

Tekakwitha Center

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Serving the Catholic communities of St. Ann – Waubun; St. Anne – NayTahWaush; St. Theodore – Ponsford;
St. Francis Cabrini – Big Elbow Lake; Most Holy Redeemer – Ogema; and St. Benedict – White Earth

Religious Education Program 2024 - 2025 Parent Guide

Jesus said,
“Let the little children
come to me
and do not hinder them.
It is to just such as these
that the kingdom of God
belongs.”

Mark 10:14



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As a parent or guardian, you are the first to communicate our faith to your child. Just as your child looks to you for food, shelter and love in order to grow strong and healthy, your child also needs you for spiritual growth – to nourish faith, to offer guidance, and to provide moral training. We at the Tekakwitha Center are here to help you fulfill this duty.

Religious education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to the Church: to help its members hear the message of hope contained in the Gospel; to base their love and service of God upon this message; to achieve a personal relationship with Christ; and to share the Gospel message. This is no small task, but with God’s help, and by working together, we pass on the rich teachings and traditions of our faith to our children so that they may love and live the Gospel message.

May God’s blessings be upon all of us as we begin this school year.

Mrs. Janet Lhotka
Tekakwitha Center
Director

Fr. John Cox, OMI
Pastor

Fr. Greg Gallagher, OMI
Pastor

Religious Education 2024-2025

September	18	Grades 8-9 Cross Walk
	25	Grades 8-9 Survey
October	2	Mahnomen Speaker Event Gr 5-9 NO AFTERSCHOOL CLASS
	9	Family Night – Potluck-Prayer service
	16	No Class MEA
	23	Class
	30	Class
November	6	Class
	13	Class
	20	Class
	27	No Class Thanksgiving Eve
December	4	Class
	11	Class
	18	Class
January	1	No Class Holy Day of Obligation/Solemnity of Mary
	8	Class
	15	Class/Safe Environment
	22	Class/Safe Environment Make-up
	29	Class
February	5	Class
	12	Class
	19	Class
	26	Class
March	5	Class /Ash Wednesday
	12	Class
	19	Class
	26	Class
April	2	Class
	9	Class
	16	No Class Holy Week
	23	Class
	26	First Communion Retreat/Practice
	27	First Communion Sunday
	30	Class
May	7	Class-End of Year celebration

Subject to Revision



Remind APP/Texts—Will be used for revisions, updates, notifications, important notices and reminders
Schedule can be found on 6-Parish Website:
whiteearthcatholiccommunity.com Religious Education

St. Kateri, Pray for us!

Help us imitate your life of devotion to our Lord, summed up in your dying words, “jesos konoronkwa!”

“Jesus, I love You!”

Mission Statement

Through our Religious Education program we strive to foster worship and service for people of all ages.

Our hope is to assist our members in obtaining a lasting, loving relationship with Jesus Christ and foster an active participation in the liturgical and apostolic life of the Church.



General Information

Regular attendance is required for both continuity of instruction and community building. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is present and on time for classes.

If your child will be absent please call or text the program director, Janet Lhotka, at 218-261-0753 (cell) to report the absence and to see what lesson should be covered with them before their return to their next scheduled class. **If your child does not arrive without any notice of planned absence, Janet will contact you to insure safety of child’s whereabouts.**

If a student has two consecutive, unexcused absences that have not been reported to the Program Office, a religious education representative will be in touch with the parent/guardian.

All of the faithful are expected to attend Mass with their parents or guardians on Sundays and Holy Days.

Classes are held on Wednesdays at St. Ann Church and Parish Center in Waubun. Classes for Grades K – 4 begin at **3:30 PM** and end at **4:30 PM**. **Classes for Grades 5 - 9 and Confirmation begin at 6:15 PM and end at 7:30 PM.** **A light supper will be served before class at 5:15-6 PM.**

Late arrivals are discouraged as they are disruptive to the class. Parents/guardians, please make a conscious effort to get your child to Mass and to class on time.



Registration

Eligibility for the Tekakwitha Religious Education Program requires families to be registered members of their parish. New students need to present proper documentation which includes Baptismal and Communion Certificates. Re-registration takes place in the spring and summer for children currently enrolled that will be returning in the fall. Forms need to be submitted in a timely manner in order to secure a class assignment.

Tuition

Currently, we are able to offer the program for no charge due to the generosity of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Extension Society. In lieu of tuition, we ask parents to make an investment of volunteer time and funds to defray food costs.

Snacks ~ Supper

Afternoon session is provided a snack and evening sessions is provided supper. The cost is \$45.00 per family. Make checks payable to *Tekakwitha Center*. Parents are asked to help serve the evening supper to include cleanup. A schedule will be provided.



Sacramental Preparation



Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus commissioned his followers to continue his mission. Our faith community strives to provide an atmosphere and opportunity for children and adults to share faith experiences, to grow in knowledge and understanding of our Catholic faith and traditions, and to become ever more fully the Body of Christ.

All Catholics should be registered members of a parish and participating in the worship and other activities of the parish. The Diocese of Crookston requires that children be registered and attending Religious Education classes for two years prior to receiving the Sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. Parents and guardians are required to attend meetings during the preparation years.

Children preparing for First Communion and Reconciliation must be at least seven years old and in the second grade at the time they receive the sacrament. Youth preparing for Confirmation must be twelve years of age or older.

Parents registering children for sacramental preparation must present their child's baptism certificate.



Arrival and Dismissal

The front door of the church is the arrival and pick up point for all children. The children will be accompanied to and from class by their catechists.

At dismissal time your child will be released to you by their Catechist at the end of the session. Afternoon session 4:30 PM (pickup 4:30-4:45 PM) or evening session 7:15 PM. If needed for later afternoon pickups, please contact Janet and arrangements will be made to accommodate for families.

Please notify Janet if someone other than the parent/guardian will be picking up.

Safe Environment

The parishes of the Diocese of Crookston are committed to do all that they can to create safe environments for children and young people. This commitment involves children and young people in our parish religious education programs.

The Safe Environment Program of the diocese outlines policies and procedures to help ensure their safety and protection.

The diocese has identified Circles of Grace as its educational programs for children and youth. This program provides age-appropriate lesson plans on various topics that must be reviewed and presented on an annual basis to the children and young people within our religious education programs with parental cooperation and consent. Parents wishing to opt out of this program should contact Mrs. Lhotka.

In addition, every adult involved in parish religious education and youth ministry programs within the Diocese of Crookston must be in compliance with the Diocese of Crookston Safe Environment Policy.

To learn more about the diocese's Safe Environment Policy, visit www.crookston.org. In the column on the left, scroll down and click on "Safe Environment."

Child Abuse

Following diocesan policy, and pursuant to state law, we are required to report suspected child abuse to the proper authorities. Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator contact Cindy Hulst, LSW, 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).

Communication

We are here to serve the religious education needs of our children, youth, and adults. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please feel free to share them with your child's catechist or contact the **program director, Janet Lhotka at 218-261-0753 (cell)**.

Class Cancellations

If storm, tornado, or snow warnings are in effect for Mahnommen and Becker Counties, classes will be cancelled, or if school has been cancelled or released early, classes will be cancelled. If you have any questions about cancellations, please contact the program director.

Fire Safety

Catechists and students will exit by the closest door and stairway and gather in the parking lot across the street from the church.

Health Concerns

Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the Religious Education Staff during registration. Regarding medication, the usual policy is **NOT** to administer any medication to students during the one-hour period of

religious instruction. If it is essential that a child be given medication, the parent must come to the religious education office to do so.

Expectations

Parents:

1. Ensure that children attend classes regularly and on time.
2. Communicate any special needs or circumstances that may affect your child within the classroom.
3. Be an active part of your child's learning experience.
4. Follow the Arrival & Dismissal Safety Rules
5. Attend Sunday Mass with your child
6. Attend scheduled parent meetings

Students:

1. Behave in a Christian manner at all times showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students.
2. Actively participate in classroom activities and discussions.
3. Attend class regularly and complete any assignments.
4. Show respect for others and for other's property.
5. No use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
6. No weapons on premises.
7. No cell phones or electronic devices to be used in the classroom
8. Follow all classroom rules.
9. Attend Sunday Mass.
10. Students in junior high and senior high school grades are to actively participate in service projects initiated during the year.
11. Students in the Confirmation Program are to attend scheduled retreats.

Catechists:

1. Provide a loving, Christian atmosphere within the learning environment so that children will be able to grow in their faith.
2. Prepare and teach designated curriculum
3. Be a Christian role model
4. Communicate regularly with and involve parents in the faith development of their children.
5. Be in compliance with diocesan regulations regarding Safe Environment.



Discipline and Problem Solutions

All students are expected to share in the faith learning experiences of the Religious Education Program. If a child's behavior disrupts the learning process for him or herself or for others, the following steps will be followed:

At the first incident the child will be reminded of expected behavior.

At a second incident, the child will be sent to the office. The catechist or director will contact the parent/guardian and asked that they speak with the child.

If inappropriate behavior continues, the child will be sent to the office and the parent/guardian will need to pick up their child at this time.

If the child's behavior disrupts learning, it may be necessary for the parent/guardian to make other arrangements for the religious education of their child with the help of the program director.

Right to Amend

This handbook is primarily a means of communication. It is meant to provide you, the parent/guardian, with helpful information on how we intend to go about our work. The Tekakwitha Center Religious Education Program reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parents will receive a new handbook if changes are made to any procedures or information contained in this handbook.



A Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family.

May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children— share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love.

Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.



COVID-19 Preparedness Plan & Directives

Catechists and students will follow directives that the Waubun School is following regarding the wearing of masks, social distancing guidelines, and if classes are suspended and held offsite. Hand sanitizers are available for use. Please do not send your child if they are not feeling well. If your child tests positive after attending class, please contact Janet.