

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

All classes meet on Sunday morning.

PRE-SCHOOL - ages 3, 4 and 5

Time: During the 10:00 am Mass

Location: Classrooms under the Church

Children **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** to, and picked up by, a parent, grandparent, or sibling grade four and older.

GRADES 1 - 8

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 am

Grades 1- 3 meet in classrooms under the Church

Grades 4 & 5 meet in Fr. Heider Hall

Grades 6 - 8 meet in Fr. Heider Hall

Because time for PSR classes is very limited, classes begin promptly at 8:30 am.

ATTENDANCE. Attendance is tracked and expected to be regular. Parents are contacted if absences are excessive. Please call the religious formation office if your child will be absent.

In case of accident or sickness, the student will be sent to the religious formation office and the parent will be called.

Please be prompt in picking up your child at the end of class so that catechists may attend the 10:00 am Mass with their families.

For safety reasons, students cannot be dismissed early without a parent's written request and permission from the DRE.

DISCIPLINE The children consistently behave within our expectation, which is appreciated! However, if an issue arises, it will be addressed on an individual basis with dialogue including the catechist, DRE, and parents.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION DEVELOPS

BEST when it occurs with, and beyond, classroom training and sacramental preparation. As Catholic parents, how authentically we live the faith we proclaim is directly related to our children's dedication to their faith. Developing our relationship with Christ and understanding all of God's gifts and Will for us is a learning process and journey that lasts their lifetimes and ours.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacraments are essential to our lives as Catholic Christian; their Divine gifts and effects are greater than any imagined magic! Through them we express our faith, praising God. As a result, we build up the Body of Christ and His Church and God sanctifies us.

To most fully receive and benefit from the supernatural gifts offered through the Sacraments, one must have a true understanding of the meaning and purpose of that Sacrament. This requires reasonable preparation so that one best commits to the way of life presupposed by the Sacrament.

PROCESS

Sacramental Preparation occurs outside the classrooms and with parent participation.

First Reconciliation and Eucharist are offered in 2nd grade.

Confirmation begins the second half of 7th grade and continues into the spring of 8th grade.

1st Grade: The teachings, prayers and formation of first grade are essential for a child to have a basic understanding of this Jesus whom he/she plans to approach in the

Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist as presented in grade two.

3rd – 6th Grade: Continued religious formation after First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is **ESSENTIAL** for a child's faith to grow as they mature intellectually and emotionally. As their awareness of the world outside themselves grows, so too is there a deepened understanding of the meaning and import of their faith and its Sacraments.

ATTENDING PSR IN NON-SACRAMENTAL YEARS is necessary for children to most fully understand the sacraments and to engage with their faith at each level of personal development.

3rd Grade and Higher youths who have not received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist need to enter the RCIA program for youth (RCIY).

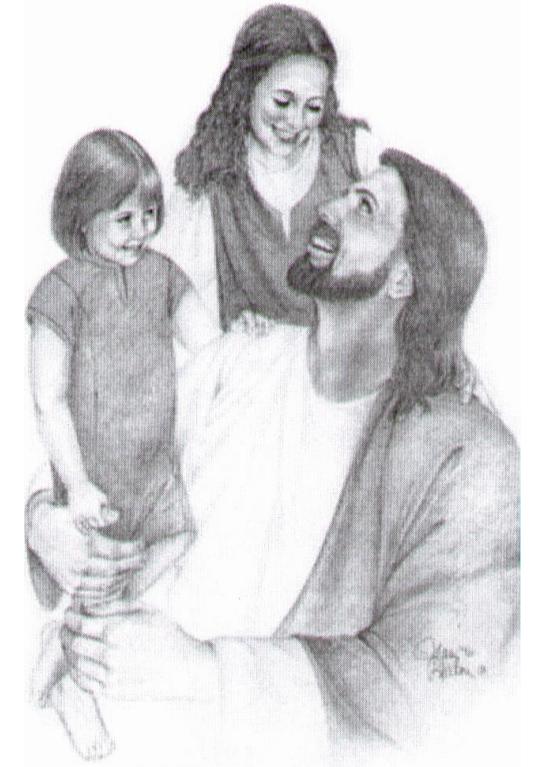
7th & 8th Grade youths who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation but have not regularly attended a religious formation program require special preparation. This is arranged through the DRE and the Pastor with the parents' involvement.

VOLUNTEERISM

Past parental involvement has significantly strengthened the St. Thomas More PSR program. As stated in the Philosophy, parents are viewed as the primary educators of their children. Numerous opportunities exist to participate in your child's formation. Please let us know if you are interested in helping. For questions or more information, please contact one of the following :

Becky Ready, DRE bready@sttm.org
Linda Bader, CRE dlbader@sttm.org

Both can be reached at: 513-753-2548



St. Thomas More Parish

RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM

Fr. William C. Wagner, Pastor
Becky Ready, DRE
Linda Bader, CRE

MISSION STATEMENT

Dear Parents,

This pamphlet presents the vision of St. Thomas More's Religious Formation Program for our students, families and parish community. The procedures detailed inside are intended to help support our striving to live as Catholic Christians.

Our philosophy is to provide and support a strong foundation for each child's Catholic faith. Parents are the primary source of that foundation; the religious formation program is their support.

God strengthens us in our lives as Catholics through weekly reception of the Eucharist and frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our religious formation program fosters this understanding and practice for the children and their families while highlighting ones' relationship with Christ. Knowing Him leads to loving Him. Loving Him leads to loving His Church and wanting to know Her better.

Please keep this pamphlet in a convenient spot for easy reference throughout the school year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

May God bless you and your family as we journey together, always learning and practicing more the truths of our faith.

Sincerely,

Becky Ready

Linda Bader

Becky Ready
DRE
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The religious formation program at St. Thomas More strives to enable all students to develop a vital, personal relationship with God and to share the Gospel Truth in a spirit of faith, hope and love.

Through study of the Catholic faith, as it has developed within our rich tradition, catechists help prepare all students to celebrate God's love, proclaim His message, and live in accord with this message. Study, reflection and discussion nurture a positive sense of the one's innate dignity as a human person, foster a responsible use of freedom, and promote a deepening awareness of our responsibility to serve God by serving the needs of all people.

CURRICULUM

The religious formation curriculum at St. Thomas More parish conforms with the Bishops' approved list and follows the guidelines established by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in "Growing Together: Ministry to Children," "Growing Together: Ministry to Youth," and the archdiocesan policies regarding early childhood education.

Pre-School (ages 3, 4, & 5) classes use the *Allelu* program, which lays the foundation for a meaningful and loving relationship with God. The children learn how God shows his love for them in the creation of the universe and all the people in it. The children are introduced to the many ways Catholics celebrate their faith in and love for God. Through group activities and prayers, each child will experience the Christian Community.

Based on Vatican II, the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the definitive work

combining the riches of the past with a compass for the future.

Grades 1 – 5 use the RCL series, "Be My Disciples," which offers engaging lessons that lead young disciples to higher levels of moral thinking and a deeper initiation into a life of prayer. Through exploration, discovery, and decision-making, children are invited to accept the challenge to follow Jesus and learn and practice the skills needed to be active disciples. Each grade level is supported by an interactive web site for pupils, catechists and parents (www.bemydisciples.com). Children are confronted with many life situations and helped to make decisions based on their Catholic faith. Our goal is to form religiously literate children who will come to know, love and live their faith.

Junior High students rotate through mini-courses on a three year cycle. These lessons highlight faith themes that resonate with the developmental needs of adolescents. We use a youth ministry philosophy, combining 6th, 7th and 8th graders into all-girl and all-boy groups. There is an additional focus on the liturgical year, scripture study, and reflective readings of the Sunday readings.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports are sent home twice a year in January and May. The attendance record is noted at this time.

CHILD PROTECTION

All catechists and helpers are required to attend the Virtus Child Protection workshop and have a background check as directed by the Archdiocese in order to work in the religious formation program.

Program administrators, catechists and helpers are required by the Ohio Revised Code and Archdiocesan Policy on Child

Protection to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.

ADMISSION

Our church is universal. There is no discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin or handicap conditions. Instruction of students requiring special education services occurs on a case by case basis.

REGISTRATION

Families wishing to enroll in a PSR Program should be registered members of St. Thomas More Parish. Registration for new and returning students begins in the Spring of the current PSR year.

TUITION

Tuition fees are adjusted annually. Call the Formation Office or check the St. Thomas More website (www.sttm.org) for current fees.

Fees are due at the time of registration to offset the many expenses incurred to prepare for the new program year. Checks may be made payable to St. Thomas More Parish.

No one is refused admission to the program due to financial hardship. If you are unable to pay the fees, please call the DRE.