

# PARENT HANDBOOK



St. Rose of Lima Parish  
PreK-5 Religious Education



# Table of Contents

Letter to Parents.....	4
Start Date .....	5
Drop-Off/Pick-Up .....	5
Child Safety .....	5
Curriculum.....	6
Special Themed Classes .....	7
Weekly Info For Parents.....	7
Classroom Prayer .....	7
Sacrament of Reconciliation .....	8
Family Classes.....	8
Classroom & Catechist Assignments .....	9
Snow & Emergency Policy .....	11
Discipline Policy & Procedures .....	11
Attendance .....	11
No Heely Shoes, Please.....	12
Adult Faith Formation Opportunities For Parents ..	12
Family Nights .....	13
Grade 4 & 5 Overnight Retreat .....	13
St. Rose Soccer & Teeball .....	13
Tuesday RE Calendar .....	14
Sunday RE Calendar .....	15

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the St. Rose Religious Education PreK-5 Program! We are delighted your children will join us for Religious Education classes this year. It is our joy and privilege to serve them.

The PreK-5 ministry team is eager to walk with your family in faith. We consider ourselves your partners. We promise to serve as storytellers of our Catholic faith and tradition, as role models of the Catholic life, and witnesses to the glory and love of our God for your children.

On your children's Baptism Day, you joyfully accepted the role as primary teacher of faith for your children. What an amazing (and challenging) ministry you have taken on! We at St. Rose honor your role and will do all we can to support you in your efforts to both grow and keep faith alive in your children's hearts.

Throughout this year, please bring your child to Religious Education classes and Mass each week. If you make God and Church a priority, your children will, too! Take the opportunity to talk with your children about what they are learning in class. Pray with your children every day.

We thank you for your dedication to Religious Education. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Cheryl Shalgian, DRE,  
[cshalgian@strose.com](mailto:cshalgian@strose.com),  
and your Religious Education Ministry Team

## **2008-09 Religious Education Start Date**

Classes begin on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 10:00-11:00am and TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 4:30-5:30pm. Catechists will be ready to welcome children as early as 9:50am (Sunday) and 4:20pm (Tuesday). Please bring your child on time to allow for a full 60 minutes of instruction.

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

All children will be dropped off and picked up at their classroom door and signed in and out by a parent or other authorized adult . Please arrive on time to pick up your child (11:00am Sundays, 5:30pm Tuesdays). *Our catechists are volunteers and are eager to get home to their families.*

## **Child Safety**

We take the protection of your children very seriously. This is why parent drop-off and pick-up and sign in & out is required every week. Additionally, the following protections are in place:

- ◆ All catechists and other adult volunteers have completed child protection requirements mandated by the Archdiocese of Washington, including an FBI criminal background check.
- ◆ A minimum of 2, usually 3, adults are ministering in every classroom at all times.
- ◆ Hallway managers are present the entire hour to be sure older children travel from the restroom to their

classroom safely and that people unrelated to the Religious Ed program are not wandering around the classroom area.

- ◆ All volunteers wear a nametag identifying themselves as a Religious Education minister.
- ◆ As mandated by the Archdiocese of Washington, during class on Sept. 21 (grades K-2) and Sept. 28 (grades 3-5), all children will participate in a “Touching Safety” training. *Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this training with their child.*  
**Please see enclosed brochure & information.**

## **Curriculum**

**Grades K, 1, 3, 4, & 5** utilize the award winning curriculum, Call to Faith, by Harcourt Religion Publishers, as the basis for instruction. This spiral curriculum expands the breadth of its lessons and explanations as children mature. Each year, all children will learn about Revelation, Trinity, Jesus Christ, The Church, Morality, Sacraments, and The Kingdom of God. The **Sunday PreK classes** utilize Stories of God’s Love, by RCL Benziger. This wonderful resource introduces Bible stories and very basic Catholic teachings to our youngest learners.

**Grade 2 classes** use God’s Gift: Reconciliation and God’s Gift: Eucharist, by Loyola Press.

Celebrating Our Faith, Level II, by Harcourt Religion Publishers, is the text for our **grade 3-5 sacramental preparation class**.

*All texts are approved by the Archdiocese of Washington for*

*religious education and sacramental instruction.*

### **Special Themed Classes**

Occasionally, we depart from our regular curriculum for a special themed class. This year, all classes will have “special themed” lessons on Advent, Lent, Mary, and All Saints/All Souls Day. Grades 3-5 also will have guest speakers to 1) share missionary experiences (domestic & int’l) and 2) discuss vocations (religious & lay)

### **Weekly Info for Parents**

On the Church Lower Level, you will see a large whiteboard on your left. Important FYIs for parents will be written there each week. On your right, you will see a large corkboard. Photos of our RE catechists and classroom activities will be posted there, as well as family event sign up sheets. A weekly take-home sheet will be available to keep you informed of weekly lesson themes, upcoming social or parish events, and anything else that might be of help or interest.

### **Classroom Prayer**

Each class will create a sacred prayer space, consisting of a prayer table, crucifix, bible, candle, and piece of cloth in the current liturgical color. On the first day of Religious Ed, children will decorate a prayer cloth to cover their class prayer table.

Each week in class, your children will gather around their class prayer table and practice praying a traditional Catholic prayer – the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and the Act of Contrition (grades 2-5 only). The prayer will change monthly. We encourage all families to pray the “prayer of the month” at home each day as a way to connect the Church of your home with our Religious Education community. The prayer of the month will be printed on your weekly take home sheet.

Additionally, your children will have the opportunity each week to offer intercessory prayer to God so they can share with God their joys, thankfulness, worries and concerns and learn that just speaking from their heart is prayer, too.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

All children in grades 3, 4, & 5 will have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation during Religious Ed class time once each year. Parents will be informed in advance of the date for their child’s class. The week before the sacramental celebration, children will review how to celebrate the sacrament through role play and video and perform an examination of conscience with their catechists.

### **Family Classes**

Parents *ALWAYS* are welcome to join us for Religious Education class. No advance notice needed – just come on in!

Each class will host a special “family day” so parents and

children (siblings not in other PreK-5 classes welcome, too) can share in the lesson together. Please join us!

2008-09 Family Class Dates:

PreK Class, Age 3— Feb 1

PreK Class, Age 4—Jan 4

Sunday, Grade K—March 1

Tuesday, Grade K—Feb 10

Sunday, Grade 1—Feb 8

Tuesday, Grade 1—March 3

\*Sacramental prep classes have special family events\*

Sunday, Grade 3—January 11

Tuesday, Grade 3—January 13

Sunday, Grade 4—January 11

Tuesday, Grade 4/5—March 17

Sunday, Grade 5—March 15

**Classroom and Catechist Assignments**

***Sundays: Second grade and the sacramental preparation class for grades 3-5 will be held in the Parish Center. All other grades will meet in Church Lower Level.***

Grade PreK, Age 3 .....Isaiah Room  
.....Mrs. Julie Kelsey, Mrs. Maria Aparicio  
Grade PreK, Age 4 ..... Sarah Room  
.....Mrs. Teresa Holler, Mrs. Jessica Burris  
Grade K ..... Ruth Room  
.....Mrs. Nancy Kelly, Mrs. Natasha Kerst  
Grade 1 .....Jeremiah Room  
.....Mrs. Linda Lotier, Mrs. Kasey Heffernan

*Sacramental Prep Classes— 1st Reconciliation & Eucharist*  
 Grade 2A ..... Lewis Room1, Parish Center  
 ..... Mr. Jonathan Ege, Mr. Rob Dimeo  
 Grade 2B ..... Lewis Room2, Parish Center  
 ..... Mr. Joel Smetanka, Ms. Patti Daly  
 Grades 3-5..... Byron Room 1, Parish Center  
 ..... Mr. Mike Janus, Ms. Sandy Maxwell

Grade 3A ..... St. Joseph Room  
 ..... Mrs. Susan Barror, Mr. Will Kerst  
 Grade 3B ..... Duggan Room 1  
 ..... Mrs. Jessica Moon-Duvall, Mrs. Derry Velardi  
 Grade 4..... St. Peter Room  
 ..... Mr. Frank Avenilla, Mrs. Mae Avenilla  
 Grade 5 ..... Duggan Library  
 ..... Mrs. Regina McCutcheon, Mrs. Vickie Carrai

**Tuesdays: All classes meet in Church Lower Level.**

Grade K ..... Ruth Room  
 ..... Mrs. Susie Rosenbaum, Mrs. Vera Ferry  
 Grade 1 ..... St. Peter Room  
 ..... Mrs. Claire Lane, Mrs. Maria Riekhof  
 Grade 2 ..... St. Joseph Room  
 ..... Mrs. Sheryl Peterson, Mrs. Cindy Garagiola  
 Grade 3 ..... Jeremiah Room  
 ..... Mrs. Bonnie Lane, Mrs. Leticia Maldonado  
 Grades 4 & 5 ..... Duggan Library  
 ..... Mrs. Joanne Cheok, Mrs. Maureen Herndon

## **Snow & Emergency Policy**

Tuesday Classes—we follow MCPS. If schools close early, or afternoon/evening activities are cancelled, Religious Ed is off.

Sunday Classes—a decision will be made by 8:00am. An email will be sent to all parents and catechists. A message also will be left on parish cancellation line—301-948-7545 x307.

## **Discipline Policies and Procedures**

As your partners, the Religious Education catechist team will work with parents in addressing any classroom issues involving your child. Most matters are resolved quickly after a conversation between parent and catechist—either in person, on the phone, or via email. Please support our catechists' efforts to maintain a orderly and pleasant learning environment for all. If a situation does not improve, parents kindly will be asked to accompany child to class until matter is resolved.

## **Attendance**

### **GRADE 2 and Sacramental Preparation Class for 3, 4, 5:**

Weekly participation in sacramental preparation is critical. One class absence per sacrament is excused. Two or more absences per sacrament must be discussed with the Director of Religious Education.

**All Other Classes:** We expect children will attend regularly and strive for an 80% attendance record for each child.

## **No Heely Shoes, Please**

Our floors are concrete and our floor plan is circular. We ask that children wear flat-soled shoes to Religious Ed classes.

## **Adult Faith Formation Opportunities For Parents**

1) Sunday Mornings during RE, 10:00-11:00am:

- ◆ Centering Prayer, led by Msgr. Paul. Contact Msgr. at [msgrpaul@strose.com](mailto:msgrpaul@strose.com) or 301-948-7545.
- ◆ Thomas Merton Contemplative Study Dialogue.  
Contact Eileen, 301-926-8178
- ◆ Delve into the teachings of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* with our Adult RCIA. Offered weekly in the Historic Chapel. Sessions open to all. Just walk in.

2) Kathryn Heetderks is our new adult faith director. She is planning a wonderful calendar of events for parishioners. Please watch the parish bulletin and Religious Ed take-home sheet for dates. Questions? Suggestions? Want to help? Contact Kathryn at [Kheetderks@strose.com](mailto:Kheetderks@strose.com).

3) The Archdiocese of Washington offers excellent adult faith formation opportunities through its Hearts Aflame program. Come learn more about your faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **FALL 2008 HEARTS AFLAME LOCAL PROGRAM OFFERINGS:**

Christian Prayer – St. Francis of Assisi, Derwood  
Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

To register: Joan or Marie, 301-258-9193

Ministry of Catechesis – St. Peter, Olney  
Sundays, 12:30-4:00pm, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2  
To register: Mary Beaudoin, 301-570-4952 x5

Sacraments – St. Jude, Rockville  
Tuesdays, 7:00-9:30pm, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9  
To register: Gail Saur, 301-949-2336

Creed – St. Catherine Labouré, Wheaton  
Mondays, 7:00-9:00pm, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1  
To register: Therese, 301-946-3010 or [theresedre@aol.com](mailto:theresedre@aol.com)

### **Family Nights**

A fantastic St. Rose family event calendar will be published in early October on our parish website: [www.strose.com](http://www.strose.com), under children's ministry, family events. Join us! Watch the bulletin and Religious Ed take-home sheets for details and sign ups.

### **Grade 4 & 5 Overnight Retreat**

A great evening of faith and fellowship and a “sneak peek” at the fun experiences to come in middle and high school youth ministry. Very well chaperoned. Details to come later in fall.

### **St. Rose Soccer and Teeball**

Through Mary of Nazareth School, St. Rose fields fall soccer and spring teeball teams for children aged 4—Gr. 2. This is a great way for our children to make friends, learn skills of the game, and good sportsmanship. Parents enjoy great fellowship, too! Games are non-competitive. Join us!

## **2008-2009 K-5 TUESDAY RE Calendar**

Sept 16—First Day of Class

Sept 23

Sept 30

Oct 7

Oct 14

Oct 21

Oct 28

Nov 4—OFF (Election Day)

Nov 11

Nov 18

Nov 25

Dec 2

Dec 9

Dec 16

Dec 23—OFF (Christmas Holiday)

Dec 30—OFF (New Year Holiday)

Jan 6

Jan 13

Jan 20

Jan 27

Feb 3

Feb 10

Feb 17

Feb 24

Mar 3

Mar 10

Mar 17

Mar 24

Mar 31

Apr 7—OFF (Holy Week)

Apr 14

Apr 21

Apr 28—Last Day of Class

## **2008-2009 PreK-5 SUNDAY RE Calendar**

Sept 14—First Day of Class  
Sept 21  
Sept 28  
Oct 5  
Oct 12  
Oct 19  
Oct 26  
Nov 2  
Nov 9  
Nov 16  
Nov 23  
Nov 30—OFF (Thanksgiving Weekend)  
Dec 7  
Dec 14  
Dec 21  
Dec 28—OFF (Christmas/New Year Holiday)  
Jan 4  
Jan 11  
Jan 18  
Jan 25  
Feb 1  
Feb 8  
Feb 15—OFF (President’s Day Weekend)  
Feb 22  
Mar 1  
Mar 8  
Mar 15  
Mar 22  
Mar 29  
Apr 5—OFF (Palm Sunday)  
Apr 12—OFF (Easter Sunday)  
Apr 19  
Apr 26  
May 3—Last Day of Class

