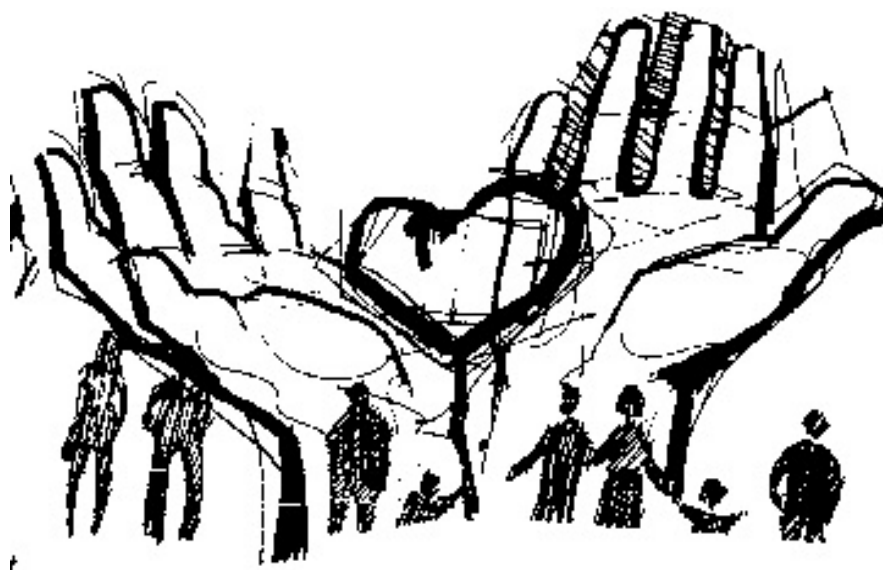


ST. MARY OF FALSE RIVER Parish School of Religion

348 West Main Street † New Roads, LA 70760 † (225) 638-6508

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION Years (Grades) 1 - 5



2016 - 2017

Parent Handbook

St. Mary's Elementary Parish School of Religion

GENERAL INFORMATION

Time and Place

Elementary Religion Classes are held every Tuesday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. at Catholic Elementary School. **Students are to be dropped off in front of school between 3:45 pm and 4:00 pm. The entrance gate to Catholic Elementary will be open until 4:00 pm. Late comers will need to use the small front gate.. Please note that there will be no supervision until 3:45 pm and the CESPC Principal has asked that PSR students not arrive at school before 3:45 pm.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a must! It is required that your child attend religion classes faithfully. Attendance is recorded weekly. Admission to the Junior High/High School of Religion assumes six years of successfully completed religious instruction. In the event of a legitimate absence (sickness, family emergency), parents are asked to show "good faith" and sign the absentee/make-up work form sent home by the teacher, stating the reason for the absence. In addition, students will be expected to make up the work missed and return it the following class.

Dismissal

Religion Classes end at 5:15 p.m.. Both of the large gates in front of the school will be open and parents are asked to **drive into the horseshoe to pick up** their children in front of school. Please do not ask your child to disobey the rules and meet you outside of the gates. This is dangerous and against the rules. The carpool line generally moves quite fast. It only takes about 15 minutes to load all of the children into cars. Remember that patience is a virtue.

Progress Reports

Students will receive "ONE-WAY" PROGRESS REPORTS four times during the year. They do not have to be signed and returned. Teachers will report on your child's progress in the following areas: attendance, make-up work, conduct, and their knowledge of a specific list of prayers for each grade level. Please read over this report and discuss it with your child.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held after classes on Dec. 6, 2016, from 5:00-5:30 p.m. Religion classes will begin at 4:00 and end at 5:00 on this day. Parents are asked to come inside and meet the teachers. A "One Way" Progress Report will be distributed and the teachers will be available to discuss the progress of your child and any concerns you may have with their participation in the Parish School of Religion. Please make every effort to come and meet your child's teacher! Supervision for your child will be provided from 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Participation in Sacraments

The purpose of Religious Education is to give a deeper meaning and understanding of the faith students are experiencing at home and in the sacraments. **Therefore it is expected that parents and students are taking part in Sunday Mass.** We will be assessing this participation throughout the year.

Discipline

Discipline, for the most part, is not a problem in the Elementary Parish School of Religion. The children are to be commended for behaving very well most of the time. The students, though, have been in school all day and sometimes get unruly. We will be as positive as we can when dealing with the children. We are committed to communicating to the children God's love that is made real through us. Our teachers will impress upon the children that God wants them to be the "best" that they can be. "Being the best that we can be" includes: practicing self-discipline and self-control, showing kindness to others, being respectful of all people and of our environment, being cooperative and obedient (even when we don't want to be), and managing our God-given emotions (i.e. anger) in positive ways. Please help us by reinforcing these ideas at home.

In the event that a child is continuously disrupting the learning environment in his/her classroom, the teacher will send him/her to the Elementary Coordinator, Janet LeRay, with their textbook. If the child continues to be disruptive week after week, the parents will be called. We ask for your support in matters of discipline.

Supplies

Each student is asked to bring their folder to every class. A folder will be provided for each child's work. **PARENTS** please take time to look at the info contained in folder! The 6th grade students are expected to bring their Bibles as well.

RCL-Benzinger Blest Are We Series Edition (Grade 1-5)

The textbook used in Religion Classes has a special page at the start of each lesson that provides you an opportunity to discuss with your child what he or she is learning in class. This will be placed in their folder. This page also includes special fun and meaningful activities to do as a family. Parents, you are urged to take advantage of these pages and discuss them with your child. These pages contain the following information:

- ★ Chapter summary and activity - this will summarize what the chapter covers.
- ★ Weekly planner - Things to do at mass each Sunday. It also includes a Saint and Prayer for the week.
- ★ Scripture Background - talks about specific elements of the Scripture and/or topic to be covered the following week.
- ★ Catholic Tradition - discusses basic elements of our Catholic tradition such as music, art and beliefs. These are great learning themes for parents too!

These take home pages are designed to start discussion at home and help children to be excited about the coming class! Please take the time to do this as a family. We can all learn more about our faith together!