

Saint Daniel the Prophet Church

Parish Education Commission

Updated on May 1, 2017

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Education Commission Leadership Directory

Education Commission:

- The Education Commission serves in a consultative role to the parish Director of Religious Education.
- The Education Program of the parish includes all the aspects of religious education for all our parishioners.
- Commission Members are discerned by the Director of Religious Education in consultation with the Pastor.
- The Director meets with the Education Commission at least on a quarterly basis throughout the year.
- The Education Staff administers the parish education programs for the Director of Religious Education.
- The Parish Education program includes religious education, preschool, youth ministry, and adult formation.

Religious Education Program

- Diane Ahlemeyer, Director: 630-384-0138, diane@stdaniel.org
- Karen Gulvas, Associate: 630-384-0137, karen@stdaniel.org
- Gina Wiedman, Secretary: 630-384-0125, REO@stdaniel.org
- Catechists, and Classroom Assistants, and Office Volunteers

Preschool Program

- Karen Gulvas, Director: 630-384-0137, karen@stdaniel.org
- Preschool Staff Members

Youth Ministry Program

- Gina Wiedman, Youth Minister: 630-384-0139, youthministry@stdaniel.org
- Adult Helpers and Chaperones / Liaison to Young Adult Ministries

Adult Formation Program

- Diane Ahlemeyer, Director: 630-384-0138, diane@stdaniel.org
- Guest Speakers, Bible Study, Small Groups, and other programs

Education Commission Members

- Director: Diane Ahlemeyer: 630-384-0138, diane@stdaniel.org
- Members: Karen Bandusky, Maria Bray, Chad Buttell, Joe DeGuzman, Kathy Hobein, Dawnelle Muff
- Parish Council: Karen Bandusky

Religious Education Program

Vision. Faith Formation at St. Daniel the Prophet is a Christ-centered approach to life-long faith development that informs and transforms children, families, individuals — the entire St. Daniel Community — by providing a deeper understanding of Scripture and the traditions of our faith. Through Eucharistic Liturgy, our religious education curriculum, and the various Adult Faith Formation opportunities, the St. Daniel community, gathered in Christ's name will work to bring the Reign of God to earth by: *Proclaiming* and *Celebrating* Jesus Christ; *Living* and *Transmitting* our faith in support of one another and the larger community in which we live.

Grade School Curriculum. St. Daniel's Family Discipleship program (Religious Education) is a holistic approach to Catholic education and formation in conjunction with the Our Sunday Visitor curriculum: *Alive in Christ (AIC)*. AIC is designed to equip and empower you as parents-to equip and empower you to go more deeply into and therefore teach more deeply your intimate relationship with Jesus. The goal of Catholic religious education is always forming disciples of Jesus. Parents attend 5 times during the RE Year. Parishes that embrace this method move from a parish of maintenance to mission; from status quo to vibrancy- something critical in today's culture. Results have shown that it *brings people closer to Jesus*. For more information on Family Discipleship, please see our website for "There's No Place Like Home" and the "Parish is the Curriculum."

- **Program for Grades 1-5** (Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.): ***Alive in Christ (AIC)***. AIC invites children to hear God's invitation to a personal relationship through his Word, helps them discover and learn the Church's teaching in precise theological language, and teaches them how to live as Catholic disciples.
- **Program for Grades 6-8** (Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.): ***Call to Faith (CTF)***. This thematic series by Our Sunday Visitor is an engaging religion program for young adolescents. Deeply rooted in Scripture and Tradition CTF presents the content of our Catholic faith by drawing on Doctrine, Scripture, the Saints, and Catholics today-the very sources of Catholic wisdom. CTF connects young adolescents to the worship, learning, service — applying their faith to their lives.

Sacraments. First Confession is celebrated in second grade, usually during Advent. Attendance in grades one and two is required to receive the Sacrament. All Parent and/or Child Sacrament Meetings are required. First Eucharist is celebrated in second grade, usually during April. Attendance in Grades one and two is required to receive the Sacrament. Confirmation is celebrated in eighth grade usually during February or March. Attendance in grades six through eight are required to receive the Sacrament. All Parent and/or Child Sacrament Meetings are required. Older children who have not had the opportunity to receive any or all of the Sacraments are more than welcome to participate in a program specific to their needs and those of the Diocese of Joliet.

Children's Liturgy of the Word. About twice a month during the school year, during the 9:00 a.m. Mass, children in grades K-4 are invited to hear and learn about the Sunday readings at their own level. The children are dismissed from Mass after the Opening Prayer and return to their families during the Offertory of the Mass.

Vacation Bible School. For one week each June, preschoolers (minimum age is determined by the Director) through fourth graders enjoy five half-days of learning about Jesus through stories, songs, and games. Limited space is available, so keep your eye on the bulletin early first quarter.

Festival of Faith. Each year this intergenerational event for the parish is held focusing on an aspect of our faith. A meal is provided, experiential learning stations are set up for the children, and meditative prayer experiences are available for adults.

Preschool Program

Bible Kids Preschool is a partnership with parents as early childhood educators and provides children an opportunity to discover the uniqueness given to them as a child of God. Our program focuses on the principle that children learn through hands-on experience (play). The hands-on experience includes:

- **Fine Motor Development** - to gain strength and learn control to be able to write. Children participate in art and sensory play.
- **Language Development** - being able to communicate with appropriate words, being able to comprehend and follow directions. Children engage in music, finger plays, and prayer to enhance their language development.
- **Social Development** - learning appropriate interactions with others, taking turns, sharing, treating each other with kindness and respect.
- **Gross Motor Development** - opportunities to run, ride bikes, climb, bouncing/throwing/catching a ball and free play are available every day. The children participate in an indoor gym for approximately twenty minutes daily.
- **Cognitive Development** – learning math concepts such as number recognition, counting and value are the beginning process of addition and subtraction. In addition to knowing the upper and lower case letters, the children participate in activities such as sorting, classifying, sequencing, and beginning phonics. In the four/five year old class the children are able to read/sound out basic sight words and the majority of the children are beginning to read when they complete the pre-kindergarten program.
- **Faith Experience** - the children pray at the start of the day and at snack time. Bible stories are presented daily and Jesus is the focus of both Christmas and Easter.

Schedule: Preschool begins the Tuesday after Labor Day and ends the last week of May before Memorial Day weekend. Our program is from 9:15 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. for children ages two (by September) through pre-kindergarten. Families may enroll for a minimum of two days or the maximum of five days. Families have the opportunity to select what days their child will attend the program. Tuition is paid monthly.

Preschool Parent Handbook: www.StDaniel.org → learning

Youth Ministry Program

Youth Ministry Program

Please check out the “learning” page of our parish website, www.StDaniel.org, for information about our youth ministry programs. From this website, you can access the youth ministry Facebook page, and various youth programs, with their required forms.

High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry usually meets weekly, providing opportunities for fellowship, discipleship, and fun. Our youth are not the Church of tomorrow, but the Church of today! Please contact the youth ministry office for more information.

Middle School Youth Ministry

Middle School Youth Ministry usually meets monthly. The goal is to engage our youth in becoming more active in our faith through fellowship, discipleship, and social events. Please contact the youth ministry office for more information.

Other Youth Programs

- Service Projects
- X-treme Taste of Faith
- Youth Leadership Conference
- Steubenville Program
- Live Out Loud
- Camp Rock
- Summer Mission Trips

Internet Communications

To get to the Youth Ministry Facebook page, go to the parish website, www.StDaniel.org, then go to the “learning” page, where you will find a link to the Youth Ministry Facebook page.

For Instagram, please go to [stdanielymthejourney](https://www.instagram.com/stdanielymthejourney).

Adult Formation Program

Convert Classes

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program that prepares people for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. This program is for adults who are not baptized, for baptized Christian adults who wish to become Catholics, and for Catholic adults who need to make all of their sacraments. Classes start in the fall each year. For information, please contact the parish religious education office.

Young Adults

The Diocese of Joliet sponsors a Young Adult program in our area called Spirit and Truth, geared toward men and women who are ages 18 to 40. Young Adult events are held in Naperville and Lisle, among other places. For information, please go to their website, www.SpiritAndTruthIllinois.org, or to www.DioeceseOfJoliet.org/yam. You may also contact our parish youth ministry office for information as well.

Catholic Bible Study

Scripture Study is scheduled throughout the year, with classes during the day, for those who wish to explore the teachings of the Bible more fully in light of the Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the teachings of our Holy Father. Please call the religious education office for more information.

Adult Faith-Sharing Groups

Prayer Groups for Adults meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel, and on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in the Koinonia Room, throughout most of the year. Please contact the parish office for more information about these small faith-sharing groups for adults, or about forming your own prayer group at our parish. These prayer groups are inspired by the Renew "Be My Witness" program that is being promoted by the diocese.

Protecting God's Children

Everyone who works with children in our parish is required by the diocese to take this important program. All employees and parish leaders are required to take this diocesan program as well. We must do everything in our power to protect the innocence of children in our midst. All parishioners, friends, and even neighbors, are invited to take this enlightening program as well. Please contact the religious education office for information about the next scheduled Protecting God's Children program.

Other Programs

- Speakers' Series of presentations throughout the year
- Annual Women's Day of Reflection, held on a Saturday in May
- Diocesan Newman Institute classes for continuing lay formation
- Other diocesan programs, as scheduled by the diocese
- Programs held in other nearby parishes, as scheduled