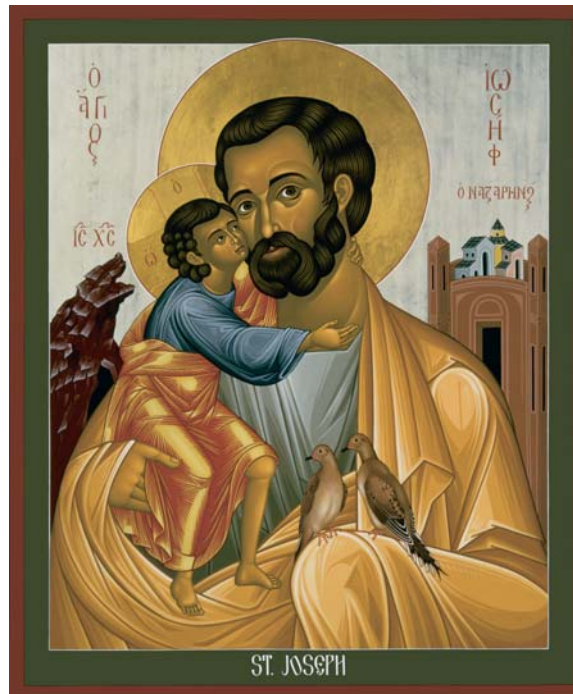


St. Joseph Parish Religious Education

Parent Handbook

2011-2012 School Year



ST. JOSEPH

Welcome Letter from Fr. Ron

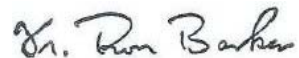
Dear Parents,

I welcome all new and returning families to the St. Joseph Parish Religious Education program. A few years ago, we introduced a new model for teaching the children. Religious education in the classroom was not working. We found that many did not know their faith and were not developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Many had no support at home in the practice of their faith.

Here at St. Joseph, the elementary grades, with the exception of grade 2, are primarily homeschooled. We have taken religious education out of the classroom and put it back into the home where it belongs with parents being the first teachers of their children. We offer an optional supplementary program for grades 3 -6 focusing on scripture, praise and worship and building a relationship with Jesus but the core curriculum is taught by the parents. There is much flexibility to this program. The parents can schedule how and when they will teach the faith to their children. We are asking that by the end of the 6th grade that the children know the sacraments, 10 commandments, basic prayers and how to go to confession but most especially that they are praying and reading the Bible daily and going to Church each week. I thank you for your support for this program and all its benefits.

Your children have been given to you by God with the huge responsibility of guiding them in their faith formation. Although this can seem like a daunting task, please know that we have many programs and resources available to assist you along the way. I can only imagine, when reunited in heaven, the gratitude these children will express to their parents for seeing not only to their physical needs but more importantly to their spiritual well being.

God love you,





Contact Information

Parent Resources/Faith Formation

Rose Dittmer rdittmer@stjosephwakefield.org

Registration/Tuition/Supplies

Merry Nordeen mnordeen@stjosephwakefield.org

Grade 2

Elizabeth Collins ecollins@stjosephwakefield.org

Grade 3 – 8

Sharon Keith skeith@stjosephwakefield.org

Grade 9

Julie DiAngelis jdiangelis@stjosephwakefield.org

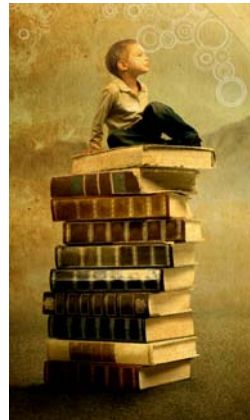
Grade 10

Fr. Ron frron@stjosephwakefield.org

Religious Education Schedule

Grade 2	Thursday	TBD
Grade 3	Monday	TBD
Grade 4	Tuesday	TBD
Grade 5	Wednesday	TBD
Grade 6	Wednesday	TBD
Grade 7	Monday	TBD
Grade 8	Tuesday	TBD
Grade 9	Sunday	6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
Grade 10	Sunday	4:15 p.m. -5:15 p.m.
Special Ed	Tuesday	3:45 p.m. -4:45 p.m.

Note: The class times for grades 2-8 are affected by the number of students. The class times are TBD (To Be Determined) and will be published after registration closes.



Religious Education Curriculum

Special Education

St. Joseph Parish is one of the few parishes to offer religious education for those requiring special education. Classes run January through April.

Pre – K (Ages 3-4) and Kindergarten

Homeschooled

It is never too early to teach your child about God and introduce them to the concepts of the Catholic faith. Workbooks are available for age 3, age 4 and Kindergarten.

Grade 1

Homeschooled

The First Grade Curriculum is an essential year long preparation for celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist which follows in second grade. Initial concepts of baptism, belonging, prayer and Mass are introduced. Parent Meetings in conjunction with work at home will help prepare your child. The homeschooling workbook is *Finding God by Loyola Press*.

Grade 2

First Communion/First Penance

The Second Grade Curriculum is devoted entirely to the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Parents are required to be actively involved in every aspect of the child's progress and attend parent meetings.

Grade 3

Homeschooled with Parish Program

In Third Grade, children will continue their faith journey through homeschooling. The homeschooling workbook is *Finding God by Loyola Press*. The curriculum for grade three

teaches how Jesus calls us to love God and others. Students continue to learn about the Church, the sacraments and morality. The supplementary parish program will provide support through prayer, praise and worship and scripture using the *Pflaum Gospel Weekly – Good News*.

Grade 4

Homeschooled with Parish Program

In Fourth Grade, children will continue their faith journey through homeschooling. The homeschooling workbook is *Finding God by Loyola Press* with a focus on God's plan for creation, original sin, the ten commandments and the beatitudes. Students continue to learn about the Church, the sacraments and morality. The supplementary parish program will provide support through prayer, praise and worship and scripture using the *Pflaum Gospel Weekly – Good News*.

Grade 5

Homeschooled with Parish Program

In Fifth Grade, children will continue their faith journey through homeschooling. The homeschooling workbook is *Finding God by Loyola Press* with a concentration on Salvation, the Holy Spirit, the Sacraments and morality. The supplementary parish program will provide support through prayer, praise and worship and scripture using the Bible and *Pflaum Gospel Weekly – Venture*.

Grade 6

Homeschooled with Parish Program

In Sixth Grade, children will continue their faith journey through homeschooling. The homeschooling workbook is *Finding God by Loyola Press* with a concentration on the Bible, the Church and the Prophets. The supplementary parish program will provide support through prayer, praise and worship and scripture using the Bible and *Pflaum Gospel Weekly – Venture*. ***At the end of the year, 6th graders will be tested prior to entering 7th grade.***

Grade 7

Pre-confirmation Parish Program

Seventh Grade begins pre-confirmation. This class seeks to increase the students' awareness of Catholic moral principles, Catholic social teaching and deepening their personal relationship with Christ. The course will primarily consist of lectures, scripture readings, large and small discussions and will also contain media presentations and guest presentations. Student attendance is required in preparation for joining the community of the Church. Students will use the St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism and the Bible. ***Entering 7th graders must know the 10 commandments, the 7 sacraments and the basic prayers in this parent handbook.***

Grade 8

Pre-confirmation Parish Program

Eighth Grade will continue their preparation for confirmation. This class seeks to increase the students' awareness of Catholic moral principles, Catholic social teaching and deepening their personal relationship with Christ. The course will primarily consist of lectures, scripture readings, large and small discussions and will also contain media presentations and guest presentations. Student attendance is required in preparation for joining the community of the Church. Students will use the St. Joseph Baltimore Catechism, and the Bible.

Grade 9

Confirmation I

Grade Nine is the first half of the two part Confirmation program and ***required even for Catholic School students.*** This year will focus on deepening the student's faith through works of mercy, Adoration, guest speakers and retreats. We will incorporate many facets of everyday Christian life into our gatherings, including prayer, praise and worship. We will discuss what it means to be a follower of Christ and learn how to walk in His way of life, even today, when society has drifted

so far away from the values and teachings of Jesus. We will support each other in this often difficult journey, by finding Christian ways to embrace and overcome the challenges we all face, which will not only bring us closer to Christ, but to each other as well.

Often we will skip the regular class format to take part in local Catholic Teen Events, which may fall on days other than Sunday. You will be notified of these events as early as possible to help you "Save the Date." The purpose of these events is to help your teen learn more about their Faith, to see that we are all part of a larger Catholic Church, to meet other teens who share the same beliefs and values, to hear from world-renowned guest speakers that come to the area, and to grow in friendship with each other.

The 9th grade class will attend the Confirmation Retreat "Teen Encounter With Christ" weekend held at St. Basil's in Methuen and required before receiving Confirmation. Teenagers tend to be hesitant to attend any retreat but we've found that the majority of participating teens do not want to leave at the end of the weekend. Attendance is required for weekly class and all events as part of the Faith Formation. *Parent email contact is extremely important for schedule updates and/or changes.*

Grade 10

Confirmation II

Students in Grade Ten are ready to take the final step towards confirming their faith. Students are expected to assume responsibility of their faith and their own weekly Mass attendance. In order to enter the program, students are required to meet with Fr. Ron to initiate their request for Confirmation.

Parent Resources

Parent Meetings

For grades 1-6 we offer parent information meetings throughout the year. Announcements will be sent home but

you can also check the bulletin, the website and the religious education calendar. For more information, contact Rose Dittmer, the Director of Faith Formation.

Web Site

St. Joseph maintains a vibrant website with numerous parent resources for assistance in faith formation and homeschooling. You can also find copies of permission slips and notices by grade. Please visit us at www.stjosephwakefield.org.

Bulletin

Upcoming parent meetings events are always published in the bulletin which is available after each Mass and on the website.

Scholarships

St. Joseph Parish is blessed to have the support of many generous parishioners and will never turn a student away for financial reasons. If your family is in need of assistance, do not hesitate to contact Merry Nordeen at the rectory.

Emergency Procedures

Notify Now

St. Joseph Parish utilizes the Notify Now call notification system to make time sensitive announcements and reminders for class changes and cancellations to parents and students within minutes. Due to the nature of this system, it is extremely important that we have up to date contact information. Please notify us of any changes.

Email

We frequently use email to keep parents informed of less time sensitive events. Please ensure that we have your most current and up to date information.

Web Site

Even with Notify Now and Email, some parents may not be reachable so we do our best to post cancellations and changes our website. The address is www.stjosephwakefield.org.

Prayers to Know

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



*"Be not afraid,
for I am with you."*

Ten Commandments

I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your
God and Him only shall you serve.
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not kill.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Seven Sacraments

Baptism
Confession
Holy Communion
Confirmation
Marriage
Holy Orders
Anointing of the Sick

Confession

Guide to Confession - Child

Examination of Conscience

Do I love God by talking to Him each day?
Do I say bad words?
Do I go to church on Sunday?
Do I disobey my parents?
Do I fight with others?
Do I look at bad pictures?
Do I steal?
Do I lie?
Do I get jealous of others?
Am I selfish?

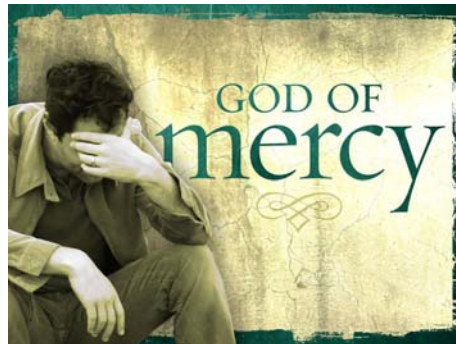
Have I been impatient, stubborn, unforgiving, do I talk bad about others, do I cheat, do I tease or bully others?

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Bless me Father for I have sinned, my last confession was _____ ago. These are my sins. [Confess sins here]

Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am sorry for my sins; please forgive me. I know you love me, and I want to love you and to be good to everyone. Help me to make up for my sins. I will try to do better from now on. Amen.



Guide to Confession – Adult

Examination of Conscience

Have I loved God above all things?

Have I used profanity or misused the Lord's name?

Have I attended Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days?

Have I respected my parents, superiors and those around me?

Have I harmed with my words or actions?

Have I been impure in thought, word or action?

Have I cheated or stolen?

Have I spoken uncharitably about others or gossiped?

Have I weakened my vows with my obsession with another?

Have I been jealous of the things others have?

Have I been arrogant, impatient, critical, unforgiving, stubborn, bitter, resentful, greedy, lazy, misused food, alcohol or drugs, or engaged in inappropriate sexual activity?

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Bless me Father for I have sinned, my last confession was _____ ago. These are my sins. [Confess sins here]

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishment, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Amen

Rosary

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation: The Archangel Gabriel "announces" to Mary that she shall conceive the Son of God.

The Visitation: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist.

The Nativity: Jesus is born.

The Presentation: Mary and Joseph "present" Jesus in the Temple where they meet Simeon.

The Finding in the Temple: After losing Him, Mary and Joseph find young Jesus teaching the Rabbis in the Temple.

The Luminous Mysteries (The Mysteries of Light)

The Baptism in the Jordan: The voice of the Father declares Jesus the beloved Son.

The Wedding at Cana: Christ changes water into wine, his first public miracle.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom: Jesus calls to conversion (cf. Mk 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him.

The Transfiguration: The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ.

The Institution of the Eucharist: Jesus offers the first Mass at the Last Supper with his apostles, establishing the sacramental foundation for all Christian living.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden: Jesus sweats water and blood while praying the night before his passion.

The Scourging at the Pillar: Pilate has Jesus whipped.

The Crowning with Thorns: Roman soldiers crown Jesus' head with thorns.

The Carrying of the Cross: Jesus meets His mother and falls three times on the way up Calvary.

The Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies before His mother and His apostle John.

The Glorious Mysteries

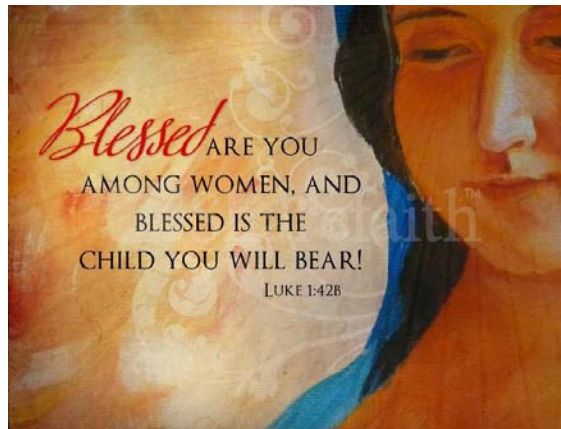
The Resurrection: Jesus rises from the dead.

The Ascension: Jesus leaves the Apostles and bodily "ascends" to heaven.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit: The Apostles receive the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire in the upper room with Mary.

The Assumption: Mary is taken bodily--assumed--into heaven by God at the end of her life here on earth.

The Coronation: Mary is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.



Mysteries for Certain Weekdays

Monday - Joyful, Tuesday - Sorrowful, Wednesday - Glorious,
Thursday - Luminous, Friday - Sorrowful, Saturday - Joyful,
Sunday - Glorious

Try to place yourself "into" the scene of the particular mystery as you pray, imagining the sights, smells, sounds, and emotions that Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and other participants experienced during the actual events.

It is also okay to meditate on the meaning of the words of the prayers as you pray them, or even to meditate on the person for whom you are offering the Rosary.

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