

**Catechesis
and the
Proclamation
of the
WORD**

“Proclaim the Good News!” – Matt 28:19

June 2009-2010

St. Mary Parish

Greenville, Ohio

PARENT HANDBOOK

for the

**Parish School of Religion
Elementary PSR and GLORY
+ New information this year +**

www.stmarysgreenville.org

This handbook contains information and policies for our Parish School of Religion. Please read it over carefully, discuss pertinent information with your family, and keep it handy for easy reference. *We ask that you join with the staff and teachers in praying for the success of the school year and that we all – parents, teachers, and children– grow in knowing, loving, and serving our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Into each grade's education, we incorporate liturgies, practical instruction on Church seasons, Catholic doctrine, prayer and Christian values and attitudes. The opportunities to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist during class are offered twice each year. Please be mindful of parish opportunities for Reconciliation. We realize that there is *no substitute* for your support and living example of the Faith. Mass is the very center of our spiritual life. At Mass we are taught by Christ and *fed with His Body and Blood* enabling us to grow with our neighbor into the very Body of Christ. We are *obliged by God* to worship Him; to pray and support our parish and pastor by attending Mass every weekend.

2009

SEPTEMBER
S M T W T F S
Sep 2 - Elem & Jr.Hi.**
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

OCTOBER
S M T W T F S
1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

NOVEMBER
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 -- **26** 27 28
29 30 **Tksgvg**

DECEMBER
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 -**1st Rec**
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Holyday
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 -- 24 25 26
27 28 29 -- 31 eve of Holyday

Key:
Elementary Mass
OElementary Reconciliation

-- no class

PSR CALENDAR 2009-2010

Registration Fee:
\$50 per student (Sunday presch, PSR and Jr/Sr GLORY) Payments can be arranged. Talk with our DRE.

Presch + Elem classes held in school bldg
Jr & Sr High will be at Youth House 7 – 8:30 pm
Preschool (ages 3, 4, &K) classes begin Sunday, **September 6**, from 10:30 to 11:40 a.m. Last class is May 9.

Elem welcome/parents & students, teachers Sep 2, 7:00 pm
***Elementary** classes begin on Wednesday, **Sep 2**, through May 12.
Class time is 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Confirmation is a 2-yr required program
Junior High Confirmation grades 7 + 8
1st 3rd 5th Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. **begin Sep 2**, and the last Sunday of each month. Calendars are mailed.
Check stmarysgreenville.org website. {refer to Youth Ministry section}
Senior High 2nd & 4th Wed, 7-8:30pm at **Youth House**, and the last Sunday of each month. Calendars are mailed to students and posted on the GLORY information board in the vestibule of Church. **YouthMin section**
Check stmarysgreenville.org website

Parent Meetings: (Bolded+underlined)
1st Reconciliation Parents Meeting Sep 16, 6:55 pm Church
1st Eucharist Parents Meeting Jan 27, 6:55pm Church
Confirmation Parent/Students Mom's Day 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

**Sep 2, 7pm Family Picnic @ Youth House
26 Teachers treat night

2010

JANUARY
S M T W T F S
Holyday 1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

FEBRUARY
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Ash Wed
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28

MARCH
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 **20^t Jesus Day**
21 22 23 24 25 26 **27 1st Comm**
28 29 30 31 Parish Mission

APRIL
S M T W T F S
Mission 1 2 3
Easter 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

MAY
S M T W T F S
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 **Elem make up date**
26 Teachers treat night

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our parish offers a summer Bible School to children ages three through sixth grade. This fun-filled event is usually held in July in our parish school. Our coordinator appreciates the many volunteers including our teens. VBS offers all ages an opportunity to celebrate Christ together.

ELEMENTARY EXTRAS

Classes are held in the school. There are several Masses celebrated during the school year, as well as two Reconciliation Services. Each class focuses on learning our Catholic Doctrine and traditions and how to transmit them to our daily lives. Teachers put Faith in action by taking on special projects. Some grades make cards for the sick and those unable to go out. Some classes help families at Christmas time. Some collect food and money for the poor during the year. Everyone is welcome to come and give their support, prayer, and encouragement to the children's activities.

Welcome to our family in Christ!

Who Do You Say That I Am?

St. Paul tells us "None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord." (Rom 14:7-8) Only through the Lord can we even begin to think about living for the Lord. To live for the Lord, we must forgive in the Lord. Jesus challenges us to not trivialize his call to forgiveness by saying it is "too hard" or "unbearable." Of course it is – without Jesus' help! Jesus tells us to "take his yoke upon our shoulder", He walks with us.

The counter-cultural message to forgive our 'enemies', those who hurt us, is at the heart of the life of each Christian. The world desperately needs to hear this message in order to be restored, healed, and made whole. Our goal is to help each other appreciate what it means to model Christ's acceptance and forgiveness.

We are a Parish Family:

Generosity is a willingness to *give from the heart* – to *give more than others deserve* – a key way of doing this in our families is to *say* affirming things to each other; to *pray* for each person.

Generosity in Forgiveness:

The most generous person is the one who reaches out to forgive and **offers forgiveness before** it has even been requested. Just like Jesus. Nobility of the soul is not born in great and noble actions. It grows in the *simple, loving actions of family life*.

We must help children, adolescents, and adults to become forgiving individuals. We do this by *example*. When we turn to the Lord for mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation, we give a deep and lasting witness to the importance of **humility and honesty** with ourselves and God.

Generosity in "Things:"

The beginning of material generosity is being "poor in spirit." This does not mean possessing nothing. It means **being possessive about nothing**. ~ Henri Nouwen

PHILOSOPHY

St. Mary Parish School of Religion (PSR) endeavors to *assist parents* in the religious education of their children. The **parents are the child's first teachers**, having educated them in their most formative years. The PSR staff hopes to continue to give support to you in their **Catholic Christian formation.**

Realizing that religious education and faith development are a **life-long process**, our program teaches the Gospel message **at each level** in an **age-appropriate manner.** Each year, our program builds upon the previous year **through 12th grade.**

In our distracting world, it has become **increasingly necessary for adults also to be able to understand and explain the tenets of Catholic teaching.** In order to support you in your growing appreciation of our Faith, **we offer adult enrichment presentations** throughout the year as well as an annual **Parish Mission.** *Together we can stand* in understanding, reverence, knowledge, and appreciation of our Catholic heritage.

2009-10 PSR FACULTY

Director of Religious Education (DRE): Ann M. Kolb, 548-1616 or Home 548-0593

Preschool Coordinator: Amy Maher 548-5474

Teacher: Joyce Clopp 547-3090

Teacher: Patty Clopp 547-3090

Aides: ↓volunteers welcome ↓

↑ Talk with Ann Kolb, Monica M-R, Amy Maher ↑

Elementary Coordinator: Monica Masso-Rivetti 316-8105 **Sec'y:** Eileen Stegall 548-3183

Teachers: Gr. 1 Amy L. Obringer 547-1192 **1Aide:** Jeanne Marchal

Gr. 2 Kim Murray 547-1764 **2Aide:** Dian Bryson

Gr. 3 Michelle Enicks 423-0879 **3Aide:** Kim Weidner

Gr. 4 Sharon Troutwine 678-6205 **4Aide:** Susie Garrett

Gr. 5 Carol Pence 547-1794 **5Aide:** Carl Owens

Gr. 6 Ashley Roberts 419-651-7624 **6Aide:**

Substitutes Elaine Laux, Carol Holmes, Sharon Vanden-Bosch, Paula Allen, Regina Schieltz

Youth Minister: Deb Shiverdecker Cell: 417-7231 or shiverhome@hotmail.com

Jr/Sr High: Youth House Office: 548-1218

Teachers: Deb Shiverdecker 417-7231 & Paul Myers 692-8115

Aides: Missy Rogers 678-7302 and JEDI students

Senior High Team: Alan Capasso Regina Schieltz Paul Myers Eileen Hoying
Monica Masso-Rivetti Rachel Jones Suzie Brown Carol Holmes
Barb Pequignot Rhonda Dorsten Chris Detling Kate Custer Carol Pence

CREATED EQUAL

EVERYBODY
IS
SOMEBODY
UNIQUE.
COMPARE NOT
YOURSELF (or anyone else)
WITH ANYBODY ELSE
LEST
YOU SPOIL
GOD'S CURRICULUM.

*The same is true in all walks of life.
Every Sunday we gather for Mass to worship God and pray together as a parish family.
The family that prays together, stays together.*

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Father John White, Pastor
Vernon Rosenbeck, Principal
Ann Kolb, Director of Religious Education (DRE)
Deb Shiverdecker, Youth Minister (YM)
Monica Masso-Rivetti, Elem PSR Coord + EC Sec'y

Joseph Badell Chairperson
Teresa Hunt
Barb Pequignot
Rhonda Penrod
Sharon VandenBosch
Parish PC Rep

The Parish Director of Religious Education is responsible directly to Father White. The DRE reports to and uses the **Education Commission** as a sounding board in an advisory capacity. Education Commission meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each school month, 6:30 to 7:55 p.m. The DRE and Youth Minister are present at each meeting. *All Parishioners are welcome* to attend these *and* Parish Council meetings.

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Each year we have a team of leaders along with our pastor who teach, witness, and mentor those who are interested in learning about the Catholic Faith. This group meets on Thursday evenings during the school year, in the lower level of the school from 7–9 p.m. There are reference books that attendees are expected to purchase; payment help is available. **Parishioners** ‘partner’ to sponsor someone or can help in other ways.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Throughout the year, we plan events for adults: pilgrimages, Mission, Adult Education presentations, Bible studies. We welcome parishioners to be a part of our sources and resources. In 2009-10, we are covering The Great American Bible Adventure series beginning Sept.28. Steve Ray’s Footprints of God will be shown 6 consecutive weeks at the Youth House from 9 – 10:30 am, beginning September 15.

The 2009 ‘COME HOME’ Conference is being held on October 23- 25, in Columbus, Ohio. This is another way that we enter ‘deep into the history’ of our Catholic heritage. Call Ann Kolb 548-1616.

Junior High YOUTH MINISTRY Senior High

Youth Ministry seeks to *encourage and empower* young people to *responsible participation* in the life, mission and work of the Faith community. It fosters the *total personal and spiritual* growth of *each person* through topic-discussion sessions, socials, fund raisers, service projects, religious adventures and retreats. It also strives to prepare the students in apologetics.

Our Youth Coordinator, Deb Shiverdecker, has a **team of adults and trained youth leadership**, referred to as **JEDI (Jesus' Ever Devoted Individuals)**. JEDI attend extra meetings, retreats, and training sessions with a sincere desire to serve God through deeper commitment to our parish youth.

The larger group of participants are termed **GLORY (God's Loves Our Radical Youth)**. We try, at least once a month, to join *both* the High School and Junior High GLORY for a social event, religious adventure, project, or fundraiser.

Junior High GLORY (Confirmation Class) will meet: (*1st class is September 2nd in school*)

- 1) in the **Youth House** on the 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays of each month **7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
- 2) last Sunday of each month,
- 3) extra social and religious events as scheduled, listed on their monthly Calendar.

Senior High GLORY will meet: (*1st class is September 2nd at the Youth House*)

- 1) 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, *at the Youth House* 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 2) last Sunday of each month, 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Youth House
- 3) extra social, religious adventure, fund-raiser as scheduled and listed on monthly Calendar.

**** All GLORY members receive a monthly newsletter and calendar with dates of activities, etc.**

(If you have not received one by Sept 1, please contact the office.)

Sharing and comparing our faith helps us live our faith. Our leaders of GLORY present traditional Catholic teaching and guidance with opportunity for students to discuss and incorporate the topics presented into their understanding. **GLORY time** gives our teens the protected time and space to do that. Religion should *not* be separated from real life experiences. ***Faith in the Lord IS Joyful and Fun!***

Fee for GLORY is \$50.00 per student. Registration & permission slips are required for all students to participate in retreats and off campus activities. If this fee is prohibitive, arrangements may be made through the Youth Minister or DRE. Our goal: **That all students have the opportunity to fully participate.**

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our pastor, Father John White, has designated Wednesday as our day of special graces for adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Father exposes the Blessed Eucharist for adoration **immediately following 8 a.m. Mass, and reposes Him with prayer at 7 p.m.**

It is our responsibility to take some time to adore God by making a visit and receive special blessings. All our children are encouraged to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. Do you have a special need or concern? **Take time to come before the Lord** with your burdens. ***“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*** Jesus is beckoning *you* to come to ***Him!***

**** During the week, Mass is at 8:00 a.m. Church is usually open from 7:30am—3:00p.m. for quiet prayer and adoration.**

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is fundamental in Catholic education. The only discipline that is worthwhile is prompted by *motives from within* oneself. ***Following Jesus Christ means loving and respecting all people*** as brothers and sisters. We ask parents to encourage their children to maintain an ***attitude of respect and cooperation through example***. A child cannot give what it does not know. Each teacher will explain expected behavior to the students. Each student is expected to cooperate accordingly. The coordinator will be notified of discipline problems. If the problem is not solved through the teacher and coordinator, the coordinator will talk with the parent to see if the matter can be solved. If it still remains unresolved, the matter will be brought to the Director of Religious Education, who will assist in seeking an equitable solution.

Respect for each person as a child of God is a simple guideline. As we live our faith, ***respect will be a natural outpouring of faith in action.***

Colossians 3:12-15

“Parents who give their children every ‘thing’, give their children nothing. Parents who give their children a solid foundational faith in God, good moral example, respect, affection, honesty, and responsibility, have given their children everything they will ever need in life.” -- Annette Dubois

RECONCILIATION

The **Parent Meeting** for preparation for Reconciliation is scheduled for **Wednesday evening, September 16, 2009** from 6:55 to 8:30 p.m. **in the school**. First Reconciliation has been scheduled for **all the parish second grade students for Saturday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m.** Parents are invited to receive the Sacrament at this time also. More details will be presented at the parent meeting.

HOLY EUCHARIST

The **Parent Meeting** in preparation for your child's First Holy Communion will be held **Wednesday, January 27, 2010, from 6:55 to 8:30 p.m. in the Church**. It is important for parents to attend.

First Communion will be celebrated **Saturday morning, March 27th, at 10:30 a.m.** Group and individual pictures will be taken at the end of this Mass. **PSR practice** for First Communion will take place during the Jesus Day Retreat (March 20). On a Wednesday evening during the last PSR Mass, the 2nd grade PSR children will be enrolled in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Parents, family, and friends are welcome. Day school children will receive their scapulars during a Friday morning Mass.

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Spring of 2011. This sacrament is a **covenantal commitment to faithfulness and continuing growth in Catholic practice and teaching**. We have a **two year program**. Students of grades 7 and 8 ***are required to complete both years of preparation, though some will be confirmed in their first year of preparation.*** See the center of the calendar page for information on parent/student activities and meetings. Adults age 16 and older who wish to receive this sacrament should call the rectory to make arrangements for appropriate instruction.

PRESCHOOL

Children ages 3 + 4 and Kindergarten: This series opens the youngsters to the *discovery of Jesus* – the persons, events and teachings during His life. It lays a foundation for children to understand and appreciate Jesus' love for them, which they show in their daily lives. **Class is held in the school, during the 10:30 a.m. Mass, Sept. 6 through May 9. Children must be registered to attend.** See the PSR Faculty section for teachers and leaders. Fee/Donation is \$50 per student; **special arrangements can made for payment.** **No classes are held on Thanksgiving weekend, during Christmas vacation, and on Easter Sunday.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD for Grades K – 3

Under the generous and loving guidance of prepared volunteers, we are able to offer *Children's Liturgy of the Word for children grades K thru 3*. They will **attend 10:30 Mass** with their parents, then **after the Gloria**, the children will follow our teacher and helper to school. S/he will read the readings from the Children's Lectionary, share the teaching on a child's level, and lead petitions. They pray the Creed together, then **return** to Church **during the Offertory** of the Mass to continue with us through the conclusion of the Mass.

We hope this helps the children grow more understanding and enthusiastic in the celebration of their Faith. There is **no charge** for this opportunity. **Parents who prefer the Kindergarten Preschool, during the whole time of 10:30 Mass, are invited to register them as above.** (See Preschool)

*** MAKE-UP DAY ~ in the event that more than 2 classes are cancelled due to bad weather during the year, a make-up session, 7pm, May 19, will be added.**

WEATHER DAYS * *

In the event that religion classes need to be cancelled due to hazardous weather conditions, **the cancellation announcement will be aired during the day on the major TV and radio stations. When in doubt, please use your discretion in favor of safety.** If Greenville City Schools are cancelled for the day due to *hazardous weather (not fog days)*, then evening PSR is cancelled for that day. **Be mindful that class will be held on days which were cancelled due to fog, presuming the fog has cleared and not returning by evening.**

ATTENDANCE

Perfect attendance is anticipated and necessary for **continuity in the learning** process. Illness cannot be helped; an explanatory **note to the teacher** (or personal contact) would be helpful for good communication. The teacher can help you to explore ways you can help your student learn about the topic(s) missed.

Perfect attendance will be **rewarded** at year's end in the Elementary Program.

Because of the short amount of time and concentrated teaching involved, classes must **begin promptly**. **Students must be in class when the bell rings at 6:55p.m.** Class begins at **7:00 p.m.** Please -- **allow enough time** in your car-pools. Tardiness is very distracting to a class in session. Class is dismissed **by the teacher at 8:30 p.m.** Children need to show full attention in class until dismissal by their teacher.

Everyone is welcome to come and reinforce your Faith. Fellowship grows as we share in a commitment to love God through our Faith.

INTRODUCTION

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY EXTRAS

SACRAMENTS

PRESCHOOL

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

PSR FACULTY

CREATED EQUAL

EDUCATION COMMISSION

ADULT ENRICHMENT

PHILOSOPHY

INCLEMENT WEATHER

ATTENDANCE

DISCIPLINE

FAITH FOR ALL SEASONS

JR / SR. YOUTH MINISTRY

CALENDAR 2009-2010

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Dear Loving God,
Thank you for trusting me with this child.
Help me to know what you want them to know
And help me to communicate that effectively.
Amen.

*St. Mary Catholic Church
Greenville, Ohio
Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Office of Religious Education*

St. Mary Church

Adults age 16+ who wish to receive this sacrament are encouraged to call the rectory to arrange for appropriate instruction.

OTHER PROGRAMS OFFERED IN OUR PARISH

- **Nursery**
Not available at this time.
- **Early Childhood Program**
For children ages 3-6 during the 10:30 am Mass. September – May (Mothers' Day). Religion Readiness program, including music, art, prayer.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word**
For children in Grades 1-3 during 10:30 am Mass. Children are taken to school before the Gospel, and return at the Offertory for Scripture readings and learning activities at the child's level.
- **Adult Faith Formation Programs** such as Bible Study, Scripture Study, Study of the Catechism, Adult Courses, Come Home, etc., are scheduled throughout the year. Please watch the bulletin for details or call the Religious Education Office at 548-1616.

**Catechesis
and the
Proclamation
of the
WORD**

June 2009 –20010

“Proclaim the Good News!” – Matt 28:19

St. Mary Parish

Greenville, Ohio

PARENT HANDBOOK

for the

**Parish School of Religion
(PSR and GLORY)**

**+ New information this year +
www.stmarysgreenville.org**