

Put on Your Faith

The Our Lady of Peace
Parish School of Religion
Preschool and Grades 1-8
2014-2015
Handbook

If we want it to have real meaning and fulfillment, as you want and as you deserve, I say to each one of you, 'Put on faith', and your life will take on a new flavor, it will have a compass to show you the way; 'put on hope' and every one of your days will be enlightened and your horizon will no longer be dark, but luminous; 'put on love', and your life will be like a house built on rock, your journey will be joyful, because you will find many friends to journey with you.

Jesus is the one who brings God to us and us to God.

*'Put on Christ!' in your life, and you will find a friend in whom you can always trust; 'put on Christ' and you will see the wings of hope spreading and letting you journey with joy towards the future;
'put on Christ' and your life will be full of his love; it will be a fruitful life.*

Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2013

Put on Your Faith

THE OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

We appreciate you enrolling your child in Our Lady of Peace Parish's School of Religion. As Pope Francis said to a gathering of youth in Rio, "I say to each one of you, 'Put on faith', and your life will take on a new flavor, and that is our theme this year—we are asking you and your kids to PUT on Your Faith. Stand loud and Proud as a Catholic.

Your children are our church's greatest treasure. Therefore, our mission is to nurture each child in the knowledge and love of God in order to enrich their faith life and to enable them to live out their call to stewardship in the community. And, as this school year begins, the volunteers of Our Lady of Peace's PSR Program are excited to assist in the religious formation of your child with creative instruction and appropriate educational resources.

The key ingredient to the success of our work is your ongoing interest in and support of your child's progress in his/her faith. Your good example through worship and service reinforces the important lessons of the classroom. Moreover, ongoing discussion or questions from you will indicate your own values and attitude toward religion to your child. Be assured of our prayers and our hard work so that all of us, young and old, will continue to grow in our faith journey. God Bless us all in the new school year.

PSR focuses on the four Pillars of Catechism of the Catholic Church: What Catholics Believe, How Catholics Worship, How Catholics Live, How Catholics Pray. The goal of our catechetical efforts is to develop in knowing, practicing and understanding of the teachings of Jesus and of the Catholic Church that we inherited from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It is through the Catholic Christian Community—its prayer and sacred liturgies and lived experiences that students will learn how to live the challenge of the Catholic faith to help build God's Kingdom of justice, peace, and love now.

Grades preschool through 4th grade use the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program. Grades 5 and 6 will use the *Blest are We* books by RCL Benziger Press. The 7th and 8th graders will use a program designed for confirmation, called Decision Point from The Dynamic Catholic.

"The aim of all Christian education, moreover, is to train the believer in an adult faith that can make him a "new creation", capable of bearing witness in his surroundings to the Christian hope that inspires him."

— Pope Benedict XVI, *The Sacrament Of Charity: Sacramentum Caritatis*

PSR CALENDAR

Preschool is held during the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass in the church basement

Grades 1-8 meet Sunday from 11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m. in OLP School Building

2014

September 7, 14, 21, 28

October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 9, 16, 23

December 7, 14, 21

2015

January 4, 11, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

April 12, 19, 26

May 3, 10, 17

No Class

November 30 (Thanksgiving weekend)

December 28 (Christmas break)

January 18 (Martin Luther King weekend)

April 5 (Easter)

Important Dates

First Reconciliation for 2nd Graders: January 24, 2015-10:00a.m.

First Communion for 2nd Graders: Saturday, May 2, 2015-10:00 a.m.

2nd grade parent meeting: School Cafeteria
Sunday, October 26—after 10:00 a.m. Mass

Confirmation for 7/8th graders: Saturday, March 21, 2015-10:00 a.m.

Confirmation parent meeting: School cafeteria
Sunday, October 19—after 10:00 a.m. Mass

PSR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Cancellations

In the case of inclement weather, you will be contacted by e-mail to expedite this process, so please make sure we have your correct e-mail. In the event of a level 2 or 3 snow emergency, classes will not be held.

Fire Drills

We are required to have a certain number of fire drills each year. Directions are posted in each room of the PSR Learning Center (OLP School). Teachers will lead students to the assigned exit. No running or talking is allowed. Everyone will meet by the Blessed Mother Statue in front of the church until they are dismissed to return to their classrooms.

Book Replacement

The cost to replace lost textbooks is \$25.

Drug, Alcohol, & Weapons Policy

Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons or any instruments of violence and all illegal substances, defined as banned substances are prohibited. Banned substances are not to be used or sold, on the property of Our Lady of Peace School or Our Lady of Peace Parish. This also applies to all school-related events held off school property.

Reconciliation Policy

The National Directory for Catechesis, put out by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bishop Campbell strongly recommend that children receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation prior to First Eucharist. Therefore, every child in our PSR program is prepared to receive this sacrament in second grade, but the final decision regarding their readiness rests with the parents.

Special Needs

At Our Lady of Peace we strive to offer appropriate catechesis for all children and youth regardless of their abilities or needs. The U.S. Catholic Bishops stated in 1995 "By reason of their baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling." We work with families to best place their special needs child. Please indicate any needs your child may have on the registration form or contact PSR Coordinator to discuss at tfortkamp@gmail.com.

Pre-school/Kindergarten

Teresa Tompkins

teresa.tompkins11@gmail.com

Aide: Jackie Mikula

Grade 1

Christine George

c.george112@gmail.com

Aide: Nick George

Grade 2

Jennifer Pawley

jenniferpawley@ymail.com

Aide: Anthony Raphael

Grade 3

Maureen Armstrong

armstrong_clan@att.net

Aide: Alexandra Rafael

Grade 4

Ana Livecchi

alivecchi@wowway.com

Aide: Talia Livecchi

Grade 5

Greg France

gregfrance@earthlink.net

Aide: Ferris Clark

Grade 6

James Wolff

dawigrund@live.com

Grades 7/8

Colette Rost

rostcolette@gmail.com

Jerry/Sandra Ulibarri

sanbarri@aol.com

Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp

jdfortkamp@gmail.com

OVERVIEW OF THE RELIGIOUS COURSE OF STUDY

Grade One-Students are introduced into God's activity in the world and his presence in their lives. They learn Bible stories and formal prayers, as well as about sacred objects and spaces in the church. They hear about God as Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and how they share God's life through baptism.

Grade Two-There is an emphasis on forming a closer relationship with Jesus, -Jesus is their friend and God's son who became human to show us God's love. They examine the church as the Body of Christ and a community who worships together. The main focus is on preparation for receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion.

Grade Three-Students focus on the Apostle's and Nicene Creed and deepening their understanding of sacred scripture through the parables and miracle stories of the Bible. They study the roles of the apostles and disciples and learn about church leaders (the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, etc.). They also grow in relationship with God and begin to realize how their behavior towards others is part of this relationship.

Grade Four-Students become aware of God's plan of creation and salvation through Divine Revelation and Sacred Scripture. The concept of covenant is developed in the sense that it lies at the heart of our relationship with God. The ten commandments are examined as a way to live this covenant or special friendship with God. Mary and the Saints become real role models, and by studying the Beatitudes and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, students realize how their behavior towards others is connected to their relationship with God.

Grade Five-The focus is on the liturgical year, the sacraments, and the Mass. Students take a closer look at Gospel stories to better understand Jesus' message. Redemption is studied through the Pascal Mystery of Jesus, and students are challenged to realize they are called to be evangelizers who share in the mission of the Church. The sacredness of life from conception to natural death is also examined.

Grade Six-Students take a deeper look at scripture and begin to develop skills in biblical interpretation. They focus on symbolism and what religious truths are being conveyed, and create timelines of key biblical events. They also become aware of Catholic teachings in the area of sexual morality and of social teachings and how they are called to live out their discipleship to Christ.

Grade Seven/Eight-There is a focus on the new testament and the teachings of Jesus, as well as discussion on the dignity of all people. They explore the meaning of friendship, intimacy, and love and the Catholic teachings relating to sexual morals. They learn the relationship between justice and peace and how they can promote peace in world. Every other year the classes focuses on the Sacrament of Confirmation. During this time, they will review the purpose and history of the church, the sacraments, the meaning of Mass and importance of prayer in daily life. An understanding of RCIA is also presented.

PSR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Parental Responsibility

- Show an interest in the religious education of your children by cooperating the teachers and the PSR Coordinator.
- Ensure your child attends class regularly and on-time.
- Ensure your child attend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Communicate any special educational needs that your child may have or any circumstances that may affect your child within the classroom.

Student Responsibility

- Behave in a Christian manner, show respect for teachers, classmates, volunteers and OLP property.
- Participate in classroom activities and discussion.
- Attend class regularly and complete any make-up work if absences do occur.
- Will not use rude or inappropriate language or be disruptive during class.
- Will not be under the influence of drugs, tobacco or alcohol.
- Will not leave the building without permission of an authorized adult.
- Will not wear hats in the building or chew gum.
- Refrain from using i-pods, cell phone or electronic devises. These must be turned off at all times.

Discipline/Disruptive Behavior

Disrespect toward teachers, aides, other students, property, or any inappropriate behavior or language will not be tolerated. Breaking them will result in the following:

First: Student will receive two verbal warnings in the classroom.

Second: Student is sent to the PSR Coordinator where he/she will discuss his/her behavior.

Third: If the behavior continues, the parent will be called and asked to pick-up his/her child immediately.

Fourth: If the behavior continues to be disruptive to PSR program, student will be asked to complete it at home with his/her parent's supervision.

Attendance

Attendance at PSR classes is vital to your child's successful completion of the PSR program. Please e-mail your child's teacher (e-mails are in this handbook) or contact the PSR Coordinator at tmfortkamp@gmail.com to report any necessary absences.

Arrival/Dismissal

PSR Students (grades 1-8) will proceed to the OLP School Cafeteria by 11:00 a.m. (after 10:00 a.m. Mass). Parents should escort children 5th grade and below. Students will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. and parents should pick them up promptly at this time in the school cafeteria. No child will be able to leave unescorted or with a non-parent. Preschool parents should drop-off and pick-up children in their classroom in the church basement. Please pick-up by 11:00 a.m.