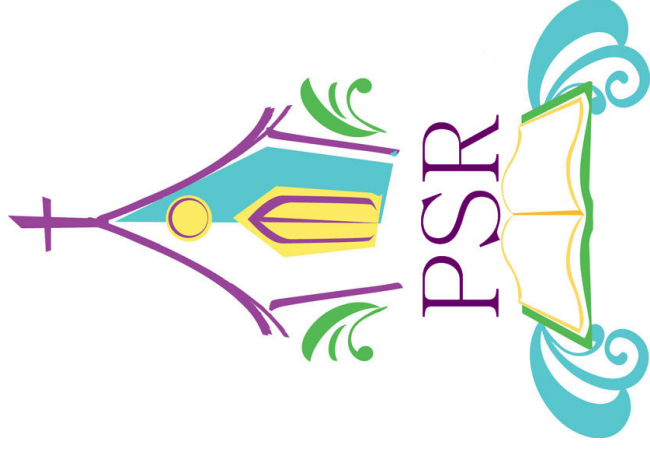


Parish **S**chool of **R**eligion
Handbook
2009-2010



St. Clare of Assisi
Roman Catholic Church

Parish School of Religion

Prayers & Facts to Know

Students in each grade should know not only their current requirements, but also all the required knowledge from every preceding grade level. Please make sure to review the facts and prayers of each grade level EVERY YEAR.

Kindergarten

Sign of the Cross

Prayers Before and After Meals

Bedtime Prayers

Grade 1

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Grade 2

Act of Contrition

Ten Commandments

The Seven Sacraments

Prayers of the Mass

Grade 3

Apostle's Creed

How to Pray the Rosary

Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, & Luminous)

Hail, Holy Queen

Grade 4

Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Beatitudes

Order of the Mass

Grade 5

Nicene Creed

The Liturgical Year

Precepts of the Church

Grade 6

Holy Days of Obligation

Facts about Sacred Scripture

Grade 7

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Parish School of Religion

Philosophy & Purpose

Members of the Catholic Church are continually challenged to live following the example of Christ. One way in which we can do this is to teach as Jesus taught the early Christians, young and old. The Parish School of Religion, in particular, hopes to teach the words of Jesus to our children. By sharing faith, celebrating sacraments, and providing a religious education program, the St. Clare Church Community participates in the continuing faith formation of our children. In this way, we share responsibility for continuing the mission of Jesus.

The ministries of St. Clare Church offer several programs, including the Parish School of Religion (PSR.) The parish staff strives to promote and provide active leadership in this program because it is so vital for the ongoing faith formation of our parish children.

The primary purpose of the St. Clare Parish School of Religion is to provide assistance and support to parents of our parish children attending schools other than those already sponsored by this parish. This parish school hopes to support parents in the area of catechesis, religious instruction, faith formation, prayer, and sacramental celebration. During the rite of Baptism for Children, the celebrant addresses the parents:

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor."

While the parents have the primary responsibility for the faith formation of their children, our Catechists gracefully volunteer to share their own experience of faith and strive to make Christ visible to their students through this religious education program. We hope that this faith formation will result in young adults who will themselves proclaim the Lord in word and deed.

Parish School of Religion

Rights & Responsibilities

Family Rights

Every family, by participating in the St. Clare Parish School of Religion, can expect these benefits from our program:

- We will provide a respectful environment to protect children from physical, emotional, and spiritual harm.
- Children will be taught authentic Catholic Faith at a developmentally appropriate level.
- Catechists will communicate class content to parents.
- We will not undermine the authority of parents in order to respect their right to be the primary faith educators of their children.
- Catechists will be honest and open to directly answer any parent concerns. If they are unable to satisfy parent questions, the Director of Family Faith Formation, Mr. Christopher Keeven will be responsive to your needs.
- DID YOU KNOW? Last year, every St. Clare Catechist completed apprentice level catechist certification. Two of our catechists have master's degrees in fields related to religious education.

Student Responsibilities

Each student is expected to participate in Mass every Sunday with their family.

Each child is expected to attend all of the scheduled PSR classes and events listed on the calendar. If a student must be absent, please notify the Parish Office in advance (632-3562). Attendance will be monitored.

Any homework assigned is to be completed on time.

Students are expected to act respectfully toward all those participating in PSR, especially fellow students and Catechists.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are to bring their children to Mass every weekend. For PSR families, this DOES NOT include the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Parents are not to bring their children to PSR, and attend Mass without them. (If you have failed to get to Mass before PSR, and are stuck with a choice between

Parish School of Religion

Textbooks

The series of textbook used for Grades K-6 is called *Faith First Legacy Edition*, and is published by RCL Benzinger, Inc. It is a solid textual resource approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, complete with lessons on doctrine, worship, morality, prayer, scriptures, and liturgical seasons. In addition, RCL Benzinger has established a web site for families to visit, should they choose to do so. This is recommended for any family reviewing homework, and is also a great medium to share your faith with your children. The website is www.FaithFirst.com.

As the second grade prepares to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time, they will use supplemental books published by RCL Benzinger, Inc..

The regular seventh grade text includes two modules from *Understanding the Catechism: "Morality"* and "Liturgy & Sacraments." Both are published by RCL Benzinger, Inc. For confirmation preparation, we use *Celebrating Our Faith*, distributed by Harcourt, Inc.

Other Resources

Child Protection Policy of the Belleville Diocese

Sowing the Seeds of Faith – the faith development standards of the Belleville Diocese

Partners in Faith – newsletter for PSR families

St. Clare Parish Bulletin – please check the Faith Formation Page for PSR News

The Eye Opener – our parish newsletter

www.stclarechurch.org - our parish website / click on the PSR tab!

Parish School of Religion

Closing Prayer Schedule

September 2009
13 Grade 7
20 Grade 6
27 Grade 5

January 2010
10 Grade 2
24 Grade 1
31 Kindergarten

October
4 Grade 4
18 Grade 3
25 Grade 2

February
7 Grade 7
21 Grade 6
28 Grade 5

November
1 Grade 1
8 Kindergarten
15 Grade 7
22 Grade 6

March
7 Grade 4
14 Grade 3
21 Grade 2
28 Grade 1

December
6 Grade 5
13 Grade 4
20 Grade 3

April
11 Kindergarten
25 Grade 7

Parish School of Religion

Rights & Responsibilities

Parent Responsibilities (continued)

Homework is sometimes given in PSR. It has the specific purpose of providing parents with the opportunity to share their own faith lives with their children. Parents are strongly encouraged to help their children with homework assignments.

Parents are the primary teachers of faith to their children. It's amazing how children can pick up their parent's habits through simple observation and imitation. Please remember that YOUR example will teach your children what it means to live as a Catholic Christian.

Discipline

While the Catechist will handle ordinary discipline problems, the Director of Family Faith Formation may assist the Catechist. Parents will be contacted to assist with ongoing problems. Parents are encouraged to maintain contact with the Catechist until problems are resolved. In extreme situations, home schooling is an option. The parish reserves the right to remove disrespectful students from class altogether.

Student Pick-Up

Parents are expected to come inside to the school gym to pick up their children after class. We will gather for closing prayer at 11:50 a.m. and dismiss by 12:00 p.m. For safety purposes, we will not allow students to exit the building without an adult escort.

If you have a need to take your child from class early, please visit the Hall Monitor on duty to be escorted to the classroom.

Jr. High Students are not considered adults as pertaining to our pick-up policy. If this is an inconvenience, waiver forms are available that can excuse students from this rule. Please contact Chris Keeven at cmkeeven@yahoo.com if you would like your child exempted from this policy.

Snow Days

They are rare, but sometimes we need to cancel PSR due to winter weather. Please watch KMOV Channel 4 or go to www.kmov.com/weather/school_closings.html and look for "St. Clare of Assisi PSR, O'Fallon."

Parish School of Religion

Emergency Policies

Upon recommendation by the Belleville Diocese Office of Education, we have implemented new Crisis Response Plans for our Parish School of Religion. While a complete set of instructions are given to each Catechist, they are available to parents upon request. Some helpful notes for parents are included here:

Natural Disaster (Tornado, Earthquake)

In the event of a tornado or earthquake, the Catechists will direct the students to take the appropriate preventative safety measures according to our Crisis Response Plan.

Lockdown (Hostile Intruder)

The school building is normally kept unlocked. However, each classroom door handle is locked during class. In the event of a hostile intruder, we will initiate lockdown procedures to summon the police and prevent any child abductions.

Evacuation (Fire, Bomb Threat)

In the event that we need to evacuate the building, **our designated evacuation area will be the northwest corner of the school parking lot (near the playground)**. Parents will be called as quickly as we are able.

Swine Flu (H1N1 Virus)

While not an “emergent” emergency, there is plenty of alarm regarding this disease as we enter the school year. If you even suspect your child may have the H1N1 Virus, please do not bring him/her to PSR. Students who contract swine flu should stay away from PSR for 7-10 days, and only return after being fever free without medication for at least 24 hours.

Please encourage your children to wash their hands regularly in order to prevent the spread of disease. We will keep hand sanitizer in every room this year in an effort to stay vigilant.

Parish School of Religion

Catechists & Classrooms

Kindergarten Mary Vrieswyk Amy Short	Room #7 (Main Level) 624-2418 628-0026
Grade 1 Cathy Takacs	Room #1 (Main Level) 224-9338
Grade 2G Gwen Hites	Room #6 (Main Level) 628-1767
Grade 2J Julie Hicks	Room #3 (Main Level) 632-9115
Grade 3 Emily Bonn	Room #9 (Upstairs) 416-0027
Grade 4 Robert Cherry	Room #5 (Main Level) 628-1619
Grade 5 Ryan Juen	Room #11 (Upstairs) 409-6655
Grade 6 Lesley Coleman Heather Jordan	Room #13 (Upstairs) 580-4432 236-2691
Grade 7 Simone Wheeler	Room #14 (Upstairs) 954-9310