

## **A final Note on Parental Cooperation:**

It is our sincere hope that your cooperation with these policies and involvement in our program will be assured. As a parish we are committed to passing on the Catholic Faith to the youth of our parish and help them understand and embrace their Catholic tradition. We are also committed to instruct and prepare them to receive the sacraments of the Church. However, these tasks will be impossible for us if we don't have your cooperation and support. So, please help us by first of all praying for all those who have willingly given of their time and desire to share the faith with our young people. Secondly, if you are willing to assist with any aspect of our program, you are most welcome and appreciated. And thirdly, please keep this handbook of the policies in a familiar place for reference and be familiar with them.

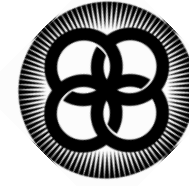
**We are looking forward to this year's CCD program and are eager to assist your children in discovering their faith. Each year our program is evaluated and improvements are determined by the feedback we receive from interested parents. So, please feel free to contact our Director of Religious Education at 839-7076 or 839-7062 if you have any questions or comments.**

### **Prayer for St. John the Apostle CCD Program**

**We thank you Lord, for your blessings on our parish and its families. We seek your help and guidance in our task of teaching the young people to know, to love, and to serve you. Give us the grace we need to help them and each other to live better lives by the example we give them.**

**St. John the Apostle, patron of our parish, we come to you for help. We ask your intercession. Pray with us and for us that God may grant us His help in meeting our obligations as a parish, now and in the future. May your example of devotion to our Lord inspire us to greater sacrifices and greater efforts in your honor.**

**Amen.**



## **St. John the Apostle Catholic Church**

### **CCD Parent Handbook**

**This Parent handbook contains the policies that were instituted to help coordinate and facilitate the CCD program at St. John the Apostle Church. They were drafted and approved by the Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Monica Perry; Fr. Dave Zimmer and the Religious Education Committee of the Parish Council. These policies are very important to our program because we believe the success of the efforts of our CCD teachers, coordinators and helpers will be dependent on how well these policies are followed and understood especially by parents. We appreciate you taking some time to review them. Your cooperation will be most appreciated.**

*“The duty and right of educating belongs in a special way to the Church, to which has been divinely entrusted the mission of assisting persons so that they are able to reach the fullness of the Christian life.”*

*Code of Canon Law – Canon 794*

## **Religious Education Staff:**

Our CCD teachers will be individuals that volunteer to teach our children about the Catholic faith. Guidance will be given to them by the Religious Education Committee and the Director of Religious Education. The principals will help to oversee that the policies established are followed and provide supervision when needed.

## **Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken weekly for CCD classes. If your child is unable to attend please call 839-7076 to inform the acting principal of the absence; if you get the answering machine please press 4 for staff and press 3 for Director of Religious Education and leave a message. If your child's absence is not called in and he or she is not present the acting principal will call to find out why your child is not present.

## **Classroom Behavior:**

This is a very important issue in our program. Classroom behavior can make or break the class, the teacher or the other students. This is a religious education program; children are expected to be respectful to their teacher, their fellow students and the facility. Please remember most of our CCD teachers are volunteers and are extending themselves to our children and should not have to deal with behavior problems. Improper behavior will not be tolerated and if the problem persists, we will need to initiate consequences in the following manner to deal with the problem.

## **Behavior Problems:**

If a child is causing a disruption to the classroom he or she will be sent to the principal's office and supervised for the remainder of class. Upon the third visit to the principal's office the child's parents will be called and expected to pick up their child.

## **Weather Conditions:**

If CCD would be cancelled due to weather conditions the schools, TV and radio stations will be contacted. If you think the weather is questionable please tune into either the TV or radio stations or check the parish website at [www.stjohnminot.com](http://www.stjohnminot.com).

## **Curriculum:**

The curriculum that the teachers use will be approved by the Religious Education Committee; the Director of Religious Education and the pastor. In selecting the appropriate curriculum, we must follow the guidelines from Bishop Paul Zipfel and the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese of Bismarck. There are standards set by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and recommendations for approved texts that we must follow. We want to assure all parents who have children in our CCD program that we are very concerned that they be taught the essentials of the Catholic Faith, our treasured tradition and the sacramental and spiritual aspects of the Catholic Faith. We will also be teaching the basics of the four pillars of stewardship since we are a stewardship parish and soon to be a stewardship diocese.

## **Special Activities:**

If a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a day when CCD is scheduled, attendance at Mass will count for the class time for that day. Please take this opportunity to attend Mass with your children. There may be times when special activities and parties are planned for our students. These activities should appear on the calendar for the year. Please watch for the youth activities events for our young people. These special events are aside from the CCD classes. Check the parish website at [www.stjohnminot.com](http://www.stjohnminot.com) for more information and ongoing updates. Our youth will also be encouraged to attend diocesan events such as the Youth Rally and Search. The dates for these events will be announced in class and information sheets sent home with the appropriate age group.