

WELCOME TO RELIGIOUS ED!

FAMILY NAME _____

Dear families,

We are blessed to have each of you involved in this program. As parents, you have been given the gift of being the primary faith examples and teachers for your children. It can seem overwhelming at times, but we are here to support you in this commitment.

Throughout the year, we'll have many opportunities for family members to get involved—both through volunteering and attending events with your child(ren). We hope these activities will open the door to attending Mass weekly if you don't already, new ways to explore this awesome faith and inviting others to be a part of the church family as well. But first and foremost, we aim to give you the chance to discuss faith with your child(ren), and if you don't know answers to the questions they (or you) have, we'll help you find them!

We look forward to spending time with you and your child this year. My door is always open if you ever have concerns or questions. Please feel free to call or stop by at any time.

Wishing you many blessings as we start this year's journey together!

Lauren Stark
Coordinator of Religious Education

847-639-0414, x325
LStark@ssppcary.org



To join with parents as partners in discovering our Catholic Faith for themselves and their children, the youth of SS. Peter and Paul Parish.

Without great support, this program would not be possible. Thank you to all of our Catechists and many other volunteers for their commitment to bringing knowledge to our parish's children. Most importantly, we thank you, the parents, for valuing the education of your children in the Faith. You are all in our prayers. Please pray for your us, the catechists and, most importantly, your children!

with gratitude.

**“Start children in the way they should go and when get old,
they will not stray from it.”**

- Proverbs 22:6



CONTACT INFORMATION

Attendance Line: 847-639-0414, Press 1

PARISH (847-516-2636)

Fr. Jeremy Trowbridge—Parochial Administrator, x328
Fr. Tim Seigel—Parochial Vicar, x329
Fr. Juan Arciniegas—Parochial Vicar, Hispanic Ministry, x334
Peggie Wollney—Parish Secretary, x321
Alma Landa—Hispanic Parish Secretary, x391
Carolyn Strong—School Principal (847-639-3041, x247)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (847-639-0414)


Lauren Stark—Coordinator of RE, x325 (K-7th grades)
Jennifer Dombrowski—Director of Youth Ministry, x332 (8th-12th grades)
Theresa Milobowski—Administrative Assistant, x322

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday—8:30 am-4:30 pm
Wednesday—12 pm-8 pm
Friday—8:30 am-12 pm

**We are happy to make appointments outside of office hours. Please contact us to set an alternate time.*

 PeterPaulChurchCary.org or bit.ly/SSPPreled

 Ss. Peter and Paul - Religious Education
facebook.com/SSPPReled/



FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

The religious education of your child/ren is a joint effort, and our Catechists cannot do it without your support. Educating your child in the faith does not only occur on Wednesday evenings. Parents are the main educators, and we are here to encourage, guide and provide resources to assist you. These procedures will help us maximize our time with your students.

- Due to severe allergies at school and R.E., **please leave food and drinks at home**. STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO BRING WATER BOTTLES, and there is a drinking fountain where they can refill!

- Please **try to attend Mass and participate in the Sacraments** regularly. Haven't been in awhile? Call me. You can sit with us! **You are ALWAYS WELCOME!!**
- **Make Religious Education a priority**. Regular attendance allows your student to connect key pieces of information, and discussions with and questions from peers are just as important as the information being shared with them!
- **Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before class** but with enough time to be ready to dive in when class begins!
- If you'd like to walk your student in or pick them up from their classroom (required for Kindergarten, Prep I and Prep II), please find a parking space in the lot. **Parking or leaving cars unattended along the front driveway is not permitted** for the safety of our students. **YOUNGER STUDENTS MAY BE PICKED UP BY AN OLDER STUDENT OR PARENT**. Please notify the Catechist who they should be expecting and of any change in the routine!
- At the end of class, we are either preparing for another session or working to get our catechists home to their families. Please help us by picking up your child(ren) on time. **If you are delayed for any reason, please call us**.
- Listen to the public radio announcement for school cancellations due to inclement weather or other issues. **When District 26 schools are closed, so is SS. Peter and Paul Religious Education** (with exception of a teacher's strike).
- **Please reinforce class concepts and practice prayers at home**. Your kids will likely be excited to share what they've learned, and your family might learn something new too. Faith formation can be a part of making meaningful memories!
- **Complete any home assignments in a timely manner**. Prep I and Prep II students are asked to complete workbook pages they have missed and have their Catechist sign off on their completed work. On occasion, a Catechist may also assign work for students to complete at home with their families to enhance understanding of a lesson.
- Please inform the Religious Education Office of any situation that may help us provide your child(ren) with the most appropriate learning environment. **Every student has unique needs, and we can work with Catechists to ensure all are met**.
- **Please respect your Catechists**. They come from all professional and faith backgrounds; some are seasoned veterans, and others are first-year teachers. **If you have any concerns with your child's class, let us know**, but please also remember the Catechists are volunteers doing the best they can with your children each week.
- **Encourage your students to participate in class, read their lessons and ask about what they learn at home! The more involved you are in discussing their faith formation, the more they will be proud of the connection they are developing!**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

We aim to create of a positive and engaging learning environment in the classrooms and school building. We need the best possible cooperation from each of our Religious Education students.

- **Please give your teachers your attention.** They are volunteers who chose to be here with you. Show some enthusiasm!
- Your teachers need time to get the room/materials ready. **Please wait in the hallway patiently** until they invite you in.
- **Walk quietly into the building to and from class.** Don't be the reason another class isn't giving their teacher their attention!
- **Show respect for yourself, others and school property.** We are blessed to have this wonderful space to share with the school students and our community. We need to take care of it so we can continue to use it!
- **Bring your books and folder to every class.** Supplies such as: pens, pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue, etc., will all be provided in the supply bins. **SUPPLIES IN DESKS SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED**—Think of how you would feel if someone you didn't know moved things around in your room at home ... same thing, hands off!
- Please have a snack or meal at home. Due to severe allergies of those sharing the class with you, there is **no eating allowed in the classrooms.**
- **Dress appropriately.** The dress code is casual, so dress comfortably. But out of respect for the individual, short-shorts or mini skirts, halter and tube tops, shirts advertising beer or cigarette products or those displaying profanity *will not* be allowed. Please use your discretion. Sport uniforms may be worn, but clean shoes are required to keep our hallways and classrooms clean.
- **CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING CLASS!** If your Catechist isn't using his/her phone, you shouldn't be either!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

When your child is going to be absent from class, please call our attendance line at:

847-639-0414, Press 1 by 4:45 pm (4:30 pm session) and 6:45 pm (6:30 pm session)

- DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE ON ANY OTHER EXTENSION, as it may not be retrieved until after classes have completed.
- If we do not hear from you, we will call to confirm your student is safely where they are expected to be and confirm our records.
- After each class absence, please refer to your lesson schedule to see what chapter was covered. All students will have a copy of the lesson schedule stapled to the front cover of their book, and syllabi are also on the RE page of the SSPP website.
- Read over the chapter and discuss topics with your child. Be sure to pray with them (Keep it simple; there is no RIGHT way to pray!), focus on the new words and definitions, and answer questions asked throughout the chapter.

Prep I, Prep II and **Delayed Sacrament students** need adequate preparation for receiving the first Sacraments. It is asked that in addition to the above requirements, students will also show completed Activity Book work to their Catechist.

CHASTITY & SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Charter for Protection for Children adopted by the Conference of Catholic Bishops requires parishes and schools to provide instruction to students in the area of safety and integrity of their person. To assist our families with this important task, the Rockford Diocese designed a program called "Formation in Christian Chastity and Safe Environment" and in 2009, mandated that instruction be given yearly. The idea is to partner with parents to provide the necessary instruction. Parents will receive material to help guide their own discussion with their children at home. The RE program will provide a classroom presentation on chastity and safety. Please be aware this is not a lesson about sex education.

I encourage you to visit the Diocese's website to learn more about the program so you can make an informed decision about your child's participation in this lesson. As parents, you have the right to choose whether your child participates in this instruction. We encourage you to visit the Diocese's Education Office website at www.ceorockford.org under the 'Child Safety' page to read about the grade-level specific nature of this instruction. This material can also be used by you at home if you prefer. If you have questions, please contact us.

In late November, all families will be emailed an "opt-out" form". If you determine that you *DO NOT* want your child(ren) to participate, please complete the "opt-out" form and return it to either your child(ren)'s religious education teacher or to our office. **If we do not hear from you, we will be expecting your child on January 9 (Wednesday) for this class.**

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 7 PROGRAM

Weekly classes are held on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:50 pm or 6:30-7:50 pm, meeting September through April. Each class has anywhere from 12-20 students with usually two Catechists for each. Our curriculum is the Faith and Life Series for 1st-7th and Image of God Series for Kindergarten, both by Ignatius press. In addition to class instruction, we will have special activities throughout the year, including Family Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation for those who have completed the Sacrament already, Stations of the Cross, Family Faith Nights, Living Bible sessions and more. Families are encouraged to attend other parish events of their choice!

- **HOME STUDY is offered to those who are unable to attend weekly classes or prefer an individualized environment.**
- **We also offer a SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM for those looking for a unique teaching environment for their child.**

Please contact us to learn more about these programs!

DELAYED SACRAMENTS PROGRAM

Any student 3rd grade and older who has not been Baptized or has been Baptized in another faith, or received First Communion or Reconciliation will both attend Religious Ed and our Delayed Sacrament meetings with a family member. Your student will receive their Sacraments before the end of the year. Before Confirmation, students baptized in another faith are asked to complete a Statement of Faith with support of the Pastor.

RAINBOWS AND PRISM PROGRAMS

Rainbows is a peer support group for children in grades Pre-K-8 who have suffered significant loss in their lives through death, divorce or separation. **The Prism** program is an adult support group for those who have suffered a loss in their lives through death, divorce or separation.

For more information on either program, please contact Laura Nick the parish center: 847-516-2636, x319.