

## **OUR CATHOLIC PRAYERS**

### **OUR FATHER**

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN,  
HALLOWED BE THY NAME;  
THY KINGDOM COME;  
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH  
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD;  
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO  
TRESPASS AGAINST US;  
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,  
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
AMEN.

### **HAIL MARY**

HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE,  
THE LORD IS WITH YOU!  
BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN,  
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT  
OF YOUR WOMB, JESUS.  
HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,  
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,  
NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH.  
AMEN.

### **GLORY TO THE FATHER**

GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON,  
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:  
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,  
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOR EVER.  
AMEN.

### **GRACE BEFORE MEALS**

BLESS US, O LORD, AND THESE YOUR GIFTS  
WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE FROM  
YOUR GOODNESS.  
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.  
AMEN.

# *St. Joseph Religious Education Handbook*



## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION



All grade levels follow the overarching themes of God, Jesus, the Church, the Sacraments, and Morality.

**PRESCHOOL:** God's love is discovered through Bible stories, crafts, music, and games.

**KINDERGARTEN:** Children will learn about, grow in, and celebrate God's love.

**GRADE 1:** God is our Creator and loves us as our Father.

**GRADE 2:** We prepare for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist.

**GRADE 3:** God calls us to live in community as members of the Church.

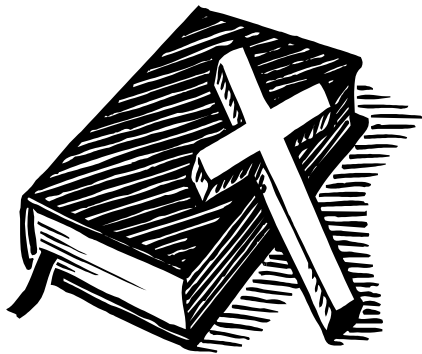
**GRADE 4:** God calls us to lead a moral life.

**GRADE 5:** Through the Sacraments we live more fully in the Holy Spirit.

**GRADE 6:** We explore the history of salvation through the Old Testament.

**GRADE 7:** Following Jesus focuses on the New Testament, including the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Letters. By exploring Scripture themes, the book aims to help young people discover God's saving action through Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection.

**GRADE 8:** Celebrating Church presents the history of the Catholic faith through holy men and women who came before us. They are examples for young people seeking to recognize the presence of God in their lives.



## FEATURES OF OUR PROGRAM

**MASS:** Occasionally we will celebrate our faith at the 11:00AM mass throughout the year.

**TOUR OF THE CHURCH:** At the beginning of each year, the Deacon will take the children on a tour of our church. Parents are welcome to attend.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During lent, the children will have an opportunity to experience the Stations of the Cross. The Deacon will guide them in reflection through the stations. Parents are welcome to attend.

**PRAYER:** Prayer is an important part of our program. Our programs always starts with prayer. Students will be given a card with some of our basic Catholic prayers. Please help your children memorize their prayers.

Many types of prayer will be taught in the classes. Please encourage your children to pray daily.

**SERVICE PROJECTS:** Faith, love and hope are at the core of Catholicism. We are also called to share this with others. As parents, catechists and leaders in the church, we need to be daily examples to our children by extending that love and care to others.

We try to include a few projects each year to give the students a chance to show their faith in action. These projects may vary from year to year.

The month of November is Food Pantry month. This is an opportunity for the children to bring in non-perishable food items to share with those in need.

**RECONCILIATION:** Children who have received their First Holy Communion will have the opportunity to experience forgiveness and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**FAMILY RETREAT:** Parents and children together will explore their faith. These sessions will be engaging and active with a variety of presenters.

**ADULT SESSIONS:** Parents will discover the hidden treasure of the spiritual journey in the Adult Sessions. These sessions will be presented in a discussion style format, facilitated by Dan Johnson.

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS:** Families will have an opportunity to share the two most important celebrations of our faith.

## St. Joseph Catholic Church

Fr. Paul White, Pastor

Fr. Father Yovanny Dorado, Associate

Deacon Tony Koss

Deacon Phil Emmert

## Office of Religious Education

Amber Emmert

Deb Keane

Julie Zell

Coordinator of Religious Education

Preschool—8 Program Coordinator

1st Holy Communion Coordinator

St. Joseph Ministry Center

Religious Education

101 Church St.

Harvard, IL 60033

Email: [learnGod@stjoeharvard.org](mailto:learnGod@stjoeharvard.org)

Phone: 815-943-6406, ext. 224

Registration forms and schedules can be downloaded  
from our web site:  
[stjoeharvard.org](http://stjoeharvard.org)

## ROLE OF PARENTS

YOU are your child's PRIMARY TEACHER in the way of faith. St. Joseph Religious Education will help **support** you in the effort to teach your child about our rich Catholic faith and encourage a spiritual relationship. As parents, setting examples of living a Christian life, modeling prayer and attending mass weekly are of utmost importance for our children. Children learn by example. Your actions speak loudly to them.

## ROLE OF OUR CATECHISTS

Our catechists are volunteers who are willing to serve and share their faith with the children of our parish. Through prayer, workshops and the "Finding God" curriculum, our catechists *lead* the children in *discussion, reflection and prayer*. They *guide* the children in discovery activities which make the lesson more meaningful. The catechist is on a journey with the children searching with them for new insights into the full meaning of the Gospel as affects their daily lives.

## CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE POLICY

In order for Religious Education classes to be effective, all students and staff are expected to **work together** in creating an atmosphere that reflects faith values.

If a conduct problem arises, the teacher will handle the situation individually with the student. If the problem continues, the student will be guided to the office where the Coordinator of Religious Education or the Preschool-8 Coordinator will work with the catechist and student in resolving the situation. If the conduct problem or situation is then repeated the student's parents will be contacted about the problem to reach a resolution by the student, parent, catechist, and Coordinator of Religious Education.



## REGISTRATION FEES

A registration fee of \$80.00 for one student, \$120.00 for two, \$160.00 for three or more students is due at the time of registration. These fees help to cover the costs of the books and materials for the classes.

No student will be turned away for lack of registration fees. If you are having difficulty paying the fee, please contact the Religious Education Office at 815-943-6406, ext. 224.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to arrive for class promptly. If your child will be absent, please call the Religious Education office at 815-943-6406, ext. 224. If you are calling on Sunday morning, please call St. Joseph school at 815-943-6933. Please leave a message if no one answers.

If we have not been notified of a child's absence and the child is not in class, we will call the parents. This is to ensure the safety of our children.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather, catechists will call students to notify families about cancelations.

## GATHERING AND RELEASE

All grades will gather in the basement of St. Joseph school at 9:30 AM. Occasionally, classes will meet in the church. Please refer to the Religious Education calendar for those dates and times.

Grades will be released at 10:45 AM. For safety purposes, Preschool thru 2nd grade students must be picked up from their classrooms.