St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

2020-2021

Parish School of Religion (PSR)
Grades 1-5
Handbook and Calendar

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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As a community of faith, we have the responsibility of sharing our faith with our youth. The program at St. Margaret of Scotland is viewed as a balance to and not a substitute for the Christian formation of children by parents in the home.

Option 1 - At St. Margaret's

Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 6:45pm. We will follow Jackson County regulations with mask requirement and social distancing. Supplies will be given each child and will not be shared with other children. Minimum class size will be 5. Maximum class size will be 12. If we are in a lockdown, your child will automatically be part of Option 2 or 3 (below).

Option 2 and 3 - Distant Learning

Depending on parents personal workload or how in depth parents want their child to explore the lesson, you may choose either Distant Learning Option 2 or 3.

Option 2 - Your child can work on their own using a tablet or computer. Each lesson is approximately 20 minutes long. When your child logs on, they will be able to see first names of other children from St. Margaret's in their class. For younger grades most of their lesson is read to them. The audio decreases as children get older. The children answer questions within each chapter which will be transmitted to Cathie. After answering, they will be able to see other children's answers without their names. This connects the children with each other at a safe distance. *This cannot and will not be set up like a chatroom.* Concluding their lesson with a parent completing a *Family Activity* sheet which takes 2-15 minutes.

Option 3 - Parents may work with their child conducting an approximately 45-minute class (teacher manual will be available online). Answers may be on paper or transmitted to Cathie.

Fees

The fee for books and supplies are due at the time of registration. A $15 book and $30 bible replacement fee will be charged if your child misplaces his\her book or bible. A $20 late fee occurs after August 31st. As a thank you to all volunteer teachers, their child's fee is waived. **The fees for grades 1-5:**

Registered Parishioners: Attending at the church is $45.00 per child
Homeschooling is $35.00 per child
Non-parishioners: Attending at the church $65.00 per child
Home schooling $55.00 per child

Fees are due upon registration. No child of an *active registered parishioner* will be denied religious education because of family financial difficulties. If this is the case, you must contact Cathie.

Our Program

Grades 1 - 5 we use the *Discover* series by St. Mary's Press. Each child will receive a textbook, bible (to be used throughout grade school), and backpack.

Prayers Children Should Know to Memory

Prior to first grade *The Sign of the Cross, The Lord's Prayer, the Glory Be, and one form of Grace prior to a meal.*
Grade 1: *The Hail Mary*
Grade 2: *Act of Contrition*
Grade 3: T*he Apostles Creed*
Grade 4: *The Nicene Creed*
Grade 5: *The Hail Holy Queen*

Sacramental Preparation

In class and at home our second-grade children concentrate their learning on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. *Children should have at least one previous year of religious education with good attendance either at this or their former parish. Parent(s) and child must be practicing their faith.*

Readiness for Sacraments:
It is reasonable to expect that the child

- Has a desire to receive
- Knows basic knowledge of the Catholic faith
- Has been participating in Sunday Mass on a *regular* basis as well as attending Holy Day of Obligation Masses
- Knows responses and prayers of Mass especially the Creed and Our Father
- Knows the Hail Mary
- Knows that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus not just about Santa
- Knows that Easter is about Jesus' Resurrection not just about candy
- Children will be interviewed by Father or the DRE prior to receiving Eucharist.

RCIC *Rite of Christian Initiation of Children*
Some children over the age of 6 have not been baptized. Along with weekly class, these children take part in a special formation process which prepares them for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist).

General Policies

Arrival and Dismissal

ARRIVAL: Please allow time for your child to get to class *on time*. We only have one hour and fifteen minutes a week, teachers are asked to begin classes promptly. Enter through the front door. For the safety of children, doors are locked 10 minutes after the start of class. If you or your child needs to enter the building between that period; please ring the doorbell near the handicap door.

DISMISSAL All children will be dismissed through the **south** door. Please form a single file car line so a child can easily enter the vehicle (passenger side of your car against the sidewalk). The front door will be locked.

Behavior

Good conduct, cooperation, attention, and courtesy are expected. Any student who fails to cooperate during class shall be subject to the following:

1st offense – Catechist will speak with the student to discuss the situation.
2nd – An uncooperative student will be sent to the director's office.
3rd – A telephone call is made to the parents.
4th – If there is no improvement, in fairness to the catechist and other students, the director reserves the right to require the parents to attend classes with their child until the behavior improves or to provide an alternate form of Religious Education outside of the regular class.

Cell Phones/Smart Watch

Any cell phone or smart watch used as a phone, camera, or to text message will be claimed. A parent will be required to retrieve the device.

Christmas Celebration

This evening was created so families may take a break from all the hoopla of Christmas and enjoy each other's company for prayer and to create Christmas crafts.

Inclement Weather and Cancellation

When Lee's Summit schools close due to inclement weather, sessions that evening are canceled. If weather worsens during the day, cancellations will be made by email and social media.

Injury

Parents will be notified of any injury that occurs while a child is on church property. In the event of a life threating emergency, the child will also be taken to the closest ER.

Service

All children are asked to do community service. Over a one-year period, we recommend one hour of service above the grade your child is in. For instance, a first-grade child is asked to do two hours of service. Service is doing something for someone else within the church or community yet outside their own home and NOT receiving payment or a gift.

Presidential Service Award

Children who do a specific amount of community service over a period of twelve months (April 1st – March 31st) will receive the Presidential Service Award. This award is a certificate, medal and letter from the President of the United States. Service hours are DUE BY APRIL 1st. Hourly requirements for this award are:

Hours by Award	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Kids (age 5-10)	26 – 49	50 – 74	75 +
Teens (age 11–15)	50 – 74	75 – 99	100 +

Safe Touch and Abuse (Diocesan required)

All Catholic schools and churches are mandated to give 'safe touch' classes to our students. Our diocese uses the *Circle of Grace* curriculum. *Circle of Grace* is the love and goodness of God that surrounds us and all others. It is the recognition that God is with us always and is here to help us in difficult situations. Through the *Circle of Grace* program, adults assist children to recognize God's love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a *Circle of Grace*. Your *Circle of Grace* holds your very essence in body, mind, heart, soul, and sexuality. A visual way of looking at it is:

This is your ***Circle of Grace*.**

This concept includes all senses which allows children to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate touch may occur. The *Circle of Grace* program teaches children to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real-life struggles. It will help educate and empower children to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

Grade 1 - The Stoplight: Feelings, Touch and Secrets Safety Plan
Grade 2 - The Stoplight: Feelings, Touch and Secrets Safety Plan
Grade 3 - Boundaries and our limits of our *Circle of Grace* Action Plan
Grade 4 - Internet Safety on phones and computers
Grade 5 - Understanding the Influence of the Media on our *Circle of Grace*

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

All diocesan employees, bishops, priests, deacons, parish staff members, and volunteer teachers are required by Missouri law to report any actual and/or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to the Division of Family Services.

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. **Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and**
2. **Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and**
3. **After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected s*exual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City—St. Joseph.**

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Contact the Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816-392-0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

What your child's Catechist (teacher) will do

Catechists are expected to prepare lessons, follow curriculum, adhere to program policies, keep attendance, and communicate with parents. In most cases, our teachers work in a team of two adults. In keeping with Diocesan policy, all volunteers working with minors complete a screening form, youth work references, have a criminal background check and attend one session of *'Protecting God's Children'*.

What we need from the Parents

The catechist cannot do this alone. The catechist is a partner who works with parents to supplement the spiritual growth you initiated when your child was baptized in the Catholic community. It is our hope that each child will hear stories of our faith at home as well as in their religion class. Just as you schedule soccer, dance, etc. schedule your family to attend Mass. Make Mass a priority on Holy Days of Obligation as well. Discuss the Readings on the way to church and homilies going home. For assistance, go to **http://www.loyolapress.com/sunday-connection.htm**

2020-2021 PSR Schedule for Grades 1-5

Wednesday 5:30 - 6:45pm

September 9	Opening night in the Church then to the class areas
September 16	
September 23	
September 27, Sunday	**First Reconciliation Parent Meeting at 11:30am**
September 30	
October 7	
October 14	
October 21	
October 28	**No Class – R-Vii Parent Teacher Conferences**
November 4	
November 11	
November 18	
November 25	**No Class** (Thanksgiving Break)
November 30, Monday	**First Reconciliation Service 7pm *(tentative date)***
December 2	
December 9	**Family Christmas Activity Night**
December 16	**No Class** - Christmas Break
December 23	**No Class** - Christmas Break
December 30	**No Class** - Christmas Break
January 6	
January 13	
January 20	
January 27	
February 7, Sunday	**First Communion Parent Meeting at 11:30am**
February 3	
February 10	
February 17	**No Class** - Ash Wednesday
February 24	
March 3	
March 10	
March 17	
March 24	*Stations of the Cross during part of class*
March 31	**No Class -** Spring Break **and Service Hours due**
April 7	
April 10, Saturday	**First Communion Retreat 9:00am – 11:00am**
April 14	
April 18, Sunday	**First Communion at 2:00pm**
April 21	
April 28	Last day of class with award ceremony