

# St. Margaret of Scotland



Parish School of Religion (PSR)  
Handbook and Calendar  
**2009-2010**

# St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

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## 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 home. Parents agreed to this duty at their child's baptism.*

Our textbook series for **grades 1-5** is the ***Faith First Legacy Edition***. They use a 'spiral method' of teaching where each year students will come to know, love and live their faith. Each grade's books are divided into four units: We Believe (Creed); We Worship (Liturgy and Sacraments); We Live (Christian Morality); and We Pray (Christian Prayer). Within each session the children will *read* a small piece of scripture or a life situation and *discuss* what difference does this make in our church? and what difference does it make in their life? *Faith First* has an interactive website ([www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com)) which is an excellent source for students and parents.

Our **sixth grade students** enjoy a youth Bible Study class using the 'Break Through Bible' and workbook focusing primarily on the Old Testament.

**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.

## 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 2009-2010 are:

*one child - \$45.00   two children - \$90.00   family - (three or more) - \$110.00*

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

## 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.**

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

## Sacramental Preparation

*Second grade is the earliest that 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 submit a letter 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 prepare to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The typically children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older are ready to experience God's love and forgiveness in 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 16. 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.

Great suggestions from the book "Bringing Up Children in the Christian Faith", by John H. Westerhoff III. He suggests parents....

- ❖ tell and retell the biblical story - the stories of faith - together!
- ❖ celebrate our faith and our lives.
- ❖ pray together.
- ❖ listen and talk to each other.
- ❖ perform faithful acts of service and witness together.

## 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. That means 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 and real way. One can demonstrate this prayer and ponder its profound simplicity.

Imagine:  
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

## **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.*

## **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.

## **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 "Faith Focus" and "Faith Words" (left hand corner). Also at the end of each chapter is a "With my Family" page to instill the message in your child later in the week.

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 so 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.

What children should know by the ending of each grade either taught in class, at home or by attending Mass....

*Prior to attending class each 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.*



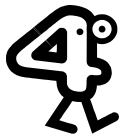
Glory Be Prayer, Hail Mary, Grace before Meals, a brief overview of the Seven Sacraments concentrating on Baptism.



Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist responses, Act of Contrition, The Ten Commandments, The Seven Sacraments concentrating on Reconciliation and Eucharist.



Apostles Creed, Corporal Works of Mercy, Liturgical Year, Sacrament primarily Holy Orders, reverent behavior



The Beatitudes, Spiritual Works of Mercy, Order of the Mass, the Triduum, Sacrament of the Sick



An introduction to the Bible, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Signs and Symbols of the Catholic Church, the Ten Commandments



The Covenant between God and us; the story of the Jewish people – our roots; bridging the Old and New Testament and Praying with scripture.

## Middle School Calendar (Grades 7-8)

September 13

September 27

October 11

October 25

November 8

November 22

December 13 Christmas Party

December 27 **NO CLASS** Christmas Break

January 10

January 24

February 14

February 28

March 14

March 28

April 11

April 25 Year End Celebration

## 2009-2010 Religious Education Schedule for Grades 1-6

**Classes are Tuesday 6-7:15pm or Wednesday 5-6:15pm**

September 15 and 16

September 22 and 23

*SUNDAY, September 27 at 11:45am – First Reconciliation Parent Meeting*

September 29 and 30

October 6 and 7

October 13 and 14 **NO CLASS – Parish Mission**

October 20 and 21

October 27 and 28

November 3 and 4

November 10 and 11

November 17 and 18

November 24 and 25 **NO CLASS** (Thanksgiving Break)

December 1 and 2

**Thursday, December 3 at 7pm – First Reconciliation/ Communal Penance Service**

December 8 and 9 **NO CLASS Feast of Immaculate Conception**

December 15 and 16 **FAMILY Christmas Celebration**

December 22 and 23 **NO CLASS Christmas Break**

December 29 and 30 **NO CLASS Christmas Break**

January 5 and 6

January 12 and 13

**Sunday, January 17 at 11:45am – First Communion Parent Meeting**

January 19 and 20

January 26 and 27

February 2 and 3

February 9 and 10

February 16 and 17 **NO CLASS** – Catechist Meeting Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

February 23 and 24

March 2 and 3

March 9 and 10

March 16 and 17 **NO CLASS** (Spring Break)

March 23 and 24

**Saturday, March 27** **First Communion Retreat**

March 30 and 31 Holy Week – Stations of the Cross during class

April 6 and 7

April 13 and 14

**Saturday, April 17 at 2pm** **First Communion**

**Sunday, April 18 or 25 at 2pm** **First Communion**

April 20 and 21

April 27 and 28

May 4 and 5 May Crowning and Reception