

# St. Margaret of Scotland



**Finding and Connecting with God**

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Handbook and Calendar

**2010-2011**

# St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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## Schedule

For grades 1-6 you may either choose Tuesday evening from 6-7:15 or Wednesday evening from 5-6:15. The calendar is on the last page of this booklet.

Middle school meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month from **noon-1:30pm**.

*Please consider their schedule when enrolling for Tuesday or Wednesday evening classes. We are thankful for their attendance, but tardiness and/or leaving early for sports each week is a disruption to the class.*

## Fees

Book and supply fees are due at the time of registration. This fee allows us to purchase text books for students, teachers, videos, and classroom supplies. A \$15 book replacement fee will be incurred if your child misplaces his\her book. A \$20 late fee incurs after August 31<sup>st</sup>. *We will not have fund raisers to offset fees.* As a thank you to all volunteer teachers, their child's fee is waived. The fees for 2010-2011 are:

*one child - \$45.00 two children - \$90.00 family - (three or more) - \$120.00*

No child will be denied religious education because of family financial difficulties.

## Our Program

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 homes. Parents agreed to this duty at their child's baptism. Prior to first grade a child should know the Sign of the Cross, The Lord's Prayer, and one form of Grace prior to a meal. They should also be able to name God as Creator of all things, Jesus as the Son of God, and Mary as the mother of Jesus. Realize that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and Easter is about Jesus' Resurrection.

**Middle School** students will use the 'THE EDGE' by Life Teen, Bible, Talk Sheets and other books to become involved and excited about discussing important issues so they may grow in their faith. Some of the topics are: Why Go Mass, Friendship, Overcoming Peer Pressure, Family Matters, and Parents Are People too.

**Sixth grade students** enjoy a youth Bible Study class using the 'Break Through Bible' and workbook focusing primarily on the Old Testament. By learning about a specific person, their role in salvation history and intertwining that person's strengths and weaknesses with our own.

**Grades 1-5** we use the **Loyola Press' *Finding God*** series. *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* is a Catholic faith formation program that incorporates the spirituality of St. Ignatius, guiding and mentoring children into a life of prayer and a lifelong relationship with God. An authentic expression of our Catholic faith *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts* reflects a vision of our Catholic faith grounded in scripture and tradition and recognition of the presence of God in all things. The expression of that vision is based on our Catholic belief that effective catechesis:

- † reflects the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- † centers on the person of Jesus Christ
- † proclaims the liberating good news of salvation through Jesus Christ
- † leads the Christian into the world in mission and action
- † addresses the needs of the culture in which it is presented
- † invites believers to reflect on personal experience in light of growing in relationship with God
- † leads to full, conscious, active participation in the liturgical life of the Church
- † creates a climate of prayer and nurtures a faith that is expressed in prayer

**Grade 1:** God is our Creator and loves us as our Father. Jesus came to tell us about God the Father and saves us through his life, death, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit shares the life of the risen Jesus Christ and forms the community of the Church. We know Jesus through prayer and by worshiping God together, especially at Mass. We thank Jesus for the gift of himself and the Holy Spirit by obeying the commandments, caring for one another, and caring for the world.

**Grade 2:** God loves each of us. We are called to act on God's love for us by loving one another, by living as Jesus wants us to live. As we prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, we give special attention to examination of conscience, how to make a good confession and importance of preparation to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. See sacramental prep on the next page.

**Grade 3:** God creates us good and calls us to live in community. We emphasize the role of Jesus calling us to a new way of life – what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus and how close Jesus wants us to be with our Father. We learn how each of the sacraments deepens our relationship with God. How the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity are the foundation for the moral choices we make as we grow to be like Jesus.

**Grade 4:** God calls us to lead a moral life. He revealed the Ten Commandments to provide us with the parameters to live a life for God and others. Jesus taught us the Beatitudes and their relationship to living a Christian life. We give special attention to Sacraments of Healing and Sacrament of Service as part of the moral dimension of our faith.

**Grade 5:** Strengthened in sacramental life of the Church, we are better able to live like Jesus in making choices for God and others. We enter into a new way of life when we celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. Through the sacraments we live more fully in the Holy Spirit as members of the Church, united in diversity under our tradition.

## Sacramental Preparation

*Second grade is the earliest children receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Children may have a deeper experience by waiting another year or two. **Children must have at least one previous year of religious education either at this or their former parish prior to receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. IF your child is transferring from another program, please have that parish submit a letter or email verifying what the student has completed in preparation for the sacraments.***

**RCIC:** *Rite of Christian Initiation of Children:* Some children over the age of 7 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, Eucharist, and possibly Confirmation) during the Easter Vigil.

**Reconciliation:** In the fall, students 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older prepare to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents prepare their children for sacraments with the support of the pastor, staff and Religious Education volunteers. A book and information will go home for your child at the Reconciliation Parent Meeting. Children must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving their First Eucharist. **A two year enrollment in religious education is required.**



**Eucharist:** In January, children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older begin to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. As with Reconciliation, parents will attend a Eucharist meeting and receive information and a book to go through with their child. Children will attend a retreat in the spring. First Communion celebrations will take place after Easter. **A two year enrollment in religious education is required.**

**Confirmation:** In the diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph the Sacrament of Confirmation is normally conferred at the age of 15. Candidates are invited to take part in the process which begins their freshman year.



**Anointing of the Sick:** Is available all baptized Catholics as needed.

## Arrival and Dismissal

ARRIVAL: In view of the fact that we only have one hour and fifteen minutes a week, teachers are asked to begin classes promptly. Please allow time for your child to enter our building and get to class on time.

DISMISSAL: Adults or a teenager at least 16 years of age must enter the building to pick up children.

## Cell Phones

Cell phone use is prohibited when PSR classes are in session. Any cell phone that rings, or is used as a phone or a camera, or to text message is to be claimed by the Catechist and sent to the Director's office. The parent will be required to retrieve the cell phone. It will not be returned to the student.

## Circle of Grace

All Catholic schools and churches are mandated to give 'safe touch' classes to our students. We use 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. This is taught in a visual way.

Raising your hands above your head and then  
bringing your arms slowly down  
keeping them outstretched.  
Extending your arms  
in front of you  
and then behind you  
embracing all of the space around you  
knowing that **God** is in this space with you.  
Then slowly  
reach down to your feet.  
This is your  
**Circle of Grace.**  
You are in it.

Because this concept includes all senses it 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 to educate and empower children to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

### Outline

**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

**Grade 5** - Understanding the Influence of the Media on our *Circle of Grace*

**Grade 6** - Safe Relationships, Personal boundaries

**Middle School** – Respect, disrespect, and moral decisions

## **Community Service**

All children in the program are asked to do community service inside or outside the church. We recommend 1 hour of service above each grade your child is in. For instance, a first grade child is asked to do 2 hours of community service, a second grader 3 hours, a sixth grader 7 hours of service. Children have opportunity during class to perform some of their service. Service hours may include but not limited to, making cards for the elderly or service men and women, being a greeter or setting up or cleaning up the donuts at Mass. Basically something for someone else and NOT receiving payment (cash or gift) for the job. *Children will be recognized monthly on the bulletin board for the great deeds.*

***Any child earning 50+ of community service over a period of 12 months will receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.***

## **Conduct**

Good conduct, cooperation, attention, and courtesy are expected during class time. Any student who continually fails to cooperate with the Catechist and other students within a class shall be subject to the following procedures.

- 1st – Catechist will speak with the student to discuss the situation.
- 2nd – An uncooperative student will be sent to the director's office.
- 3rd – If the problem continues, a telephone call is made to the parents.
- 4th – If there is no improvement, in fairness and justice to the Catechist and students in the class, 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.

We define serious misconduct as, but not limited to, fighting, stealing, possession/use of drugs, weapons, and/or alcohol, disrespect to others, vandalism, aggressive behavior, threats, swearing, and vulgarity.

## **Inclement Weather and Cancellation**

When Lee's Summit schools close due to inclement weather, sessions that evening are cancelled. If ice or snow begins in late afternoon, cancellations will be made by phone. We will also make every attempt to contact local television stations.

## **Injury**

Any accident or injury that occurs while a child is on church property will be reported by the catechist. Parents will be immediately notified. In the event of serious injury and the parent or emergency contact cannot be reached, the child will be taken to the closest Emergency Room.

## **Mass**

Besides attending Mass each week throughout the year, each class will have a leadership role at a weekend Mass (lectors and greeters) during the school year.

## Reporting Requirements for Child Abuse or Neglect

Parish officials, including director, teachers, and volunteers are required by Missouri law to report any actual and/or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect to the Division of Family Services. **WE WILL PROTECT GOD'S CHILDREN.**

## Role of a Catechist

Your child's catechist (teacher) is called to encourage your child to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Each catechist will learn policies, instructional techniques, and background information.

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 teams with one or more other adult volunteers.

In keeping with Diocesan policy, all volunteers working with minors complete a screening form which includes personal data, youth work references, and a request for criminal records check and authorization and attend one session '*Protecting God's Children*'.

## Role of a Parent

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 the faith shared and spoken at home as well as in religion class.

Every parent is expected to keep abreast of what is happening in their child's class. Spend 5-10 minutes with each child, looking at their child's book and the notes that come home. This one-on-one work by parents and children is the secret of success in our program. When perusing your child's text, pay particular attention to the "Raising Faith-Filled Kids" page on located on the last page of each chapter. This page gives great ideas for dinnertime conversation starters on what they learned our Catholic heritage and prayer.

The Mass is a celebration of God's family, the Church. It is the primary place where we gather as family to worship God with one another.

- ❖ Make regular attendance at Sunday Mass a priority.
- ❖ It is easier for children to pay attention when they can see what is going on. Sit up close.
- ❖ Discuss the Readings on the way to church.
- ❖ Discuss the Homilies on the way home.

To receive emails regarding educational and parish activities you may sign yourself up by going to our web site [www.stmargaretsparish.org](http://www.stmargaretsparish.org) scroll down on the opening page. Enter you email address in the box that says "join our mailing list" and follow the prompts. This program is similar to what the R-VII school District uses.

**Middle School Calendar (Grades 7-8)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month ~ noon - 1:30pm**

September 12

September 26

October 10

October 24

November 14

November 28      **No CLASS** *Thanksgiving weekend*

December 12      Christmas Party

December 26      **NO CLASS** Christmas Break

January 9

January 23

February 13

February 27

March 13

March 27

April 10

April 17              Palm Sunday and Year End Celebration

**2010-2011 PSR Schedule for Grades 1-6**  
**Classes are Tuesday 6-7:15pm or Wednesday 5-6:15pm**

September 14 and 15

September 21 and 22

September 28 and 29

*SUNDAY, October 3 at 11:45am – First Reconciliation Parent Meeting*

October 5 and 6

October 12 and 13

October 19 and 20

October 26 and 27

November 2 and 3

November 9 and 10

November 16 and 17

November 23 and 24 **NO CLASS** – Thanksgiving Break

November 30 and December 1

***Thursday, December 2 at 7pm – First Reconciliation/ Communal Penance Service***

December 7 and 8 **NO CLASS** *Feast of Immaculate Conception*

December 14 and 15 **FAMILY Christmas Celebration**

December 21 and 22 **NO CLASS** Christmas Break

December 28 and 29 **NO CLASS** Christmas Break

January 4 and 5

January 11 and 12

January 18 and 19

January 25 and 26

February 1 and 2

February 8 and 9

February 15 and 16

***Sunday, February 20 at 11:45am – First Communion Parent Meeting***

February 22 and 23

March 1 and 2

March 8 and 9 **NO CLASS** – Catechist Meeting Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

March 15 and 16 **NO CLASS** – Spring Break

March 22 and 23

March 29 and 30

April 5 and 6

April 12 and 13

***Saturday, April 16 at 10am – First Communion Retreat***

April 19 and 20 Holy Week – Stations of the Cross during class

April 26 and 27 Final Class

***Saturday, April 30 at 2pm*** First Communion

***Sunday, May 1 at 1pm*** May Crowning and Ice Cream Social

***Saturday, May 7 at 2pm*** First Communion