

January 10, 2018

Welcome back!

Dear parents, students,

I hope everyone had a joyful Christmas Break!

My name is John Zarbock and I will be the religious education instructor for your son/daughter's class for the remainder of the class year. My wife Carol will be my aide. Carol and I have been members of the Immaculate Conception Church for 4 years and are both Safe Environment qualified to perform duties as teachers/aides. I am also the Safe Environment Trainer for the parish. We have filled teacher/aide positions previously.

I'd like to take this time to brief you on some positive changes that have taken place within the Religious Education Confirmation classes.

At the beginning of the class year the staff was forced to combine the 1st year (9th grade) and the 2nd year (10th grade) classes due to the shortage of teachers/aides and the lack of classroom space.

During the Christmas break efforts to remedy this situation were undertaken. We are fortunate to now have enough teachers and teaching spaces, to allow splitting of the Confirmation class into 1st and 2nd year classes (this has also been done with the 1st Holy Communion classes). This allows us, the catechist, to better focus training and provide your son/daughter with the religious education necessary resulting in him/her being sealed with the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation.

The following are my teaching methods:

CLASSWORK: I will teach from the Believe* Celebrate* Live Confirmation curriculum. Initially, I will conduct a review to understand class knowledge of previous religious education instruction. We will always begin and end the class with a prayer and some portion of the class will always be devoted to learning prayers and devotions all Catholics should know. My ultimate goal and responsibility is to ensure the class is ready in all aspects to receive the sacrament of Confirmation from the Bishop.

QUIZZES/ TESTS: The format will be mostly multiple choice and fill-in. Prayer tests may be written or verbal.

HOMEWORK: I understand that students have academic obligations through school, however when I assign homework I expect it to be completed. Homework is given to reinforce the lessons taught in class. Honestly, I do not usually plan homework, but whatever we do not finish in class

will most likely be assigned as homework. Prayers are a good example of homework and I ask parents to assist and be involved.

CONDUCT: Students are expected to act in an appropriate manner. Bullying, harassment, or intimidation of students, teachers, or other faculty is not tolerated. Consequences will be followed according to the policy in the handbook. I will allow students to bring a bottle of water or soda into the classroom. NO food is permitted in the classroom. That includes gum. Last but not least, cell phones, iPod's, Mp3 players, iPad's, or any other electronic devices are not allowed in the CCD program! This is your one warning. If we see it, we take it!

CONTACT: If you need to contact me, please email me at jczarbock@yahoo.com .

CHURCH WEBSITE: I will attempt to keep as much information as I feel needed by parents and students on the church website at www.goliadcatholic.org.

Thank you and God Bless,

John Zarbock