

PHILOSOPHY OF THE PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

We, as Catholic educators, parents, and priests, share in the responsibility of handing down the Catholic Faith. In proclaiming the message of Christ, we recognize the parents as the primary educators who join us in promoting a meaningful relationship with God, self, and others.

We are committed to providing instruction in the Catholic Faith, an atmosphere of learning through personal example, discipline, and development of total trust in God, and encouragement in the environment of the Faith Community.

With mutual cooperation we hope to send our students out into the community with good moral values and social attitudes resulting in good, responsible Catholic citizens concerned for others both spiritually and materially.

MISSION STATEMENT - St. Catherine Laboure is dedicated to educating children spiritually in a nurturing environment.

1. Our PSR Community will instruct each child in his/her Catholic faith, keeping in mind individual differences and needs, and providing a learning experience through which each child can grow and develop into the person God always meant him/her to be.
2. We celebrate God's presence by living the gospel message of Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, and service.
3. We aim to develop a faith community within the Parish School of Religion thereby fostering a better relationship with God and others.
4. We strive to provide a nurturing atmosphere to help students develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to help each child to discover his/her uniqueness, talents, and abilities ó all given to her/him by our loving God.

ADMISSION

The Parish School of Religion has the following criteria in order for a student to be admitted to and retained in its program of religious instruction.

1. The family is a registered member of St. Catherine Laboure. (Exceptions can be made. Contact the Director of Religious Education.)
2. Children entering the program for the first time need to present a baptismal certificate, if the child was not baptized at St. Catherine Laboure (Baptismal Certificates will be required for 2nd and 7th grades.)
3. A registration form must be completed.
4. Each family is charged for tuition and book fees. These must be paid if the program is to remain solvent. If any family is in need of financial assistance, proper arrangements may be made with the Director of Religious Education (DRE).
5. The student will be expected to follow all regulations and to conduct himself/herself in a proper manner at all times.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 until 7:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Weekly attendance at class is necessary if your child is to benefit from the religious instruction provided by St. Catherine Laboure Parish School of Religion, and if your child is expected to grasp the concepts of his/her grade level. If, because of illness, your child can not attend class on a particular evening, please call the Peggy Brinkmann before 5:30 p.m. at the parish office (314-843-3245, ext. 223) or e-mail her at pbrinkmann@sclparish.org.

If a student is to be dismissed early, parents/guardians are to report to the PSR office before a student is allowed to leave the building.

TARDINESS

Classes begin promptly at 6:30 PM. **For the good of your student**, it is imperative that he/she be at his or her desk by the start of class.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES

A message will be left on the parish office voice mail if PSR is cancelled for any reason. That number is 314-843-3245, ext. 223.

In case of inclement weather, you may listen to KSDK for any cancellations of PSR. If Lindbergh School is not in session, we will not have class. If St. Catherine Day School is canceled, so is PSR.

TUTORING

We have a special ungraded class for those children who have had NO or VERY LITTLE religious instruction. Students will be placed in this class after consultation with the DRE and/or one of the priests.

SACRAMENTAL POLICY

It is the policy of this program that any child wishing to receive a sacrament for the first time must have attended PSR for two consecutive years. (Participation does not have to have been at this parish) Children are prepared to receive the sacraments in the following grades:

2nd Grade - Reconciliation and First Eucharist
7th Grade - Confirmation

PROMOTION

Since the PSR program is a continuous program of instruction, with the Teachings of our Faith built one year upon another, it is essential that students grasp the concepts in each grade level. Children will be promoted to the next grade at the end of the year if they:

1. understand the material and concepts presented on their particular grade level
2. cooperate fully in the structure and expectations of the program
3. attend classes regularly
4. complete all required work for the specific grade level
5. show an interest in learning by participation in class
6. show interest in learning by being on time consistently

Should a child find difficulty in grasping the concepts, his/her parents, the catechist, and the DRE will meet to discuss the needs of the student in order to ensure promotion.

REPORT CARDS

Three times per year children will be evaluated by their teachers. The progress reports will be distributed to parents or students depending upon the activities at the school.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The St. Catherine Laboure Parish School of Religion program uses as its main text, *We Believe* by Sadlier. Children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation use *Christ Our Life, Confirmed in the Spirit* by Loyola Press.

CATECHISTS

The PSR catechists who teach your children are strong believers in the importance of passing on FAITH. They are dedicated to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to your children through the ministry of teaching.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a way for parents to become involved in a child's religious education. The purpose of homework is to assist the student in grasping, developing, and maintaining concepts that are relevant to class lessons. When your child has an assignment, we ask that you work with your child and have him return the work that has been assigned. If your child is absent, he/she will be expected to make up class work, so please make the necessary arrangements to obtain your child's missed assignment.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

We ask that the children be in their classroom by **6:25 p.m.** to ensure a prompt start at 6:30 p.m.

Upon arrival, we ask that you enter St. Catherine at the church driveway (the entrance closest to Sappington and Lindbergh with the overhang). Please continue forward (straight) to the ball fields. Drive along the perimeter of the ball fields and around to the gym entrance. Drop off the children at the entrance walkway. I am usually at the door to greet the children.

At dismissal, follow the same path, but when parking, please be careful to avoid using the Adoration Chapel spaces and the Handicapped spaces if you are not eligible. Grades 1-4 will be dismissed at 7:40 p.m. Parents are to remain in the lobby adjacent to the gym until the doors are unlocked. Parents will then pick up their children from the classroom and sign them out.

Grades 5-8 will be dismissed at 7:45 p.m. Again, please sign out your children at dismissal to ensure their safety.

MASSES, PRAYER SERVICES, ETC.

Throughout the year, the PSR will participate in Masses, Prayer Services, etc. Parents are **ALWAYS WELCOME** to attend these services. Please note the times and dates of these celebrations and plan to attend! 😊 😊 😊

DISCIPLINE

Each student has a personal responsibility to contribute to a Christian learning atmosphere through his/her behavior choices. Respectful and orderly behavior is expected at all times.

Also, in trying to establish a learning atmosphere for your children, we encourage appropriate dress, as the children will, from time to time, be attending church.

If a child is a discipline problem within the classroom, the following steps will be taken:

1. The teacher will involve the student in a discussion about a course of action to ensure appropriate behavior.
2. If necessary, a student may be sent to the Director of Religious Education.
3. A conference may be held with the parents, teacher, and the Director of Religious Education when inappropriate behavior is serious and/or repeated.
4. The Administration reserves the right to ask that a student who is having repeated behavior problems be re-evaluated to determine what course of action would be in the best interest of the child and for the PSR program.

VIOLENCE

It is our intention to provide a safe learning environment for all members of the PSR community. The climate of PSR shall reflect Gospel values including an emphasis on the dignity of all persons which is necessary for respect, the interdependence of all persons which is the basis of community, and the rights and responsibilities of all persons which are the foundation of justice.

Violence is inconsistent with the unity and peace which are essential to living the Catholic faith in community. Violence also inhibits human development and successful learning. **THEREFORE VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EXPULSION.**

Violence consists of words, gestures, and actions that result in or have the potential to result in hurt, fear, or injury. Violence includes threats of injury; harassment; bullying, assault, possession and/or use of a weapon; and theft or vandalism of property.

A weapon is anything used or intended to be used to threaten, intimidate, and/or harm persons. **THE POSSESSION OR USE OF FIREARMS, OTHER WEAPONS, OR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ON SCHOOL/PARISH PREMISES IS NOT PERMITTED AND COULD RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EXPULSION.**

All reported or observed instances of violence and threats of violence, whether they occurred on or off school/parish premises, shall be addressed in a timely, serious, and appropriate manner according to the requirements of state and local laws and accepted educational practice. The safety of students, faculty, and staff is given paramount consideration when making decisions regarding the discipline of persons who violate this policy.

Students and parents/guardians **ARE ENCOURAGED** to report concerns regarding potential acts of violence to the teacher or the director. Teachers will be reporting pertinent concerns and/or pertinent information regarding specific students to the PSR Administration promptly.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

Throughout the year, parents will be urged and encouraged to attend various meetings. The opening "Back-to-School" Night is at the beginning of each year. This is very important as each catechist outlines the goals, expectations, and highlights of the coming PSR year.

Parents of children receiving sacraments will be expected to attend parental preparation meetings, since parents are the primary educators of their children. These meetings are to involve parents in the very important process of sacramental preparation.

It is fundamentally important that parents be involved in the educational process of their children. This is particularly true in matters of faith. It is on this principle that our relationship with parents is based. As administrators and catechists the following are to be considered as our responsibility to parents:

COMMITMENT OF PARISH COMMUNITY

Aware of our responsibility before God to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to ALL, including children, we promise:

1. To provide daily and weekend Eucharists, as well as celebrations of the other sacraments and opportunities for spiritual growth.
2. To speak to the children of the things of God, and to make prayer an integral part of the religious education program to support what is being modeled in the home.
3. To provide a comprehensive and quality religious education thru the various programs offered at the parish level.
4. To accept our responsibility to support the moral teachings of our Catholic Faith in order not to contradict at PSR what is being proclaimed at home.
5. To teach the children by word and example, to have a love and concern for the needs of others, especially the poor, and to have the children live out that concern in a CONCRETE way, as their age and maturity allows.
6. To offer the children opportunities to build community in the parish, social contact with ALL the parish children, and opportunities for service in the parish and the larger community and world.
7. To keep the cost of the religious education programs as low as possible so that ALL can participate. (No one is EVER turned away for inability to pay.)

STUDENT COMMITMENT

Students are expected to follow the guidelines and procedures of the PSR. Certain expectations are outlined below in order to give students the understanding that they must have a commitment to the program just as the adults must also have that commitment.

1. Students will show a continued respect for others, for themselves, and for the property of others.
2. Students must respect their teachers as educators.
3. Students must participate actively in the class and exhibit a desire to learn about their faith.
4. Students will come prepared for class, including completed assignments.
5. Students will maintain a sense of quiet in order to enhance the learning environment. This sense of quiet is to be present in the halls and the classroom.

PARENTAL COMMITMENT

Aware of the dignity of my call from God to be the first and foremost educators of my children, parents are expected to:

1. To participate weekly in the Sunday Eucharist or Church of my faith.
2. To speak to their children of the things of God, and to make prayer an integral part of the environment in our home.
3. To participate and cooperate, as our Parish School of Religion requests, in the religious education of my children, including sacramental preparation.
4. To accept my responsibility to support the moral teachings of my Catholic Faith in order not to contradict in my home what is proclaimed at PSR.
5. To teach my children by word and example, to have a love and concern for the needs of others, especially the poor, and to live out that concern in a
CONCRETE way, as their age and maturity allows.
6. To do my fair share in financially supporting the Parish School of Religion and the Parish.

We are very happy and grateful that your children are enrolled in our Parish School of Religion Program!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS WE BEGIN ANOTHER YEAR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION TOGETHER!