

# **Most Precious Blood Parish**

## **Religious Education Parent Handbook**

**2023-2024**



**120 E. Washington St.**

**New London, WI 54961**

**(920) 982-9025**

**[www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com](http://www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com)**

## OUR VISION

“Leading hearts closer to Christ Our Redeemer.”

## OUR MISSION

To join the Diocese of Green Bay in making missionary disciples.



## OUR COMMITMENT

As staff, catechists, and volunteers, it is our mission to:

- +Provide a safe and nurturing learning environment.
- +Provide opportunities for students and families to encounter Jesus’ unending mercy, hope, and love through prayer, catechesis, and the sacraments.
- +Accompany students and families on their journey to grow in love for Jesus and His Body, the Catholic Church, by following the teachings of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.
- +Invite students and families to “remain united” (Jn 15:4) with God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in continually striving to deepen our love for the holy Mass and all the Sacraments.
- +Form, inspire, and equip students and families to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

*And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

~ Matthew 28: 19-20 ~

Dear Families:

Welcome to Most Precious Blood Parish's Religious Education program! We are delighted to have you and are happy to be your partners in the spiritual and religious formation of your youth.

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide to the general operations and expectations of those in the program. Please read it, in its entirety, and discuss it with your family, keeping it as a reference throughout the year.

Our program is centered around leading hearts closer to Christ Our Redeemer. Sharing the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Church are at the core of the program. Religious education is a *supplement* to help children and their families grow in faith yet, it is not intended to, nor can it, replace parental involvement in the development of the child's identification with their faith as they grow and mature--emotionally and spiritually.

We encourage you to:

- +Pray together as a family.
- +Attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- +Encourage regular and prompt attendance, making classes a priority for your child(ren).
- +Continue to learn about the Catholic faith.
- +Volunteer your services: Our volunteer catechists are believing adults who share their faith through teaching our children. Please prayerfully consider a ministry to share your faith with our children.

In addition, you are invited to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, which is available every first Friday of the month, in our beautiful church.

We thank you for your desire to hand the faith down to your children! This is so important in building the Church to be all that God longs for it to be!

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are happy to meet with you to make this program the best we can! We look forward to working with you and your children. Know that you are in our prayers and please keep us in yours, as well.

Much peace and many blessings.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ellis & Kelly McKibben

Coordinators of Religious Education &  
Youth Ministry

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PERSONNEL

**Pastor**

**Fr. John Kleinschmidt**  
(920) 982-2346  
frjohn@mpbparishnl.org

**Coordinators of Religious Education & Youth Ministry**

**Ashley Ellis & Kelly McKibben**  
Coordinators of Religious Education/Youth Ministry  
(920) 982-9025

[aellis@mpbparishnl.org](mailto:aellis@mpbparishnl.org) , [kmckibben@mpbparishnl.org](mailto:kmckibben@mpbparishnl.org)

**Parish website: [www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com](http://www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com)**



our Facebook page as this is a main source of communication with families at: **Most Precious Blood Religious Education/Youth Ministry**

**Please refer to the Religious Education page on the parish website, or our facebook page, for schedules, forms, cancellations, and other useful information.**

### **Total Board of Catholic Education**

The Total Board of Catholic Education's mission is to advise and assist the pastor with the needs of Most Precious Blood School, Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation programs in the parish. This is accomplished through the developing of policies/guidelines, operating budgets, and maintaining cooperative and supportive relationships with parish administrators, teachers, volunteers, parents and parish members. Total Board of Catholic Education meetings are held once per month.

## **CATECHISTS/VOLUNTEERS**

Our catechists and volunteers are people of faith! They have only a desire to share the truth of Jesus Christ with the children. In addition, they are all VIRTUS trained and have completed background checks.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

*Volunteer, Model your faith, Pray together.*

### **Volunteer:**

Your active participation in the Religious Education program, as well as in the larger parish community, is an invaluable witness to your children. It demonstrates that you believe in the Christian moral life, fosters your faith, and the parish community.

If you feel called to minister within the Religious Education program, please contact the Religious Education Office at 982-9025.

### **Model your faith:**

Children learn by the example of their parents, Mom and Dad! Their commitment to their faith will be strengthened by how you prioritize your faith and how you take the lead. Attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, pray together, serve, and give generously of time, talent, and finances to those in greater need.

“Inspired by the example and family prayer of their parents, children, and in fact everyone living under the family roof, will more easily set out upon the path of a truly human training, of salvation and of holiness” (Vatican II).

### **Pray together:**

Learn the basic Christian prayers and practice them with your children: The Sign of the Cross, the Lord’s Prayer, the Hail Mary, the Act of Contrition, and the Glory Be.

Pray together as a family, especially at mealtime and bedtime, and encourage spontaneous prayer. Jesus asks us to “Pray always.” So, pray, pray, pray.

Read and discuss the Sunday Gospel reading which can be found at [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org)

Celebrate the liturgical seasons in your home: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Refer to our website for information about Religious Education News, announcements, or cancellation of classes at [www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com](http://www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com), under “Religious Education.” It will also be posted on our Facebook page so please, “Like” our page: **Most Precious Blood Religious Education/Youth Ministry**

Throughout the year, the students may bring home letters, or information from their Catechist or the Religious Education Office. Please read and respond to all communication that is sent home.

Other forms of communication may be Religious Education Newsletters sent via email or a text via Constant Contact.

If you have a concern, please follow these steps:

- ❖ Bring your concern to either of the Coordinators of Religious Education
- ❖ If you wish to bring a concern to the Total Board of Catholic Education or the Parish Council, we ask that you contact the board two weeks prior to the meetings. To manage time, the items are asked to be on the agenda.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

It is our hope and expectation that ALL students of Most Precious Blood Parish, from 1<sup>st</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, who attend local public schools, participate in Religious Education classes and related experiences. However, class time is limited! So please be sure your children arrive for class on time. Notify our office (982-9025), or your child’s catechist, before the beginning of class when you know that he/she will not be attending the session on a given night, due to illness or another valid reason.

If no one is notified, the parent *may* receive a phone call as a courtesy from our office.

If a student misses a number of classes, they may receive make-up work. Contact their catechist with any questions. If they miss too many classes, they may be asked to repeat that grade of Religious Education.

**All classes are held on Wednesday evenings and meet from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

## **CANCELLATIONS**

If classes in the New London School District are cancelled ***in the morning*** due to inclement weather, Religious Education classes are also cancelled for that evening.

If the weather deteriorates ***during the school day*** and early dismissal is called for, classes will also be cancelled for that evening.

If the weather deteriorates ***after school hours***, it is possible that Religious Education classes will be cancelled even though there was no early dismissal in the New London Schools. Refer to the parish website-**[www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com](http://www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com)**, our facebook page- "**Most Precious Blood Religious Education/Youth Ministry**," or contact our office at (920) 982-9025, for information. We *may* also contact you via email, or your catechist *may* contact you.

If *three* or more classes are cancelled, there will be a make-up class at the end of the year.

## **DROP-OFF/PICK-UP OF CHILDREN**

We are concerned about the safety of your children. If possible, we encourage parents with younger children (grades 1-2) to come into the building for drop-off AND pick-up.

Students may be dropped off at the school gym entrance in the parking lot (Door #3), on the south side of the school building. Parents are asked to drop their student off as close to the door as possible, or to park their vehicle and escort their child(ren) into the school. Parents will pick up their students at the same door.

## **CELLPHONES/ELECTRONICS**

The youth are expected to keep their cellphones and electronics put away during class time unless the catechist has them use it for an assignment/activity. If they are found using it during class, it may be confiscated and returned at the end of the night for the first offense.

The second offense may result in parents being contacted.

The third offense may result in the parents being asked to come and pick up the phone. Ultimately, the catechist may request that the student no longer bring their phone to class and/or it may be confiscated prior to the student attending classes and returned at the end of the night.

Phones can be useful in completing activities so we do not want to completely avoid them yet, if the student is not compliant with expectations, consequences mentioned above will follow.

## VIRTUOUS CHOICES AND REDIRECTION

As part of building a wholesome and holy Catholic community, each student is expected to behave in a virtuous manner, demonstrating respectful, honorable, and compassionate actions. Here are some ways for the students to show this:

- ❖ Be in the classroom and seated 5 minutes before class begins to collect and organize any materials needed
- ❖ Take hats off—including winter hats
- ❖ Refrain from eating or drinking in the classroom unless initiated by the catechist
- ❖ Help clean up and re-organize the room prior to leaving
- ❖ Be cooperative and respectful of everyone-catechist and other students
- ❖ Praise and complement one another
- ❖ Seek out strengths and positives in others
- ❖ Listen! And speak one at a time—wait your turn!
- ❖ Stay in designated areas
- ❖ Complete any assignments or make-up work as requested by the catechist and parents

### *Virtue (noun)*

*A virtue is the habit of doing good and avoiding evil.  
It is a habit of acting in a way that is pleasing to God.*

We all can make mistakes for various reasons. To help the student gain the virtues of temperance and self-control, non-virtuous behavior may be addressed as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> offense-Catechist will redirect and encourage the student to correct their behavior.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense-If the non-productive behavior continues, the catechist may send the student to the Coordinator's office. After a conversation and if appropriate, the Coordinator may allow the student to return to the classroom. The parents may be contacted by the Coordinator or the Catechist.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense-The Coordinator or the Catechist may give the student a written assignment and request a meeting with the parents. The student, parents, Coordinator, and catechist will work collaboratively to discuss a plan and, if needed, create behavior goals.

It is crucial that students respect and assist in creating a positive and constructive learning environment. We ask parents to reinforce this at home.



## **VIRTUOUS CHOICES AND REDIRECTION *(Continued)***

### **Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Weapons**

Possession, sale or use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or weapons by students at Most Precious Blood Parish is strictly prohibited. Students who violate this regulation may be subject to dismissal from the program. Students involved with drugs, alcohol, weapons, or any other illegal activity may be referred to the proper legal authorities and parents will be contacted immediately.

### **Vandalism/Theft**

Willful damage, destruction, or theft of school or parish property, or damage or destruction of any retreat facilities by students will result in disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program, depending on the frequency and severity. The program requires that restitution be made by any student (or students) according to the terms determined by the Religious Education team.

### **Dress Code**

To encourage our young men and women to desire and grow in virtuous masculinity and femininity, we request the following:

#### ***Young women:***

Wear shorts/skirts at an appropriate length (1 inch below finger tips), and shirts that cover what ought to be covered! Straps are to be at least 2 inches in width.

#### ***Young men:***

Wear pants at the waist.

Also, avoid offensive graphics or language on t-shirts.

Anything offensive to the Christian moral life will be addressed and the student's parents may be called to either bring a change of clothing or take the student home with class work due the following class night.

## **CRISIS PLAN**

As requested by the Diocese of Green Bay, a crisis plan was created which addresses the steps to be taken in the event of a crisis. Volunteers are informed of this process. A direct line to the New London Police Department has been set up for quick contact and response from them.

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

It is our duty and desire to promote the safety of all children in our program. All paid and volunteer personnel must have completed the appropriate diocesan approved safe environment training. This includes VIRTUS training, background checks and that they have read and signed the Code of Conduct form from the Diocese of Green Bay.

To ensure that the Religious Education staff and volunteers strive to be true disciples who evangelize, they are invited to attend in-services each year.

Classrooms are well-managed and maintained when students respect the catechist and the room has a good learning environment. Quality learning is done because catechists can prioritize learning of content and discipleship rather than discipline.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks remain in the Religious Education program. One may be sent home, occasionally, if it is necessary that a student needs to complete make-up work from a class they were absent from.

## **TUITION AND FEES**

***Registration forms are always due by August 31<sup>st</sup>.***

SCRIP credits will be applied and are available after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Billing statements will be sent out after SCRIP credit is determined for each family.

### **Current fees are as follows:**

1 Child	\$100	First Holy Communion	\$50
2 Children	\$150	Confirmation	\$75
3 Children	\$190		
4 or more children	\$220		

## **SCRIP**

Families have the opportunity to earn credit, which can be applied to their religious education tuition/sacramental fees, through the purchase of SCRIP. It is an ongoing fundraising effort for Most Precious Blood Parish and Religious Education. Several local and nationwide merchants participate in the program, which allows for the purchase of certificates/gift cards at face value, with a percentage of the purchase amount being returned to the parish and/or tuition program. *(Continued on next page.)*

MPB is offering a 2% discount on the total of scrip purchased for Religious Education tuition. If you purchase \$1000 in scrip you would save \$20 toward tuition. All remaining profit goes directly to the church and school to help with operating costs.

**NOTE:** When purchasing SCRIP, you must indicate to the seller, the name of the family you wish to designate the credit to. If a family name is not indicated, tuition credit cannot be given.

SCRIP can be purchased several ways: Before and after each weekend mass, at the Parish Center, online with Shopwithscrip.com, or email your order to [scrip@mpbparishnl.org](mailto:scrip@mpbparishnl.org). The email orders can be picked up at the Parish Office during office hours, or after one of the weekend Masses. Please indicate how you would like to pick your order up. Any scrip orders for a particular vendor that are over \$500 need to be prepaid before we can order the gift cards.

Visit the MPB website at <http://www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com/scrip> to see the merchants on hand, click **Scrip On-Hand**. To see a complete list of merchants, click on **Merchant's Lists**. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 982-2346.

## **HOMESCHOOLING OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Occasionally, parents may wish to teach their children Religious Education at home. Please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education or check out our web page at [www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com](http://www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com) and click on the "Religious Education" tab, for more information.

Registration fees may apply if the family requires the use of Religious Education materials.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

### ***First Holy Communion & Reconciliation***

Students in Grade 2 will prepare for their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. This means that they have completed one year of faith formation prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and have also received the sacrament of Baptism. If a student has not met these requirements, please contact the Religious Education Office at 920-982-9025.

### ***Confirmation***

Students in Grade 11 will be confirmed in the Spring of their junior year, granted they have met the expectations of the Religious Education program. This means that they completed work required in 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade. If a student has not met these requirements, please contact the Religious Education Office at 920-982-9025.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH AT MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD  
PARISH**

**Weekend Mass**

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:00 am

**Reconciliation**

Before 8 am Mass, from 7:30 am - 7:50 am

Saturday, 3:45-4:30 p.m.

**Holy Hour**

Tuesday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Day of Eucharistic Adoration**

Every First Friday of the month

Begins after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, and closes with Benediction at 5:00 p.m.



*"Come to me, all of you who are weary and  
loaded down with burdens,  
And I will give you rest."*

*Matthew 11:2*