

# **St Martin Parish School of Religion (PSR)**

## **General Policies & Procedures**

### **Welcome**

This information is intended to give you a general understanding of the PSR program at St. Martin Parish and is not meant to be a detailed compilation of our program. This information will hopefully serve as a good reference for you throughout the year. If you have any questions concerning the program, textbooks, sacramental preparation, or any other matter involving our Catholic faith, please contact us.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of our Parish School of Religion is to assist parents with the religious formation of their children by providing religious instruction in our Catholic faith, specifically with an emphasis on preparing our students to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.

### **GOAL**

The goal of religious education is to bring all people into close friendship with Christ. Participation in the Eucharistic Celebration (Mass) each Sunday is both essential and expected of all students and parents in the PSR program. It must be understood that religious instruction and participation at Mass each Sunday go hand in hand. It follows that our children, who by their participation in the PSR program and are coming to know Christ, can be joined to Him by receiving Him in Holy Communion.

### **Class Times**

Classes will be held in St. Martin Catholic School beginning on the Sunday after Labor Day from 8:45am until 10:00am and continuing most Sundays through the academic year.

### **Registration**

Registration begins on the first weekend in August each year and continues until the first class in September.

### **Registration Fees**

Currently, the PSR registration fee is \$20.00 per family which helps cover the cost of books and class materials.

### **Grades**

St. Martin parish PSR program is for students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through high school.

### **RCIC** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children)

Children who wish to register for PSR who have not yet been baptized or who have not yet received their First Communion (older than 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) should make an appointment with the pastor to discuss the circumstances. Proper religious education classes will be discussed and made available at that time.

### **Curriculum**

We are currently using the **“Faith & Life Series – Third Edition”** from Ignatius Press in all classes.

### **Home Assignments, Books, Etc.**

Homework assignments may be given in each class. Parents are asked to review the material covered in each class with their children to help reinforce what was taught. Class textbooks and activity booklets are paid for by the student from the registration fee and are theirs to keep. If a class text or activity booklet is lost or destroyed, an additional fee of \$25.00 each will be paid before another is issued.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance, promptness, and attending all classes in their entirety are appreciated particularly if the students are preparing to receive a sacrament.

### **Dress Code**

It goes without saying that students should dress appropriately for PSR class and refrain from wearing anything that draws unusual attention to themselves or that may affect their participation in class.

### **Personal Possessions**

Items such as cell phones, electronic games, etc. are not allowed at PSR. Students should also not bring valuables with them to class.

### **Emergency Information**

Emergency medical information and contact phone numbers are kept for each student. Please advise as soon as possible of any changes.

### **Mandatory Reporting**

The staff and teachers have a responsibility to report all incidents of apparent child abuse and/or neglect and to cooperate with authorities in relation to such matters. PSR teachers and staff members have an obligation as mandatory reporters to follow the policy of the Diocese of Jefferson City regarding abuse and neglect of minors.

### **Diocesan Safe Environment Program**

The Diocese of Jefferson City has implemented a mandatory policy on the teaching of Child Protection and Safe Environment to all teachers, volunteers, and students. Each year there will be an "age appropriate" lesson taught to all students focusing on creating a safe environment and child protection catechesis. We will do this teaching with your child during the month of October, which is Respect for Life month. If parents prefer to teach this lesson to their child themselves, please come by the office to pick up a lesson plan.

### **Parental Involvement**

As the primary teachers of their children in matters of faith, parents are expected to take an active role in the child's religious education. Parents are invited and encouraged to visit their child's class at any time.

### **First Reconciliation/First Eucharist**

Second grade is the diocesan-recommended grade for reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

### **Confirmation**

Seventh and eighth are the recommended grades for reception of the sacrament of Confirmation in our diocese.