

ST. PAUL'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The goal of our religious education program is to encourage children to build a personal relationship with Jesus and to learn about the Roman Catholic faith. Our religious education program has four main aspects or pillars of learning. These pillars are:

(1) Creed Concepts, what we as Catholics believe about God

(2) Worship Concepts, how we as a Church worship God through the celebration of the Mass and the Sacraments

(3) Christian Morality, living a Christ-centered life through the choices we make; this section includes study of the 10 Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy

(4) Prayer, a study of prayer to enable our children to build a lifelong relationship with God.

Each grade will cover age appropriate material from each of these pillars of learning. For more information on what is emphasized in a specific year, please see below.

Grade 1: The main focus of Grade 1 is the premise that God loves us. From this premise, children will learn about God as creator, as a loving father and as the person of Jesus. From Jesus, children will learn the basics of the church as a community.

Grade 2: Children will explore their personal relationship with God, the significance of the Eucharist, and their role in our church community. These themes will play an important role in sacramental preparation as children will receive both First Reconciliation and First Communion this year.

Grade 3: Our focus is to reinforce the creed concepts introduced in Grades 1&2 so as to nurture each child's relationship with Jesus and the church community as well as to further their understanding of the Mass. Special attention will be paid to God as our Father, the church as our faith community and the events of the Paschal Mystery; the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

Grade 4: The major focus of this year's work is living the faith, making choices and understanding consequences through a study of the 10 Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Sacraments.

Grade 5: Students will explore the idea of covenant with God in the Bible and the Bible as Sacred Scripture. We will use the Bible to learn about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the significance of the liturgical year.

Grade 6: Building on the knowledge of the Bible from Grade 5, students will continue the study of scripture. In addition, students will focus on discipleship and the importance of bringing the knowledge of their faith into practice in their daily life. We will look at Jesus as our role model and explore the significance of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Grades 7 & 8: During these two years, students will use their knowledge of the faith from the elementary grades and begin to personalize their beliefs as they prepare for the Confirmation program. We will study in greater depth the Bible, the Mass, the significance of the Sacraments, the 10 Commandments and moral decision-making. The question "What Would Jesus Do?" is frequently explored.