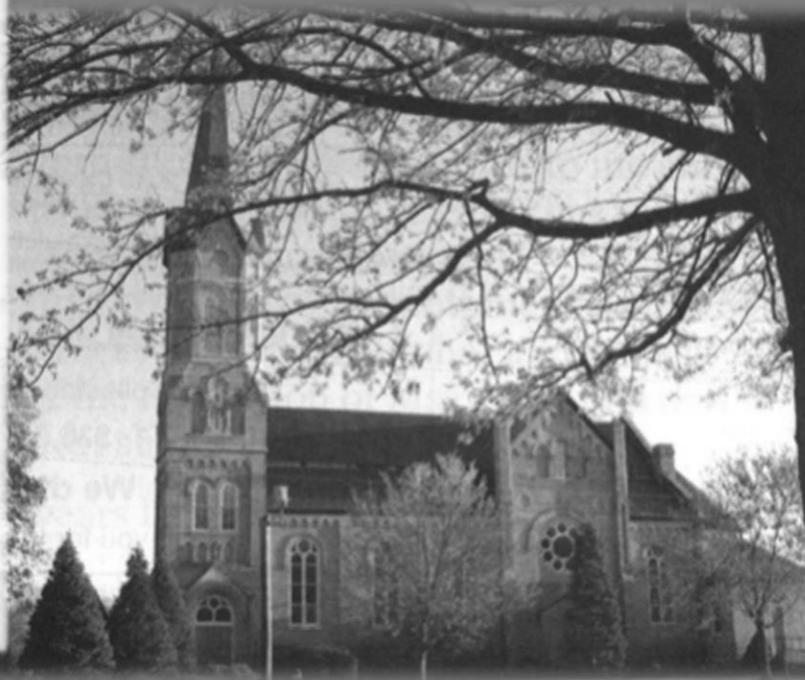


St Paul Parish PSR

Handbook

2019-2020



Welcome to Saint Paul Parish School of Religion. Our staff is under the leadership of our pastor, Father Gerald Blessing and our PSR Administrator, Deacon Bob Marischen.

Saint Paul Parish School of Religion is fortunate in having a competent and dedicated teaching staff. Additionally, we have complete office staff and teacher's aides. Volunteers add to the richness and fullness of our program.

Our PSR program begins in late August and continues through early May. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings in the Saint Paul School from 6:30 pm until 7:45 pm.

We hope your year will be a successful one for your children and that they will grow spiritually and enjoy the sessions. Let us pray that God will bless us as together we work to achieve this goal.

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Statement of Philosophy

To teach as Jesus did is the goal and task of the administration and the teaching staff of the St. Paul Parish School of Religion. The church teaches that **parents are the primary educators** of the Catholic faith. Religious education begins and continues in the home environment. The Parish School of Religion teachers are here to assist parents in teaching their children about the faith.

Working with the parents, we hope that the students will grow daily in the love and knowledge of God, their home, community, and the world.

Through the shared responsibility of parents and teachers, we will strive to enable our students to:

- live a life of loving relationship with God;
- be formed as well as informed in the Catholic faith;
- witness Catholic values in the world about them;
- develop self-respect and respect for others;
- continue their pursuit of knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Parent Witness Statement

It is with full awareness of my responsibility as a Catholic parent that I enroll my children in the Saint Paul Parish School of Religion. I accept the responsibility of being the primary and main religious educator for my children.

I also understand that the values, doctrine, and precepts of the Catholic Church must be modeled and practiced by me in order to take root in the hearts of my children.

Aware of my call from God and the responsibility that is mine, I agree to be the first teacher for my children. This means I must:

1. participate consistently and actively in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and in the Sacraments;
2. speak to my children often at home about God and the things of faith;
3. participate and cooperate with the Saint Paul Parish School of Religion in the religious education of my children, especially in their sacramental preparation;
4. support the moral teaching of the Church
5. do my share in financially supporting the Parish of Saint Paul.

Policies for the Saint Paul Parish School of Religion

Absence

The study of one's religion is of utmost importance, and parents have the responsibility of convincing their children of this and seeing that the children regularly attend the weekly PSR classes. Parents will be called when students are absent unless the PSR office has been called by the parents in advance of class time. **To report an absence, please call the PSR attendance line at (636) 978-1900, ext. 225.**

It is important that a child miss class only for a serious reason. Upon his/her return, the teacher should be asked for make-up work.

The school reserves the right to deny promotion to any student with excessive absences, especially unexcused absences.

Tardiness

Classes begin promptly at 6:30 pm. Parents should have their children to school no later than 6:25 pm. Should a student be late, parents should call the PSR attendance line to report his/her absence, and the student himself/herself should go immediately to the office to report his/her tardiness. **To report tardiness by phone, please call the PSR attendance line at (636) 978-1900, ext. 225.**

Drop-Off

Students should be dropped off at the gym doors, between 6:10 pm and 6:25 pm. Students should report to the gym, where they will be supervised until their teacher takes them to class. Parents of K-4 students should walk their children to the gym. Eighth graders may be dropped off at the Parish Center between 6:10 pm and 6:25 pm.

Pick-Up

Parents of students in grades K-4 should be waiting outside their child's classroom by 7:45 pm to pick them up. Students in grades 5, 6, and 7 will be dismissed from their classrooms, from where they should proceed to the parking lot (or younger sibling's classroom) to meet their parents. Eighth graders will be dismissed from the Parish Center at the end of class.

Inclement Weather

The PSR will be cancelled on days when St. Paul Day School OR Fort Zumwalt School District is cancelled, which will be posted on local television news broadcasts. However, should inclement weather develop late in a day when St. Paul Day School and Fort Zumwalt are in session, families will be contacted directly via email.

Activities

Most of the current year's activities will be announced to the parents at the parent meeting in late August. Others will be announced as the year progresses. As class time is so valuable and limited for the catechist, we strive to keep activities to a minimum. Activities could include, but are not limited to, craft activities, holiday parties, and service experiences.

Calendar

A tentative calendar for the following year is given to each family at the time of registration and at the parent meeting in September. The calendar allows for three trimesters of ten classes each.

Books

Each family pays a book fee. Books are consumable and become the property of the students at the end of the year. It is the decision of the teacher as to whether student textbooks may be taken home at any time throughout the PSR year.

Homework

When homework is assigned, it must be completed and returned on the following class night unless stated otherwise by the teacher.

Discipline

In every classroom, there must exist a good teaching and learning environment. The teacher has the right to teach without interruption and every child has the right to learn.

Minor disturbances are to be handled by the teacher in the classroom. If a situation is serious enough to send a student to the office, the parents will be called immediately. A parent conference will be held before the child is allowed to return.

Report Cards

Report cards are given three times during the PSR school year. Scheduled dates are on the PSR calendar.

Field Trips

Because of the brevity of instruction time, very few field trips are scheduled during the school year. When a field trip is desired, it must be first approved by the administration before parents are contacted. Parents must be notified at least two weeks in advance.

Parent Meetings

We have one “all-parent” meeting each year, which is held the week before classes begin. At least one parent from each family is required to attend.

Additional required meetings are also held second grade parents prior to First Reconciliation and First Communion. The First Reconciliation meeting is usually held in the fall, and the First Communion meeting is usually held in the spring.

A required meeting for at least one parent and the child’s sponsor is held in January for Confirmation candidates in eighth grade.

Registration

Registration is held each year on a Wednesday in late March or early April. A tuition discount is available for any family registering and paying before July 1.

Students will receive their Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion, or Confirmation, only after two consecutive years of satisfactory participation in a formal Catholic Religion program. If a student is not a returning student in the St. Paul PSR, proof of attendance at another Catholic Parish PSR or Day School will be required.

Staff

The PSR teachers and staff have accepted their ministry enthusiastically and are willing to work with the parents for better religious instruction of their children. We are fortunate in having such a dedicated group of workers in our program.

Contact Information

To report an absence or tardy, please leave a message on the attendance hotline at (636) 978-1900, ext 225. To discuss any other questions about the PSR program, please contact:

Deacon Bob Marischen

(636) 978-1900

bmarischen@st-paulchurch.org

Curriculum

The following is a general list of topics by grade level in the PSR curriculum.

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • Experiencing God in ourselves, family, and friends • Jesus' Birth • Jesus' Life • Mary • The Saints • Prayers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • The Trinity • Jesus' Ministry & Teaching • The Lord's Prayer • Pentecost & The Beginning of the Church • What a Sacrament Is • Baptism • Mass & The Eucharist • Mary • The Saints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for Sacraments of Reconciliation & Eucharist • The Church • Baptism • Prayer • Ten Commandments • The Bible • Liturgy of the Word & the Eucharist • Peace & Justice • The Holy Spirit
Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingdom of God • God's Mercy • The Early Church • Marks of the Church • Apostles' Creed • Prayer • Vocations • The Seven Sacraments • Parts of the Mass • The Church in the World 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trinity • The Beatitudes • The Ten Commandments • Participating at Mass • Virtues • Respect for Creation • Chastity • Being Disciples of Jesus and Members of the Church • Mary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacraments of the Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, & Confirmation ○ Healing: Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick ○ Service: Matrimony & Holy Orders • The Mass • Importance of Prayer • The Role of Mary • Theological Virtues & Beatitudes • Marks of the Church
Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Genesis and the Story of Creation ○ The Ten Commandments ○ The Psalms, Proverbs, & The Song of Songs ○ The Prophets • The New Testament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Early Life of Jesus ○ The Beatitudes and the Teachings of Jesus ○ Jesus Death & Resurrection ○ The Early Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Catholic Doctrine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Trinity ○ Scripture ○ Structure & Roles in the Church ○ Sacraments ○ Parts of the Mass ○ Liturgical Seasons and Events ○ The 10 Commandments ○ Laws of the Catholic Church • Prayers • Beginning Preparation for Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for Confirmation • Review of Catholic Doctrine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Persons of the Trinity ○ Sacred Scripture ○ Those Who Act in Christ ○ The Mystery of Christ Continued in the Church ○ Liturgical Seasons and Events ○ Law of God ○ Laws of the Catholic Church ○ Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit • Prayers