

## Parish Mission Statement

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Parish in Spring City, PA is a community of believers who are committed to living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We strive to share God's love with others through the offering of our time, talent, and treasure—daily.

We gather as a parish family in a spirit of hospitality, to welcome those who search for a meaningful life experience in Worship, Faith, and Sacrament. Sensitive to the traditions and the challenging needs of our Church today, we journey together with a sense of great hope and confidence in God's promised presence to be with us always.

# Goals of the Parish Religious Education Program

The Parish Religious Education Program seeks to serve all registered members of Saint Joseph Parish grades Pre-Kindergarten through 7. No student will be denied access to catechesis because of race, national origin, or physical or mental challenges.

The Parish Religious Education Program has as its objectives:

- To assist parents to understand their unique role in the development of the faith life of their children.
- To facilitate with the parish the preparation of students for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Healing.
- To provide a living faith environment which calls students to:
  - Recognize and develop the gifts that God has given them;
  - Learn the life of Jesus through the study of scripture and dogma;
  - Seek a personal relationship with Jesus, especially through prayer and the sacraments;
  - Understand their responsibilities as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His church;
  - Support one another through shared study, prayer, and activities;
  - Insert themselves actively into the community of the parish;
  - Reach out to the less fortunate in works of mercy;

# Religious Education Staff

Coordinator: Mrs. Andrea Jackowski  
Assistant: Mrs. Michele Mast  
CGS: Mrs. Anne Pulsifer

## Catechists and Aides (2017/2018)

Level 1:	Linda Koller Jennifer Plasha	Carol Faust Ashley Pierce
Level 2:	Becky Plasha Lisa Moynihan Michele Moynihan	Melissa Sinner Patrick Sinner
Level 3:	Kelly O'Donnell Tom O'Donnell	Sue Scowden Janea Vargas
Level 4:	Tamara Mycek Caryn Moffa	Antoinette Lightman Kristi Holstein
Level 5:	Emily Roseo Angela Wagner	Carmen Bozzelli Tony Duffy
Level 6:	Pat Herbert Gillian Horrocks	Dina D'Souza Kayla Vargas
Level 7:		Jennifer Riordan Shannon Ray
CGS I	Anne Pulsifer	
RCIC	Kathy Schmitt	

# Religious Education Office

Mailing Address: 3640 Schuylkill Road  
Spring City, PA 19475  
Email Address: [stjosephprep@comcast.net](mailto:stjosephprep@comcast.net)  
Telephone Number: 610-850-4228 CRE Cell

## Policies

### **Admission**

All who are registered members of Saint Joseph parish may be admitted to the Parish Religious Education Program. Applicants who have not been baptized at Saint Joseph Parish must provide a Baptismal certificate at the time of registration.

### **Registration**

Registration of students new to the program is held from April 22 to June 1. Forms can be found at the website and are to be submitted to the Parish office. Inquiry concerning registration of new students may be directed to the Coordinator of Religious Education.

### **Class Days and Time**

1. CGS I (3-5 year old) AM session – Every Tuesday 9 – 11
2. CGS I (3-5 year old) PM session – Every Tuesday 4 – 6
3. CGS II (6-7 year old) PM session - Every Tuesday 4 – 6
4. PREP Level 1-7 Rotating teams – every other Sunday morning 8:45 – 10:35
5. RCIC day and time will be as needed

### **Fees**

A yearly fee is requested to cover most of the cost of consumable and training materials used by the students and Catechists. Current year (2018-2019) fees:

- Pre-K and K is \$50 per child
- Grades 1-6, one child/\$130, two children/\$220, three or more children/\$300
- First Eucharist \$30
- Confirmation \$100
- Late fee for registrations received after May 31 \$25

Fees are to be paid at the time of registration. Checks should be made payable to “Saint Joseph Parish”.

### **Dismissal**

Students in the education building are dismissed from the outside porch. Teachers of grades 1– 3 will walk their class onto the porch as a group. Parents are to sign out each child. Atrium children will meet parents at the classroom doorway.

### **Absences**

Parents are requested to telephone the Coordinator’s cell phone (610-850-4228) when a student will be missing class.

Students must complete make-up work for any class missed. The archdiocesan policy is that if three or more hours of class time (2 classes) are missed children may be held back until make-up work is completed.

### **Methodologies/Textbooks**

Faith education will be offered in two distinct methodologies; classroom based held on alternating Sunday mornings and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) based held every Tuesday.

“Gospel Weeklies” published by Pflaum is the program series used for our Religious Education Program. Since they supplement the weekly Sunday readings it is important that your children attend weekly Masses as part of their education.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based form of catechesis developed to meet the age-appropriate developmental stages of the child's physical and spiritual growth. The specially prepared room called an atrium and many hands-on materials specifically designed for the children's use provide for an environment uniquely suited for establishing and growing the religious and spiritual life of the child.

### **Attendance**

In order to derive the maximum benefit from classroom activities and formal education:

- Students should strive for punctual and consistent attendance.
- The policy from the Archdiocese concerning candidates preparing to receive a sacrament (Penance, Eucharist, or Confirmation) – candidate is to have had two (2) years of immediate preparation.
- It is strongly recommended that students be permitted only two days absence during the school year, especially those preparing for a Sacrament.
- Time is a gift we do not have enough of for our PREP students. Therefore, we are challenged to make the most of the little time we do have together.
- 30 hours of formal religious instruction is very little. So we ask you to help your children arrange their extra-curricular activities around faith time. Since catechists do not have time to repeat lessons for absentees, parents should teach the missed lesson at home.
- Parents are to work with students a minimum of 30 minutes a class on assignments from the catechist. These could include but are not limited to internet programs, service projects, liturgical participation, etc.

## **Grading System**

As in all formal educational processes the

- Students will be tested on the material taught and studied
- Students will be given an assignment weekly to prepare and do for the upcoming class
- Report cards will be issued twice a year
- The grade will come from the following:
  - Tests, home assignments, attendance and classroom participation

## **Discipline**

Good conduct is expected from every child who is attending our Religious Education Program. If a child is disruptive, he or she will be sent to the office to call their parents. A disruption is unfair to both the teacher and the students who are present.

## **Early Dismissal**

Early dismissal should be considered an unusual occurrence. Students should bring a written note of request to the classroom catechist. Parents must report to the Religious Education Office to meet their child. Catechists may require work missed because of early dismissal to be completed.

## **Emergency Closings**

Emergency closings are reported by telephone chain to teachers, From KYW Radio 1060 and Mass announcements

## **Transfers**

When a family is preparing to move from the parish the Religious Education Office should be notified. Students' records of attendance and levels completed will be forwarded to the new Religious Education Program upon the request of the parent.

# Prayers and Formulas We Cherish and Commit to Memory

Memory is a God-given gift which children, young people and adults alike, possess. Employing the gift of memory in religious education will benefit the child at his/her particular stage of development.

People need a sense of belonging to a community when they pray together or converse about the faith. There is a disturbing sense of being left out when prayers said in common are unknown, when responses cannot be given when required at Mass or in Sacramental reception.

The religious guidelines of the Archdiocese enumerate the following prayers and other formulas to be committed to memory.

## **Level 1**

Sign of the Cross  
Our Father  
Hail Mary  
Glory Be (Doxology)  
Grace Before Meals  
Grace After Meals

## **Level 2**

Act of Contrition  
Lord Have Mercy (Mass)  
Simple Morning Offering  
Names of the Sacraments  
    Baptism, Reconciliation,  
    Eucharist

## **Level 3**

Mass Responses  
Apostles Creed  
Prayer to the Holy  
    Spirit  
The Rosary

## **Level 4**

Ten Commandments  
Beatitudes  
Names of the Seven  
    Sacraments  
Hail Holy Queen

### **Level 5**

Morning Prayer (NEW)  
Precepts of the Church  
Seven Sacraments  
Books of the New  
    Testament  
Parts of the Mass

### **Level 6**

Fruits of the Holy Spirit  
Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
Acts of Faith, Hope, Charity

### **Level 7**

Act of Contrition  
Angelus  
Nicene Creed (Mass)  
Theological Virtues  
Cardinal Virtues  
Memorare

### **Confirmation**

Study questions in  
    Confirmation guide



# Events & Activities

## Dates TBD

Catechetical Sunday  
Confirmation Child & Parent Meeting  
Blessing of Pets  
Confirmation Retreat  
Food collection for Thanksgiving  
4<sup>th</sup> grade All Saints Presentation  
1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Orientation  
Thanksgiving Weekend – No Class  
Breakfast with Santa  
Christmas Pageant Practices  
Christmas Pageant  
Christmas Vacation – No Class  
Confirmation Child & Parent Meeting  
1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period Ends  
Inscription Masses  
Confirmation Interviews  
Living Stations Practice  
Confirmand Reconciliation  
Living Stations of the Cross  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Easter – No Class  
Confirmation Practice  
Confirmation  
First Reconciliation Practice  
First Reconciliation  
May Crowning  
1st Eucharist Practice  
1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist  
2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends  
MAKE UP CLASSES if needed

## Parental Participation

“Family catechesis precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis.” JP II, Catechesis Tradendae 68

The Christian home is the First School and the parents are the first to communicate the faith to their children.

*Vatican II Apostolate of the Laity, 11*

Since example is more powerful than words, parents are urged to:

- Provide in the home an atmosphere of prayer.
- Promote Sunday Mass as a family.
- Encourage frequent reception of Holy Eucharist and Penance.
- Model Catholic ethics and Gospel charity within and outside the family.
- Attend Sacramental Program Meetings.
- Reinforce the catechist’s work by:
  - Seeing that your child is **ON TIME** for class.
  - Supervising study and written assignments.
  - Spend at least 30 on at home work per class
  - Participating in family liturgies and seasonal activities of the program as provided.
  - Providing the catechist with absence notes.
  - Returning signed report cards on time.
  - Notifying the program director regarding:
    - Special learning needs of your child.
    - Absences, emergency lateness.
    - Change of address, telephone, e-mail, or other family information.

# Sacramental Preparation Programs

“Parents have a right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for the reception of the Sacraments. Catechesis aims to help the parents grow in understanding and appreciation of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation and to participate readily in catechizing their children.” (National Catechetical Directory)

## **First Reconciliation and Eucharist**

*Children, their parents and families will celebrate the Eucharist by recalling that we have been baptized into God’s family. Children will also celebrate their desire to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist*

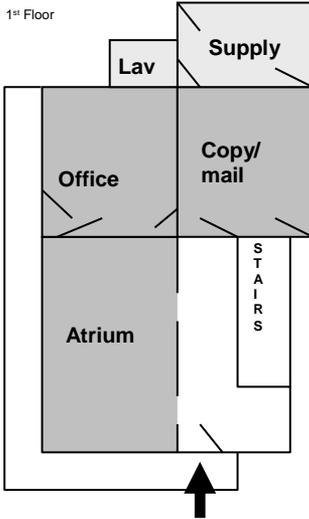
Student & Parent Orientation	TBD
Inscription Ceremony	TBD
First Reconciliation Celebration	TBD
Reception of First Eucharist	TBD

## **Confirmation**

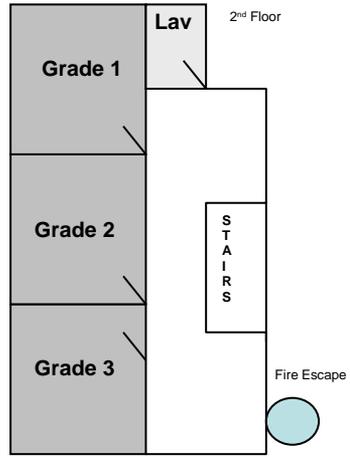
Student & Parent Meeting	TBD
Confirmation Retreat Day	TBD
Reception of Confirmation	TBD

# Education Building Floor Plan

not to scale



All students enter and leave through this door.



## Religious Education Building

All students in this building are to be signed out!

Not to scale

Grades 4, 5 and 6 will meet in the modular classrooms  
Grade 7 will meet in the rectory basement

