to the following year.

With every absence, the work is to be made up. If your child is sick and will not be attending class, please call the Religious Education Office(508)-755-0601.

Home Study

It is strongly recommended that our students attend one of our regularly scheduled classes, however we do realize that is not always possible. In those *rare occasions* home study is available. Home Study is not available in sacramental years.

- ❖ First Holy Communion: 1-2
- ❖ Confirmation: 9-11

A grade specific class syllabus with assignments will be given to the student in September. Completed work will be due in December at the Christmas recess & May before the summer recess.

Students will meet with the Religious Education Coordinator in June to determine the readiness of the student to move up to the next level.