

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RE/CCD PROGRAM CURRICULUM

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS) is a program which is used in **Pre-K & Kinder – 5th Grade** as well as **SPI A and SPII A & B**. It is about creating an environment (**Atrium**) where the child can "fall in love with God". The texts we present to the children are taken from the Bible and the Sacramentary. Each message is supported by materials, which are kept in the Atrium and used by the children. Through working with the materials, the child makes the proclaimed message his/her own. The catechists provide a "key" to open the children to the love of God and the riches of our Faith.

Grade 1 Traditional Class - Focuses on the persons of the HOLY TRINITY. The children are taught that God, our Creator, made each person special. They learn that Jesus, the Son of God, is our friend and brother, that He is human like us as well as divine, and that the Holy Spirit is our source of strength, peace and joy. They begin to learn that they belong to the Catholic community of Jesus' followers and participate in the life of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Grade 2 Traditional Class - We offer the children a thorough preparation to receive the SACRAMENTS OF CONFESSION and HOLY EUCHARIST. The children grow toward a closer relationship with God. They experience the Lord as the loving Father who is always ready to forgive us, Jesus who gives us Himself in Holy Communion and the Holy Spirit who calls us to love and serve each other.

Grade 3 Traditional Class - The CHURCH is the focus. Students learn about the traditional marks of the Church and the most important beliefs held by Catholics. We learn about the Sacraments of vocation and healing, as well as the 14 works of Mercy. We look at Sacramentals and Devotions. This class is also supplemented by presentations from **CGS Level II**.

SP I A/B and SP II A/B (Sacramental Prep year I and II)- Traditional Class focuses directly on Sacramental preparation. **THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS Level II & III)** is also used in this class. It is about creating an environment (Atrium) where the child can "fall in love with God". The texts we present to the children are taken from the Bible and the Sacramentary. Each message is supported by materials, which are kept in the Atrium and used by the children. The Catechists presents from the Handbook for Catholics or Our Catholic Identity.

Grades 4 & 5 – Will focus on Level III of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This level dives into the Plan of God; the Maxims Jesus taught; detailed information and work on the structure and meaning of the Mass accompanied by the Sacraments; an in-depth discovery of the Bible and so much more.

Grade 6 A STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. Students learn that it is in the study of the Hebrew Scriptures that we find the roots of our Faith. God is the Creator, who cares deeply for His people and interacts in their lives. Jesus is seen as the fulfillment of the Old Testament--- the one who inaugurates a new covenant through His life of Sacrifice and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

Grade 7 THE STORY OF JESUS. "What stories about Jesus do you remember most?" This year the students will journey through the New Testament, walking with Jesus and learning more about his life, message, and develop a relationship with the Risen Christ.

Grade 8 Centers on the HISTORY OF THE CHURCH and the future of our Church community. A survey of major historical periods that contributed to the formation of the Church as it is today. It provides the student with a deeper understanding and appreciation of their heritage.

SPN (Special Needs) – the Catechist presents essential truths of our faith through hands on materials and work from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as well as tested techniques gear toward the strengths of each child.

PARENTS, WE URGE YOU TO GET INVOLVED! WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF HELPERS IN THE CLASSROOMS or . . . WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CHILD, YOU COULD BE ENJOYING AN **ADULT APPROACH TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSEMBLED JUST FOR YOU AND YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAITH**. IT IS ALSO LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO BE AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR CHILD WHILE GROWING IN FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF GOD. If you have any questions, please call our Office at 855-7567.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

1. Classes begin promptly at 9:05 a.m. The RE/CCD begins the second Sunday in September. PARENTS, please make sure your children are in class ON TIME! It disrupts the class when children arrive late. It is important that the children eat breakfast prior to class!
2. Inform us if your child is sick, or is really not able to attend, because it is our policy to call the parents if the child is not in class on Sunday mornings. The telephone number of the RE/CCD Office is 855-7567.
3. We expect our students to participate in class, to be polite in speech and respectful in manner. It is important students respect all property of St. Patrick School. Our hope is not to have to call upon you to replace an item that was broken or misplaced or intentionally damaged.
4. If a student continuously disrupts the class, he/she will be removed from the classroom. If this becomes a habit the Director will notify the parents to come and sit in the classroom for a couple of Sundays to encourage proper classroom behavior. We are NOT professionally trained to deal with children who are disruptive.
5. No shouting or running in the halls or classroom is permitted.
6. No food or student cell phones are allowed to be in the classroom.
7. We ask that students remain outside their classroom until their teacher is present.

ABOUT THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Child's Expectations

1. The required preparation time for all sacraments is two uninterrupted YEARS. This includes the preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism, for children five years and older.
2. It is understood that the children come to class **ON TIME**, and that they **DO NOT MISS CLASS**, unless they are sick or are in an emergency situation. The maximum they are allowed to miss is **3 classes**. If for some reason your child exceeds this amount please call the office for further instructions.

3. This preparation time is set according to Diocesan guidelines and expectations.

Parent's Expectations

1. Parents are required to be registered parishioners, attend Mass regularly as contributing members.

2. As your child enters their second year preparations, parents are asked to attend

4 **PARENT SESSIONS**. At these sessions you will receive pertinent information for your child, prepare a white garment for them and in turn be blessed with unique approach to our faith.

3. **AS A CHURCH, WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER**, and consider it a **BLESSING**, to grow closer to God. We will do our part and ask as parents do your part in working with your child. We appeal to you, that you personally make a commitment to this whole process of preparing for the sacraments.

The reception of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** has been moved to the **10th grade**. Confirmation is a **two year preparation** as well. It **begins** in the **9th grade**. Check with the Youth Minister if you have any questions. Godparents are required for the Sacrament of Baptism and a Sponsor is needed for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Note: Sponsors are not required for First Communion.**