

Jesus, The Good Shepherd
Religious Education
Program

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Jesus, The Good Shepherd
Religious Education

STUDENT HANDBOOK

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Pastor: Rev. Edward Blanchett

Director of Religious Ed: Mrs. Maria Gimello

Office Secretary: Mrs. Eileen Jordan

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Friday - 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Phone Numbers

Office: 856-461-9343

Parish Office: 856-461-0100

Address

102 Middleton Street, Riverside, NJ 08075

Location

The Religious Education Office is located on the
Third Floor of the Parish Office Building.

(Across the parking lot from the school.)

Class Hours

Monday - 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. Grades 5-6-7-8

Tuesday - 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Grades K-1-2-3-4

Welcome!

*Each child is special and
unique- a gift to us from God.
With this in mind, we have
designed our program.*

Our Religious Education Mission

- ~ To give children a sense of God*
- ~ To help children discover God's Love for them*
- ~ To shape attitudes of love and respect for self
and others*
- ~ To learn how to share God's Love with others*

All students are graciously welcomed to our classes. In the name of the Christian community of Jesus, The Good Shepherd we shall do all we can in cooperation with you, the parents, to share the responsibility you accepted at the time of your child's Baptism to train your child in the practice of our Catholic faith.

Through our explanation of church doctrine, tradition, scripture, and planned services, we will make every effort to create an experience and opportunity for a personal response in faith to God.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following pages will outline Jesus, The Good Shepherd Policies and Procedures for the Religious Education Program. Our hope is to help the parents and children to become familiar with guidelines used to help make the program run smoothly.

NEW STUDENTS

Any child entering the program for the first time is required to present a copy of his/her baptismal certificate at the time of registration. If your child received First Penance and First Eucharist at another Parish, please supply our office with transfer forms from your parish.

REGISTRATION - SACRAMENTAL FEE

Registration takes place in the spring. Each family is required to preregister yearly. For current students, registration forms will be sent home in early April.

In addition to the tuition fee there is a fee (to be determined) for the students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of First Eucharist. This fee covers in part the cost of additional materials needed to prepare for the reception of the sacrament.

PARENT/ TEACHER COMMUNICATION

The Religion teachers of your children in our program are volunteers who make many sacrifices to serve their God and their church in this ministry. They deserve your gratitude and cooperation. They love your children; love them.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The program is designed to assist parents in fulfilling their responsibilities as the primary religious educators of their children. The goal can be accomplished by the following:

- Your child's regular weekly attendance for class.
- Parents becoming familiar with the weekly lessons.
- Reading school material which is sent home.
- Participating in the activities.
- Making certain that home assignments are completed and returned.
- Meet your child's teacher.
- Worshipping with your child at Sunday Liturgy.
- Participation at parent Religious Education meetings.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance should be regular and punctual. Absences require a phone call to the Religious Education Office prior to class.

It is the responsibility of parents to see that any missed work due to absence is made up. A schedule for each child's grade level detailing dates and lessons to be covered this school year will be distributed this fall. Children will NOT be moved ahead to the next level without their work completed.

LATE ARRIVAL

Any child arriving late is required to report to the office and sign in before reporting for class. Parents are not permitted in the hallways of the school, for everyone's safety. Also, there are to be NO EARLY DISMISSAL. Religion class is only one hour and 15 minutes please make it a priority. Please consider this when making appointments.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

On the registration form you are asked to note any learning disabilities or special needs that might affect your child's performance in class.

DISCIPLINE

Most of the children in our program are very interested to learn about their faith. At times some children are unable to control their behavior, thereby disrupting the class. Any child disrupting the class will be removed from class and instructed to call home. You will be asked to pick your child up immediately.

All children are expected to come to class willing and eager to learn. Chronic discipline problems will require a meeting with the teacher, child, parent and Director of Religious Education. If the situation cannot be resolved through this meeting and the child cannot control his/her behavior, the child may be permanently removed from class.

TEXTBOOKS

Each child is expected to come to class prepared each week ready to participate with his/her text book. If the text book is lost or misplaced, the teacher will provide a second book and the parents will be billed for the new book.

CLASS PROMOTION

Promotion to the next year's class is based on attendance, attitude, and an understanding of the course of study for that year which is ascertained through testing.

CURRICULUM

GRADES 1 - 6

Students in grades 1 - 6, will be using the "We Believe," series published by William H. Sadlier. In class your child will be taught in a more structured way about doctrine, scripture and liturgical year.

Grade 7

Students in grade 7, will be using the "We Believe," series published by William H. Sadlier. The seventh grade also marks the first year of a two-year process for immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Grade 8

In grade 8, the students prepare intensely for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The basics of our Catholic faith are reviewed and they study the Church. Preparation includes, participation in a special Sunday Liturgy, Retreat, Community Service, and other Activities.

SACRAMENTS AND MEETINGS

It is mandatory that students attend Religious Education Class each year, to fulfill their Sacramental requirements. Also Parents are obliged to attend Sacramental meetings during the school year.

Please check your child's folder for important information.

SNOW DAYS

If the Public Schools are closed for inclement weather Religious Education is also closed. If snow begins during school time an announcement will be made in school concerning Religious Education cancellation.

NO - Religion Class

DATE

October 12, 2009	Columbus Day
December 22, 2009	Christmas Vacation
December 28, 2009	Christmas Vacation
December 29, 2009	Christmas Vacation
January 18, 2010	Martin Luther King Day
January 19, 2010	Teacher's In-Service Day
February 15, 2010	President's Day
April 05, 2010	Easter Break
April 06, 2010	Easter Break

*** *The Diocese of Trenton Protecting God's Children***
Video will be shown on the following dates:

Grades: 5-6-7-8 November 09, 2009

Grades: 1-2-3-4 November 23, 2009

Mission Statement

*We come together to share the message of Jesus
to work to foster Christian Community
to lead children to worship and prayer and
to motivate them to serve others*

*We acknowledge that parents
are the first and foremost teachers
of their children's faith*

*We welcome the opportunity
to work in partnership with parents
to fulfill our mission*

NAME _____

GRADE _____

TEACHER'S Name _____