

# Answering God's Call



**School of Religion  
Parent Handbook  
2010-2011**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement .....	2
School of Religion Staff .....	3
Goals of the Program .....	4
Program of Study .....	5
Youth Ministry .....	6 & 7
Sacramental Preparation .....	8
Very Special Children .....	9
Catechists .....	9
Dress Code.....	9
Homework .....	10
Field Trips .....	10
Student Evaluations .....	10
Parent Contact .....	10
Discipline .....	11
Schedule .....	12
Payment .....	12
Home Study.....	13
Traffic Control .....	13
Cancellations .....	13
Calendar .....	14

## **School of Religion** **Mission Statement**

The Religious Education Department of Prince of Peace Catholic community accepts the mission of being Christ to others.

We seek to foster the faith lives of our children and youth by involving them in the threefold mission of the Church:

### ***Worship***

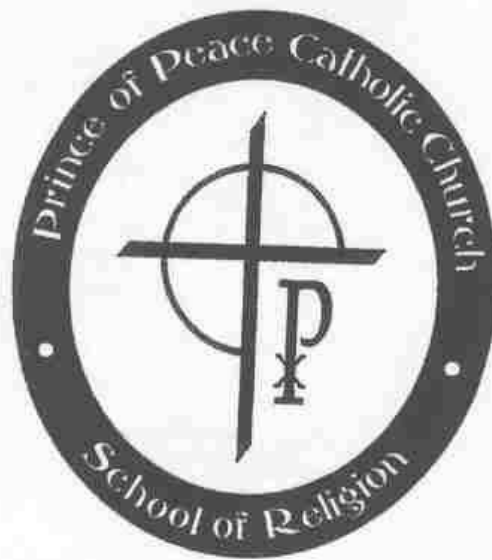
to celebrate liturgies of praise and thanksgiving.

### ***Education***

to proclaim the teachings of the Catholic Church to all people through Scripture and tradition under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### ***Service***

to see Christ in all people and to serve the community in His name.





## **GOALS OF THE PROGRAM**

Through all the levels of study we seek to enable the students to:

1. Understand the content, message and formation of Sacred Scripture.
2. Understand and appreciate the Mass and Sacraments.
3. Establish a relationship with God our creator, Jesus our brother, and the Holy Spirit through prayer.
4. Value the traditional prayers and customs of the Church.
5. Accept through faith and understanding the teachings of the Church.
6. Study social problems and respond through Christian service projects.
7. Develop a mature Christian conscience.
8. Participate in the life of the parish community.
9. Develop an attitude and desire for inquiry.
10. Develop a reverence for self and others.

## **SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE**

We ask parents to be faithful to your responsibility as Catholics and as the primary religious educators of your children. It is therefore expected that all Prince of Peace families attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Days and participate in other parish activities. It is your example that will make the difference!

# **PROGRAM OF STUDY**

**Prince of Peace School of Religion's program of study follows the guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and uses tests approved by the Archdiocesan Office of Christian Formation.**

**The following are the themes and general topics to be covered:**

**Preschool (Children's Church)      3 yr. olds – Stories of God's Love  
4 yr. olds – Stories of God's Love**

**Kindergarten through Confirmation Preparation**

## ***Resources for Christian Living – RCL Faith First***

**This series uses a spiral approach to learning our Catholic faith. The four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* – Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer – are taught and developed on every grade level every year. This ensures that the beliefs of our faith are introduced to and reinforced for the young people as they grow, develop and mature in their faith.**

**This educationally sound method means that each student will build upon and reinforce what they have learned previously in other grades. The result is age-appropriate learning on all topics of the faith.**

**The Junior High's program will use the series Faith First from RCL Publishing. The first year confirmation candidates will use the text *Jesus and the New Testament* and will focus on the Gospels and New Testament and how it connects to their lives today. Second year confirmation candidates will use Faith First's *Morality: Life is Christ* text as well as other resources to prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

**The Senior High program will use the *Youth Ministry Access* program by Center for Ministry Development. The YMA program is a complete, comprehensive and interactive model of religious formation. Through weekly meetings, activities, service opportunities, peer ministry and outreach activities, teens learn more about their Catholic faith and grow to love the Sacraments, the Bible and the Mass.**

# **Prince of Peace School of Religion Curriculum** **For 2010/2011**

## **Three & Four Year Olds**

## **Text: *Stories of God's Love***

***Stories of God's Love*** is the first preschool program following the guidelines for preschool materials developed by the Catechism committee of the USCCB.

**Stories of God's Love**, written by a team of respected preschool specialists:

- † Presents the Bible as the source for learning about God and God's Son, Jesus.
- † Includes 22 story leaflets and eight seasonal leaflets for each of the two levels-ages 3 and 4, and ages 4 and 5.
- † Meets the needs of both parish and Catholic school programs with separate guides for single-day or multiple-day formats.
- † Helps preschoolers and their families live Christian values day by day.
- † Provides online support for teachers, catechists, children, and parents.

## **Preparation – Background**

### **Story Leaflets**

Age-appropriate Bible stories from the Old and New Testament proclaim God's love. Each is followed the next week with a contemporary story related to the previous lesson's Bible story that connects God's love to every day life.

### **Seasonal Leaflets**

Eight theme, per age level, introduces and explores seasons, holy days, and holidays.

### **Engaging Activities**

A variety of activities captures the children's interest and imagination and integrates what they have learned

### **Family page**

Brings God's love into the home each week as families share, nurture, live, pray, and reflect as a family.

## **Kindergarten through Sixth Grade**

### **Faith First**

Uses a spiral approach to learning our Catholic Faith. The four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*—Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer – are taught and developed on every grade level every year. This ensures that the beliefs of our faith are introduced to and reinforced for the young people as they grow, develop, and mature in their faith.

This educationally sound method means that each student will build upon and reinforce what they have learned previously in other grades. The result is age-appropriate learning on all topics of the faith.

### **Each text provides:**

#### **Doctrine Chapters**

In the Faith First doctrine chapters, the students come to understand what we believe as Catholics and how to live out those beliefs in everyday life.

#### **Scripture Chapters**

**Bible Background:** The Scripture story is put into context for the children by teaching about the author, the setting, and the background of the people in the story.

**Reading the Word of God:** The children read or listen to a story from the Scriptures, followed by a brief summary that recalls what happened in the Scripture story.

**Understanding the Word of God:** This section explores the meaning of the story and helps the children see how God's love, presence, help and Revelation continue to guide us in our daily lives.

#### **Liturgical Season Lessons**

**Advent and Christmas:** Four lessons help the children joyfully prepare to celebrate the Incarnation and Christ's rebirth in our hearts at Christmas, followed by two lessons on the Christmas season.

**Lent:** Six lessons guide the children through Lent and help them turn their minds and hearts to God.

**The Triduum and the Season of Easter:** Together, you and the children journey through Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Then six lessons celebrate the joy of Christ's Resurrection and conclude with a lesson on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

## **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation**

Students in the junior high grades prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is an age of rapid growth and change for young people. It is an age when the variety of their gifts and talents, and the life situations and personal needs become more evident. All of this combined with today's rapidly changing culture of the Internet, cell phones and iPods have created a very unique atmosphere for the religious formation of the young church. In a recent document of Catholic Youth Ministry in the United States, our bishops made clear that "There is no longer one way to minister to adolescents." (RTV4)

In response to the Bishops, the young people, and to the present day and age, Prince of Peace SOR offers a variety of opportunities for learning and growth for young adolescents and their families. Classroom learning is combined with service projects, retreats, guest presenters, and experiences with the Church's liturgies and traditions.

The Junior High program uses the series *Faith First* from RCL/Benzinger Publishing. The first year confirmation candidates use the text *Jesus in the New Testament* and focuses on the Gospels and New Testament and how it connects to their lives today. Second year confirmation candidates use *Faith First's Morality: Life is Christ* text as well as other resources to prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Guest speakers, service projects, and liturgies round out the journey for our young people toward Confirmation. Speakers will touch on topics such as Confirmation, Chastity and social justice. Service projects help young people to see that they have the power to make a difference. Liturgies such as Stations of the Cross and Examination of Conscience will help students to connect the unique traditions of Church to what is going on in their own lives today.

### **P.O.P.R.O.C.K.S. (Prince of Peace Outstanding Catholic Kids)**

Is a youth group with a mission to bring together students from all the twenty different junior highs & middle schools that attend Prince of Peace Parish. They meet for faith sharing and service projects. Check the website [www.princeofpeace.info](http://www.princeofpeace.info) or the bulletin for more details.

### **W.O.W. (Word on Wednesday)**

Is a youth Bible Study for those 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older. The group meets on Wednesdays to unpack scripture and relate it to the lives of young people today. Check the website [www.princeofpeace.info](http://www.princeofpeace.info) for more details.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Prince of Peace High School Youth Ministry mission is to bring teens closer to Christ through fellowship, community, service, evangelization, faith-learning and prayer. All 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to be a part of this community of faith as we draw closer to God and grow in our Catholic Faith. We accomplish our mission through various means including:

- ✠ **Youth CLUB 412**- Catholics Learning, Understanding and Believing. Based on 1 Timothy 4:12; this is the High School Youth Group that meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Each week the lesson is designed to help the teens live their faith amid all the challenges that they face in High School. Lessons include music, games, prayer and media to engage the teens and reinforce the message.
- ✠ **Youth Friendly Liturgy** – The 5:00 PM Sunday Mass is the Liturgy where the teens are really encouraged to actively participate in the celebration of the Eucharist by working in one of the Liturgical Ministries. Teens are ushers, lectors, Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers as well as members of the music ministry.
- ✠ **Service** based on James 2: 14 – 18 we show our faith through works. We study and then put into practice Catholic Social Teaching by going out on a monthly service project. Organizations that we support on an annual basis include Harvesters, TurnStyles, Angel Babies, and Villa St. Francis.
- ✠ **Peer Ministry Leadership Team** is a group of teens and adults who commit to ministering to the youth of the Parish. They meet weekly to plan the Youth CLUB 412 meetings, retreats and social activities through the year.
- ✠ **Bible Study** – a weekly study is conducted to help teens learn about the Word of God, and our Catholic faith in a deeper way as well as how to apply that knowledge to their lives.

**For more information, contact Phyllis Mills**

**Phone:** 913-747-7741

**Email:** [Pmills@princeofpeace.info](mailto:Pmills@princeofpeace.info)

**Facebook:** POP Senior High Youth Ministry

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

First Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated in December of the second grade year. Preparation begins in Grade 1.

First Eucharist (Communion) is celebrated in April or May of the second grade year. Preparation begins in Grade 1.

Confirmation in our diocese normally takes place in the spring of the 8th grade year. At Prince of Peace we have a two year Confirmation Preparation Program that may begin with the student's 7th or 8th grade year. For those starting in the 8th grade they will receive the sacrament in the 9th grade. Candidates prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation by attending weekly classes, a retreat, and completing required service hours over the two year period. A one year program is also available for high school students that need to be confirmed.

In preparation for the reception of sacraments, we need to verify the **baptismal record** of each student. If your child was baptized at Prince of Peace, a note to that effect will be sufficient. If your child was baptized at any church other than Prince of Peace and you do not have a copy of their baptismal record, you will need to send for one immediately if your child anticipates celebrating any sacraments this year.

Parents of students preparing for these Sacraments are asked to attend Parent Sessions in order to fully participate in the preparation of their child. Refer to the calendar at the end of this book for those dates.

RCIC is a program for children (grade 3-8) who want to join the Church and receive the Sacraments, or who have been baptized Catholic and have missed receiving any of the following sacraments: Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

RCIT is for teens (grades 9-12) who want to join the Church and receive the Sacraments, or who have been baptized Catholic and have missed receiving any of the following sacraments: Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.

## **VERY SPECIAL CHILDREN**

We believe that every child is a special gift from God. However, there are some children who, due to circumstances, need special attention.

Please let us know if your child...

is in third grade or above and has never celebrated Reconciliation or Eucharist.

has a physical, mental or emotional disability. While most of our catechists are not professional educators, this information can help them better understand and meet your child's needs.

belongs to a family affected by death or divorce. We realize these children may be suffering and we will need to be sensitive to their needs.

belongs to a blended family, possibly including stepchildren. This is often stressful for a child and may manifest itself in the class.

All information will be considered confidential.

## **CATECHISTS**

Your children's teacher is a volunteer who has committed him/herself to the religious education of the children of our parish. By volunteering, he/she has responded to a call from God to participate in one of the oldest ministries of our Christian heritage: teaching. (EPH 4:11, 1 COR. 12-28)

All of our catechists participate in basic and ongoing training in Catechesis, Sacraments, Morality, Scripture and Theology.

## **DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to wear modest and appropriate clothing to class. No bare midriffs, short mini skirts or any clothing that would not be allowed at the public schools. Students are to wear appropriate shoes to class. Cleats of any kind, roller blades and Heeley's are not allowed. Parents please plan for any necessary shoe changes your child might need to make.

## **HOMEWORK**

- Students will need to bring their textbook and folder home each week. Please review the lessons with your child to reinforce what is learned in class.
- Students may be assigned specific homework as a valuable learning tool. Please encourage your child to complete and return the work in a timely manner.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year/2<sup>nd</sup> year confirmation students will need to bring their notebooks and their bibles to class each week.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips are intended to broaden the student's understanding of what it means to be Church. Transportation is usually provided by parent drivers. Permission slips must be signed and returned before a student will be allowed to participate in the field trip.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION**

Students are evaluated on participation, attitude, and effort. They are measured as to their progress in meeting the objectives set for the units of study.

## **PARENT CONTACT**

Personal contact between the School of Religion Office and individual parents is not always possible due to the size of our program. Parents are encouraged to check their child's folder weekly for important information and to read the parish bulletin to remain well informed. Parents are always welcomed to contact the Directors during office hours.

Communication between the catechist and parent is very important. Parents are encouraged to visit their child's class and to talk with the catechist before or after class as desired.

Please feel free to call the School of Religion Office with any questions or concerns at 829-1147.

## **DISCIPLINE**

“Discipline is respect for leadership”

Dr. James Dobson

If learning is to take place, your child must respect and follow the leadership of the catechist, whose task is to design and direct the learning activities.

You as parents can reinforce this respect by demonstrating to your child the importance you attach to his/her religious education.

In cases where behavior is disruptive to a class, the following steps will be taken if necessary:

### **FIRST THRU SIXTH GRADES**

1. The catechist will speak privately to the student about the behavior.
2. The catechist will send the student to the Resource Center to speak to the coordinator about the behavior.
3. The catechist or coordinator will speak to the parent about the behavior.
4. The student will be placed on appropriate course of study.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR/2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS**

1. The catechist will speak privately to the student about the behavior.
2. The catechist will send the student to the Resource Center to speak to the coordinator about the behavior.
3. The parent will be asked to sit with their student during the following class period.
4. The student will be placed on appropriate course of study.

**If you suspect your child might have a problem functioning in class please:**

- 1. Speak to the Coordinator or the Director**
- 2. Speak to the Catechist**

# **School of Religion Class Schedule**

## **Children's Church**

3yrs/4yrs/Kdg	Sunday	9:00-10:00 am
3yrs/4yrs/Kdg	Sunday	10:30-11:30 am

## **Grades 1-6**

Monday	5:30-6:30 pm
Monday	7:00-8:00 pm
Tuesday	5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesday	7:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday	5:30-6:30 pm

## **1<sup>st</sup> Year & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year-Confirmation Prep**

Sunday	6:30-8:00 pm
--------	--------------

## **Youth Group**

Grades 9-12	Sunday	6:30-8:00 pm
-------------	--------	--------------

There are approximately 26 classes per year starting September 19th and ending the last week of April. We follow the Olathe Public School District calendar for holidays and cancellations.

### **PAYMENT**

Tuition payments are to be made to Prince of Peace School of Religion and may be placed in the Sunday collection or mailed directly to:

Prince of Peace School of Religion  
16000 W. 143<sup>rd</sup> Street, Olathe, Ks 66062

Tuition Fees: 2010/2011 Grades 3yr olds-Confirmation Prep are:

\$80.00 for 1 child, \$120.00 for 2 children, \$140.00 for 3 or more children  
No tuition fee for Youth Group

### **Additional Fees**

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Mass book/Chalice Fee: \$15.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Confirmation Prep. Bible Fee: \$20.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation Prep. Retreat Fee: \$15.00  
\$25.00 late fee for all registrations after July 31<sup>st</sup>.

***No one will be denied religious education for financial reasons.***

Tuition payments covers the cost of textbooks, audio visual materials, supplementary printed material, music resources, craft and project supplies and other teaching materials. Tuition also offsets the cost of catechist education through books, magazines, workshops, in-service, etc. Tuition covers only a small part of the overall operational expenses. Parish subsidy covers the remainder.

## HOME STUDY

All students are encouraged to take part in the learning environment of the classroom; for this reason, home study is only available to students with special needs.

### **TRAFFIC CONTROL**

In order to ensure the safety of all children; please follow these procedures for S.O.R.

#### **Preschool & Kindergarten:**

Please walk your child to his/her classroom and pick them up in the same manner.

#### **Grades 1-6:**

Students may be dropped off for class at the main entrance of the school via the circle drive. All students are to remain in the lobby until class begins.

#### **Cones:**

Orange parking cones will be placed across the circle drive after each class session begins. Curbside pick-ups will no longer be allowed. You must park in either the north or east parking lots to pick-up your child/children. This will help us provide a safe environment for your children.

- First through Third grade students must be picked up at their classroom door.
- Fourth through Sixth grades students must be picked up from the lobby of the North doors. The students will not be allowed out of the doors without an adult.
- 1st year/2<sup>nd</sup> year confirmation students will dismiss from their classrooms & are to be picked up in the North Parking lot ONLY for safety reasons.

Your child's safety is very important to us...thank you for your cooperation in this matter!

### **EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS**

We will follow the Olathe Public Schools for weather related closings. If the Olathe Public Schools are closed, classes are automatically canceled. Should dangerous conditions develop late in the day, cancellations will be announced on TV and AM 980. Please use your best judgment concerning your comfort level in driving in adverse weather conditions.

**Always check for emergency cancellation notices posted on the door  
before leaving your child.**

# Prince of Peace School of Religion

## 2010-2011

<u>September</u>		27	<u>No</u> Children's Church - Gala Clean up
19	Classes Begin		
20	Classes Begin	28	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Parent Meeting 7:00 pm Church
22	Classes Begin		
<u>October</u>		<u>March</u>	
15	2Y Confirmation Retreat	9	No SOR-Ash Wednesday
18	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Parent Meeting 7:00 pm-Church	13-21	No SOR-Spring Break
		23	Classes Resume
		28 & 30	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grad Parent Meeting Overview of Eucharist
<u>November</u>		<u>April</u>	
1 & 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade <u>Student</u> Church Tour	17	Palm Sunday
8 & 10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade <u>Parent</u> Church Tour	17	Children's Church Spring Program
24-28	<u>No</u> SOR Thanksgiving break	17	Last Class Children's Church
28	Advent Begins	17	Last Class for Jr. High
		21	Holy Thursday 7:00 pm Mass
<u>December</u>		21	Good Friday 7:00 pm Service
4	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Service 9:00 am & 11:00 am	22	Easter Vigil 7:00 pm
8	Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)	23	Easter-No SOR
12	Children's Church Christmas Program	25 & 27	Last Classes for Elementary
19-31	<u>No</u> SOR Christmas Break	25	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Retreat Mon. Classes 5:00-8:00 pm
<u>January</u>		27	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Retreat Wed. Classes 5:00-8:00 pm
1-5	<u>No</u> SOR Christmas Break	30	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Mass 10:00 am & 2:00 pm
9	Classes Resume		
17	<u>No</u> SOR-Martin Luther King Day	<u>May</u>	
		7	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Mass 2:00 pm
<u>February</u>			
6	<u>No</u> SOR for Jr. High/Sr. High		
14	No SOR-Valentine's Day		
<u>February</u>			
21	<u>No</u> SOR-Presidents Day		

