

# **Saint Daniel the Prophet Church**

## **Parish Education Commission**

Updated on December 7, 2018

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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](mailto:diane@stdaniel.org)
- Karen Gulvas, Associate: 630-384-0137, [karen@stdaniel.org](mailto:karen@stdaniel.org)
- Gina Wiedman, Secretary: 630-384-0125, [REO@stdaniel.org](mailto:REO@stdaniel.org)
- Catechists, Classroom Assistants, and Office Volunteers

## Preschool Program

- Karen Gulvas, Director: 630-384-0137, [karen@stdaniel.org](mailto:karen@stdaniel.org)
- Preschool Staff Members

## Youth Ministry Program

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

## Adult Formation Program

- Diane Ahlemeyer, Director: 630-384-0138, [diane@stdaniel.org](mailto:diane@stdaniel.org)
- Guest Speakers, Bible Study, Small Prayer Groups, and other programs

## Education Commission Members

- Director: Diane Ahlemeyer: 630-384-0138, [diane@stdaniel.org](mailto:diane@stdaniel.org)
- Members: Karen Bandusky, Maria Bray, Chad Buttell, Joe DeGuzman, Dawnelle Muff
- Parish Council: Karen Bandusky

## Religious Education Program

**Vision.** Faith Formation at Saint Daniel Church uses a Christ-centered approach to life-long faith development that informs and transforms children, families, and individuals — the entire Saint Daniel Community — by providing a deeper understanding and appreciation of Scripture and the Tradition of our Catholic Christian Faith.

Our religious education curriculum for grade school students is an important part of our total parish program of faith development for parishioners of all ages. The Saint Daniel parish community, gathered in Christ's name, works to bring the reign of God to earth by proclaiming and celebrating Jesus Christ, and by living and transmitting our faith in support of one another and the larger community in which we live.

**Grade School Curriculum.** The Saint Daniel Family Discipleship program (Religious Education) is a holistic approach to Catholic education and formation in conjunction with the Our Sunday Visitor curriculum. Our religious education program also is designed to equip and empower parents to delve more deeply into their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ, so that they may share that relationship more deeply with their children.

The goal of our religious education program is to form a new generation of disciples in partnership with their parents. For this reason, parents are asked to attend special parent-nights throughout the year. Programs that embrace this spiritual method move from a parish of maintenance to mission, and from status quo to vibrancy. Results have shown that this kind of approach brings people closer to Jesus and one another. For more information about Family Discipleship, please see our website for “There's no place like home” and “The parish is the curriculum.”

Our classroom curriculum for our religious education students has two series, as described below. All our classes meet in our parish center building on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., as scheduled each year.

- **AIC Program for Grades 1-5: Alive in Christ.** This thematic series by Our Sunday Visitor 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.
- **CTF Program for Grades 6-8: Call to Faith.** 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 daily lives.

Our parish religious education program is built on the foundation of regular Mass attendance on Sundays and Holy Days. Our complete religious education for children unfolds over eight years of instruction. Students who miss any of these eight years of instruction are required to make up for them through a special home study program. This remedial home study program is taught by the parents under the supervision of a religious education staff person.

**Sacramental Celebrations.** The celebration of First Confession (Reconciliation), First Communion, and Confirmation are the highlights of our complete eight-year grade-school program of religious education classes.

- First Confession is celebrated in second grade, usually during Advent. Attendance in grades one and two is required to receive this sacrament. All Parent and/or Child Sacrament Meetings are also required.
- First Communion is celebrated in second grade, usually during April. Attendance in grades one and two is required to receive this sacrament. All Parent and/or Child Sacrament Meetings are also required.
- Confirmation is celebrated in eighth grade, usually during February or March. Attendance in grades six through eight are required to receive this sacrament. All Parent and/or Child Sacrament Meetings are also required.

Older children who have not had the opportunity to receive any or all of the Sacraments are welcome to participate in a program specific to their needs and in accord with the norms of the diocese. Please contact our parish religious education office for information about these remedial sacramental preparation programs.

## Preschool Program

**Bible Kids Preschool** is a partnership with our parents as early childhood educators, and provides children with 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 the following skill sets:

- **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 for both Christmas and Easter (instead of Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny).

**Preschool Schedule:** Preschool begins on the Tuesday after Labor Day and ends during 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 1st) 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.

**Christmas Program:** One of the highlights of our preschool program is their annual Christmas Program, held in our church, and followed by a reception in our parish center. Although our preschool Christmas Program is not lengthy due to the young age of our students, it is a delightful event that fills our church building each year.

**Parent Hospitality:** At various times throughout the year, there are hospitality events with food and drink for our students, their families, their siblings, and of course their grandparents. These hospitality events help create a warm feeling of community among our preschool families and our dedicated preschool staff members.

**Preschool Parent Handbook.** To obtain a copy of our Preschool Parent Handbook, go to our parish website, [www.StDaniel.org](http://www.StDaniel.org), then click on the “learning” link, and scroll down to the “preschool” section. You may also contact the religious education office to obtain a copy of this handbook.

# Youth Ministry Program

## Youth Ministry Program

Please check out the “learning” page of our parish website, [www.StDaniel.org](http://www.StDaniel.org), for information about our parish youth ministry program. 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 about our high school program.

## 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 about your middle school (junior high) program.

## 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](http://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 directly 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 in the age range of about 18 to 40. Young Adult events are held in Naperville and Lisle, among other places. For information about these programs, please go to their website, [www.SpiritAndTruthIllinois.org](http://www.SpiritAndTruthIllinois.org), or to [www.DioceseOfJoliet.org/yam](http://www.DioceseOfJoliet.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 at the parish and in parishioner homes at various times during the week. 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.

## Protecting God's Children Program

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