

Sacred Heart PSR Handbook and Schedule Fall 2023



Mission Statement

Our goal is to educate the children of Sacred Heart parish in the canon and Tradition of the Roman Catholic faith, for the purpose of developing a foundation of spiritual strength through childhood and into adulthood.

Protecting God's children

We are dedicated to making our classrooms and our church at large an indisputably safe environment for our children to grow and learn. Per Diocesan regulations our educators are required to attend the Protecting God's Children program, and sign and abide by all the regulations and code of conduct. For more information on this program please visit the diocesan website at <https://kcsjcatholic.org/>

The Circle of Grace curriculum will be taught to grades 1-7, in order to educate children about their safe space in an age appropriate matter.

Methods

Each classroom will have two dedicated educators. For grades 1-7 there will be a standard curriculum taught along with a weekly activity. These activities range from crafts and coloring to reflections based on the accompanying lesson.

For the children grades 8-9, there will be a two year confirmation preparatory class. They will receive one year of education with a dedicated confirmation curriculum, and then one year of in depth Catholic Saint studies. Confirmation will be administered in the 9th grade.

For grades 10-12 the method of teaching will shift to a roundtable interactive discussion group, focusing on the Gospel of the weekend.

Curriculum

Grades 1-7 will use the *Faith and Life* Series by Ignatius Press, accompanied by the corresponding activity books (which are theirs to write in and keep) and supplemental resources provided by the parish.

Grades 8-9 will use the confirmation preparatory curriculum *Chosen* by ascension press.

Schedule Fall 2023

Date:	Class Time:	Special Event:
August 27th	9:15-10:15	Start of Fall Classes
September 3rd	N/A	No Classes (Labor day Weekend)
September 10th	9:15-10:15	Bible Blessing Confirmation Students 10:30 Mass
September 17th	9:15-10:15	1st Grade Deep Dive Joy in the Trinity after 10:30 Mass
September 24th	9:15-10:15	
October 1st	9:15-10:15	
October 8th	9:15-10:15	
October 15th	9:15-10:15	Circle of Grace Part 1 Grades 1-7
October 22nd	9:15-10:15	Circle of Grace Part 2 Grades 1-7
October 29th	9:15-10:15	2nd Grade Deep Dive Joy in the Eucharist After 10:30 Mass
November 5th	9:15-10:15	
November 12th	9:15-10:15	
November 19th	9:15-10:15	
November 26th	9:15-10:15	3rd Grade Deep Dive

		Joy in Following God's Commandments After 10:30 Mass
December 3rd	9:15-10:15	
December 10th	9:15-10:15	
December 17th	9:15-10:15	Last day of Fall Classes

Due to special scheduling needs, there are several special events that are not listed on the schedule, and their dates remain TBD. These events include:

- First Reconciliation
- Penance Service for Confirmation Students
- Confirmation Retreat
- Service Opportunities (service hours are no longer required for confirmation students, but are highly encouraged.)

Once these events are scheduled parents will be notified by email as well as a handout in class. Any modifications to the schedule will also be distributed in this manner.

Special needs

As stated in our mission statement, our goal is to educate all children in our Parish. This means that we are committed to providing every accommodation that we can to make your child's religious education a success. If your child has special needs, or requires accommodations for his/her learning, please let us know so we can plan for those

accommodations. We are always happy to work with parents and students to make sure they get the most out of their classes.

Prayers

As Catholics we are very passionate about personal prayer, and believe that each child should be equipped with the tools they need to have a personal relationship with Christ. The biggest proponent to this is memorizing the traditional prayers of the Catholic Church, and the meaning behind them. Each grade will be required to memorize specific prayers, and test their memorization skills by the end of the year. This is particularly important in sacramental prep years. Each child will receive a binder ring, and each time they pass the memorization test for a prayer they will receive a prayer card to put on this ring.

Please note that these cards are considered sacramentals, and should be treated with reverence and care. They should also make sure that the cards are placed somewhere they can remember for next year!

Children will have a chance to test during each class period if they wish.

Sacramental prep

The Sacraments are the most important facet of religious education. Our curriculum in these subjects is tailored to give your child a thorough understanding of the sacrament they will receive. In these important years, there is sometimes a bit more effort required of students and parents. Please understand that sacramental prep doesn't just start and end in the year that the sacrament is received. It starts much earlier, and never ends. We are all required to pursue our religious formation throughout our lives, and the best way for your child under the age of 18 to pursue that education is with religious education. You should continue to send your child to

religious education even if it is not a year in which they are receiving a specific first sacrament.

Parental Role in Education

While we can teach a lot of what your child needs to know for his/her faith formation. We can only have a true impact on your child's faith if the things they learn in class are reinforced in the home away from class. We only have an hour each week to teach what they need to know, and you as a parent have time every day to reinforce these things. It is important to live a life that they can follow as an example. Things to be aware of during your everyday schedules that can help reinforce the lessons they learn with us are:

- Attending Masses on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Attending daily Mass when able
- Saying prayers before and after meals, the Angelus at noon, and saying regular rosaries. Praying with children is of vital importance not just for the memorization of the prayers, but also to show them when and how these prayers can be applied.
- Talking about the readings that you hear in church
- Asking them about their time in religious education classes
- Volunteering for charitable causes
- Volunteering for ministerial positions at church
- Making your weekly giving to the church and other charities visible to your children
- Encouraging your children to prepare for their classes, ask questions about their faith, and live their life with love and compassion.

If you are unsure about specific aspects of your faith, or simply have questions please consider attending some of our adult formation ministries. We have several options for adults to expand their faith formation and their own spirituality. As mentioned before, faith formation doesn't end at the sacraments, and it can greatly benefit children to see their own parents participating in these ministries.

RCIA is another great option even for adults who are already confirmed in the Catholic faith. It is often mistakenly believed that it is only for new catechumens, but RCIA is a good resource for someone who simply needs a refresher.

We encourage parents to volunteer with the PSR program at least once a month. Tasks handled by parents are:

- Overseeing adult fellowship in the holy family room
- Substituting in classrooms where teachers may be absent
- Testing children for prayer memorization
- Helping organize crafts and activities

We highly encourage all parents to attend a Protecting God's Children training course so they can participate in these programs without restriction. These training programs will be held at intervals throughout the year.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child, and are excited to help shepherd them in their journey to faith and spirituality. Please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Religious Education if you have any questions or concerns

Martha Stark
(970) 697-4016
mstark@shcatholic.com