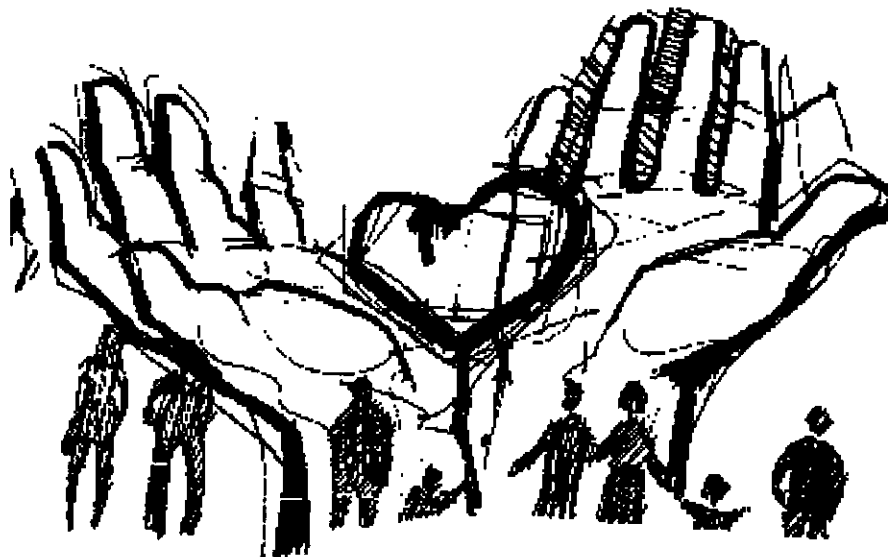


ST. MARY OF FALSE RIVER Parish School of Religion

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

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION Years 6 - 11



Parent and Student Handbook

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL PARISH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

General Policies

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your child to the Parish School of Religion Program at St. Mary of False River. We welcome all students in grades 6 through 11 who are enrolled in private school, public school, or homeschooled.

As always, parents are the primary educators of their children, and the Parish School of Religion Program serves to support and enhance their important mission. St. Mary's Parish School of Religion consists of a team of dedicated and sincere volunteer faculty members and staff who are committed to support and build on the foundation laid in each child's family through prayer, family time, and participation in our Church community. Our program incorporates meaningful learning experiences designed to inform, guide, and celebrate our Catholic faith. This is not a one year, nor an eleven year process; it is a life-long journey that begins with infancy in the home and continues throughout life.

Faith is one of the most important gifts that we can ask for our children. It is THE thing that will shape who they are and who they become. Studies show that teenagers who have a strong faith and opportunities to act on that faith are less likely to be involved with at-risk behaviors. When the Light of Christ is burning brightly within them, young people are able to know who they are as Children of God and act accordingly. Children come to know Christ through an experience of Him in others, the Church, prayer, and the Sacraments.

It is our responsibility to assist you as the primary educator of your child in teaching them to live the Gospel as part of the Catholic community and in developing a Christ-centered environment in today's world. Our doors are always open to you and your family for any questions, comments or suggestions.

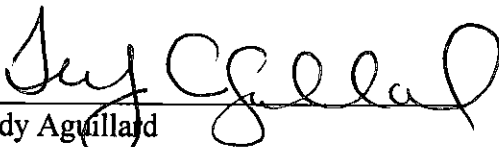
In Christ,



Msgr. Robert Berggreen
Pastor



Tim Aguillard



Trudy Aguillard
Directors of Religious Formation

REGISTRATION

Registration is held in late summer. Registration forms are mailed home and parents are asked to fill out and/or update the information and return the form to Religious Education Office, along with the registration fee. Parents must provide the Religious Education Office with a copy of their child's Baptismal Certificate, if one is not on file.

REGISTRATION FEES

6th, 7th and 8th grade: \$25.00 per student
9th and 10th grade: \$60.00 per student
11th grade: \$70.00 per student

A \$15 late registration fee will apply if registration form and fees are not paid by date specified in the registration letter. All fees include registration, retreat, and Confirmation fees. It is non-refundable. No child will be deprived of a religious education because of the inability to pay. If this fee presents a hardship, please contact the Director of Religious Education.

ADMISSION

Admission to the Jr. High Religion Program assumes six (6) years of successfully completed formal religious instruction. Admission to the High School Program assumes eight (8) years of successfully completed formal religious instruction.

One of the prerequisites for acceptance in the preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's Parish is eight (8) successfully completed years of formal religious instruction. In accordance with Diocesan guidelines, the Sacrament of Confirmation is usually conferred in the 11th grade.

LOCATION OF CLASSES

Classes for Jr. High and High School students are conducted on the Church grounds of St. Mary of False River. For safety reasons, parents are to drop off and pick up their son/daughter only in the parking lot behind the church. Please enter parking lot from Poydras Street and exit parking lot on Saint Mary Street.

TIME OF SESSIONS

Regular sessions for all Jr. High & High School students are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., every Monday from August through December (please check the schedule). There are retreats and meetings that students and/or parents are required to attend. See Junior High and High School PSR calendars.

ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS, AND ABSENCES

All students are expected to be present and on time for every session. Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. If a student is late two (2) times and/or has two (2) absences, parents will be called to assess the situation. Students must attend at least 12 sessions to be promoted to the next year. If a student misses more than 2 classes, he/she will attend a make up session on Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m. These will be scheduled as needed.

When a student is absent for whatever reason, a makeup assignment on the material that he/she missed is mailed home. **Parents are responsible for having their son/daughter return this completed assignment for the next class, along with the reason for the absence and signed by the parents.**

Conflicting extra-curricular activities for sports, leisure, convenience, and lack of transportation **are not** valid excuses for absences. Attendance is required for every scheduled class and activity, including Masses, seasonal Penance Services, and Retreats. Parents, we recommend giving a copy of PSR schedule to coaches and make them aware of the importance of your child's religious education for your family.

After arriving for class, no student will be permitted to leave the premises early without a serious reason and a written permission note from his/her parent or guardian.

PROMOTION

Completed homework assignments, make-up work, class assessment pages, tests, attendance, classroom participation, and conduct will all be factors used to determine whether or not a student is promoted to the next grade level. All required work must be completed including Service hours in order to be promoted to the next grade level. We will send progress reports in October. If necessary, a conference with parent/student will be scheduled.

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.**

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to be well-behaved, and show respect for teachers, staff, and classmates at all times. Class disruptions will not be tolerated. Students are expected to treat teachers and each other with respect. Bullying, teasing, harassment of any type, or hazing will not be tolerated. Cell phones have become an increasing problem in class with text message technology. Therefore, **cell phones must not be present at PSR.** Any cell phone seen will be collected and parents can pick them up from the Church Office. Students should use the restroom before coming to class and/or during class break. **Students are expected to bring their textbooks, all materials needed, and all completed homework, as instructed by the teacher, to each class. No gum chewing is allowed!**

Students who destroy, damage, deface, or remove any property and/or equipment in the classroom or on the church grounds will be held accountable by paying for the property and/or equipment in question. Food items, cigarettes or drugs of any kind, or weapons of any kind, **SIMPLY AND ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** on the church premises.

A "Behavior Policy" letter will be distributed during the first session, which is to be signed by the student and parent.

RETREATS

All students in our Confirmation Program (grades 9-11) are required to attend an annual retreat. Three separate retreats are held for 9th, 10th and 11th grades. **Retreats are mandatory** in our Confirmation Preparation Program. Additionally, we would like our PSR students to have their own retreat experiences. Therefore, there will be other retreat options throughout the year.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS – GRADES 9 - 11

Service hours are **required** for promotion within our Parish School of Religion Program. Service can give students concrete experiences of the kinds of good works which flow from a commitment to one's Christian faith. The simplest of talents and gifts can be used to build up God's Kingdom in our local community. By donating service hours, the students have the opportunity to serve others and to give of themselves. The 9th through 11th grade students are **required** to complete four blocks of service as described in Confirmation handbook.

