

## *Vision Statement*

The religious education programs at St. Aloysius/St. Jude Parish will faithfully pass on the gospel of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Catholic Church to future generations of believers.

## *Mission Statement*

We, the catechists of St. Aloysius/St. Jude Parish, in partnership with the parents of our students, are committed to presenting a systematic, consistent catechesis, steeped in Catholic tradition, and faithful to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and current Catholic theology.

## *The Parental Mission*

We recognize the challenges presented by the demands of our modern society, and acknowledge parents for their sacrifices and dedication to their children's faith formation. Parental participation in the catechetical process is crucial to promoting the Catholic values that produce life-long devotion to God. Our students' faith is most strongly influenced by the way parents practice their faith in the home. Here are some suggestions for parents that will reinforce what we teach in class:

- **P**ray with your children at mealtime and bedtime
- **R**emember that your children are looking to you for direction on how to live their faith, so watch what you say and do.
- **A**sk your children what they learned in class.
- **C**elebrate the mass each weekend and the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year with your children
- **T**alk to your children about your own faith in God
- **I**nstruct your children how to show love and respect for others
- **C**arefully choose the television shows, movies, video games, magazines, and music to which your children will be exposed. Look for influences that promote Catholic values.
- **E**ach day at bedtime, help your children count the blessings God has given them.

Your children's faith will be strengthened as they watch you **PRACTICE** your own faith. Parents can also help their children learn their prayers by praying them at home. The following prayers for each grade level are in your child's textbook and are required learning:

### **Grade 1**

Begin introducing students to the Sign of the Cross, Grace before Meals, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. They are not expected to memorize these prayers at this grade level.

### **Grade 2**

Introduce students to the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and the Act of Contrition, and continue practicing the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. Second graders should know the Sign of the Cross, and the Grace before Meals by heart

### **Grade 3**

Introduce students to the Apostles Creed and continue practicing the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and the Act of Contrition. Third graders should know the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be by heart.

### **Grade 4**

Introduce students to the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and continue working on the Apostles Creed and the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Fourth graders should know the Act of Contrition by heart.

## **Grade 5**

Introduce students to the Nicene Creed and the Vocation Prayer, and continue working on the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and the Apostles Creed. Fifth graders should know the Prayer to the Holy Spirit by heart.

## **Grade 6**

Continue working on the Nicene Creed and the Vocation Prayer. Sixth graders should know the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love, and the Apostles Creed by heart.

## **Grade 7**

Continue working on the Nicene Creed. Seventh graders should know the Vocation Prayer by heart.

## **Grade 8**

Eighth graders should know the Nicene Creed by heart.

### *PSR Registration*

Enrollment is open to all Catholic children, pre-school classes ages 3-5, and grades 1-8, regardless of race, gender, or learning disabilities, who attend public or non-Catholic private schools. All efforts will be made to assist students with special needs in successfully participating in the PSR program. It is expected that students registering for a grade level will have completed all the work of the previous grade levels.

Students must be registered to attend PSR classes. To officially register their children in the PSR program, parents MUST:

- Complete all required information on both sides of the PSR registration form. Forms are available on the PSR webpage of the parish website [www.thestjudeparish.org](http://www.thestjudeparish.org)
- Provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate for all new students to the program (including First graders).
- Pay the appropriate registration fee at the time of registration. Discounts are available during the early enrollment period, May 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents who volunteer in the program also qualify for discounted rates or fee waivers.

*No child will be denied a religious education due to lack of payment. If the tuition presents a financial hardship, please call the parish office for assistance.*

### *PSR Volunteer Guidelines*

All PSR volunteers must:

- Be Catholic and attend mass regularly
- Follow the laws of the church in their daily lives
- Be committed to preparing and following the established religious curriculum and lesson plans.
- Fulfill volunteer responsibilities with regularity
- Attend a VIRTUS Child Protection Class
- Comply with Archdiocesan guidelines for child protection
- Complete a background check through SELECTION.COM which is accessed on the [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) website.

PSR teachers and aides are also encouraged to attend the spiritual formation classes for catechist certification offered by the Archdiocese.

### *PSR Program Essential Information*

Classes are held on Sunday morning from 9:30-10:45, Pre-school 11:00-11:45. Generally, classes begin mid September and end the second week in May. The yearly schedule is mailed to registered families in late August.

The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in the 2nd grade; and Confirmation is celebrated in the 8th grade. Students must successfully complete all prior grade levels before they will be accepted into a sacrament grade level class.

#### *Attendance*

- Students are expected to attend all classes. If students are going to be absent, parents need to notify the CRE by e-mail, or by calling the parish office.
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absenteeism
- Students are responsible for bringing their book to class each week, and for replacing any textbook that is lost or destroyed

#### *Arrival/ Dismissal*

- School doors open at 9:15am for PSR. PSR classes begin promptly at 9:30 am. Pre-School doors open at 10:45am and classes begin at 11:00am.
- Preschoolers and students in grades 1 and 2 must be walked to the classroom before class and be picked up at the classroom after class by a parent or a responsible sibling (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grader.)
- PSR classes end at 10:45 am. Pre-school classes end at 11:45 or immediately following 11am Mass.
- For safety reasons, parents must park their car and meet their children at the school door. No child will be released from the school unless a parent is there to pick them up.
- Permission, in writing from the parent, is required in advance, if a student is being picked up by someone other than a parent.

#### *Cancellation of Classes*

Due to inclement weather, disaster, or other emergency situation, then PSR is automatically cancelled. Teachers will notify parents. We will also initiate a phone chain to make sure each family receives the cancellation message.

#### *Emergency Procedures*

If a child becomes ill or is injured while at PSR, we will notify the parents. If a parent can not be reached, then we will notify the emergency contact provided by the parents. If you will not be available at your contact numbers while your children are attending PSR, please make sure that the emergency contact person you have designated

knows how to reach you. The medical information provided by the parents on the back of the registration form will only be used to assist medical personnel if an ambulance is needed.

### *Discipline*

**In compliance with Archdiocesan Child Protection Decree guidelines, our students may not be disciplined corporally, nor corrected with abusive language.**

We strive to treat our students with the love, the respect, and the dignity that is their right as children of God. We expect our students to respond with respect, attentiveness, and appropriate participation. This compassionate and reciprocal learning environment is essential for passing on our faith.

When teachers are distracted from their lesson plan by discipline problems that arise in the classroom, a negative learning environment is created and it impacts the learning experience of all the students in the class. Therefore, students, whose behavior in class is disrespectful, disruptive, defiant or potentially harmful to themselves or others, will be subject to discipline.

- For the first offense, the student will be sent to the CRE's office for the remainder of the class. They will be expected to complete the lesson at home.
- For the second offense, the students' parents will be called to come and pick them up. The CRE will arrange a meeting between the student, the teacher, parents, and the CRE to discuss the student's behavior before allowing the student to return to class. The student will be required to complete any missed class work.
- For the third offense, parents will be asked to sit in class with their child or teach their child at home. The CRE will provide the parents with the materials and the training for home schooling, and will oversee their progress.

**If you have a concern about any incident in your child's classroom, please contact the CRE.**

### *Do's and Don'ts*

- Students should eat breakfast before coming to PSR
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- Students should use the restroom before coming to PSR
- Students should wear comfortable, modest clothing appropriate for the season, and devoid of any offensive words or images.
- Students should respect school property and the property of the teachers and students of St. Jude School.
- Students should not bring food or drinks to PSR.
- Students should not bring electronic devices (games, phones, iPods, etc.) or toys to PSR
- No visitors are permitted in the classroom without the prior permission of the program coordinator.

*If you need to contact the Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) for the PSR program,  
please call the parish office at 574-1230.*



*St. Jude Parish, Bridgetown  
PSR Handbook*

*Revised 2015*