

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School of Religion

Preschool

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered during the 11:00 Mass only when ONU is in session.

Grades K & 1

Felicite Yuhasz

Cara Tobe

Grade 2 / Sacramental Preparation

(First Reconciliation/First Eucharist)

Robert Yuhasz

Grades 3 & 4

Deb Driscoll

Grades 5 & 6

Mike Milks

Grade 7 / Confirmation Preparation

Adam & Kristen Ferguson

Confirmed Youth Grades 8 -12

Selleigh Alexander

Rachel Klear

PSR Manager

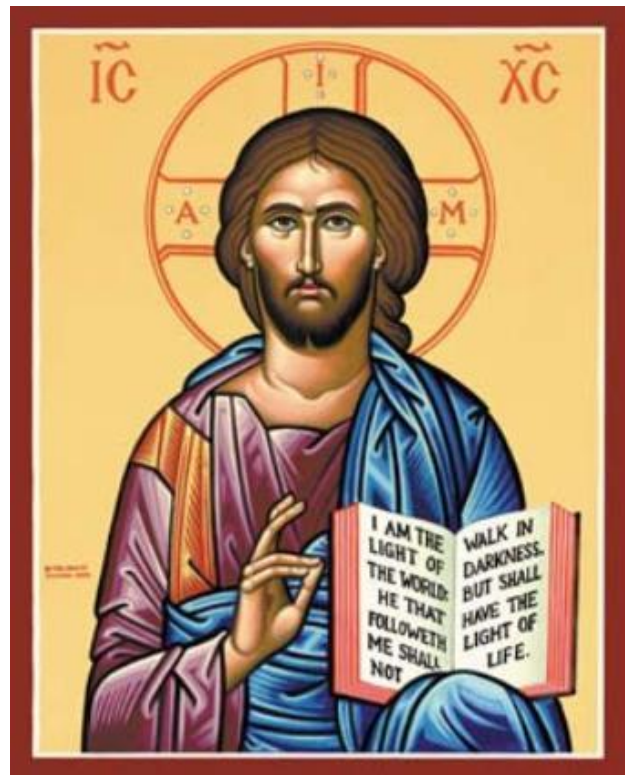
Deb Driscoll

PGC Facilitator

Desiree Tosatto

PSR Director

Fr. William J Ferguson



VOLUNTEERS

All our catechists are volunteers and any parishioner who has the desire to work with the youth of the parish is welcome to participate in our program. Volunteers may help as catechists, substitutes, aides, guest speakers, service project coordinators, and more. Please contact the Pastor or the PSR Manager if you are interested in volunteering. For the safety and well-being of your children, all volunteers who work with children of the parish are required to undergo a fingerprint/background check through the Ohio Bureau of Identification and Investigation and are required to attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School of Religion ~ Roles & Responsibilities

Parents, with the help of Grandparents, Godparents and other family members are the primary sources for the religious education of children.

Catechists, with the help of support staff, provide formal instruction in a classroom setting. The primary role of the catechist is that of assisting parents in the religious education of their children.

Youth Ministers are catechists who incorporate catechesis as one focus of eight in a comprehensive ministry to young people.

The Pastor is the Director of the Parish School of Religion – responsible for oversight in all aspects of the PSR. The Pastor will determine the suitability of all staff, materials and activities.

PHILOSOPHY

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Formal religious education classes at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish are designed to support parents in their ministry. Each child is a gift from God, and it is a privilege to participate in the faith development of our parish youth. Our educational approach is threefold: knowledge, relationships, and service.

Knowledge of God and the Church is presented through lessons based on Scripture, and the Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church: our history, doctrine, and practice.

Relationship to God is fostered through prayer, the sacraments, community expressions of faith, and interaction with peers and Catholic adults.

Service is encouraged with opportunities for sharing and through a Fall Food Drive for the Ada Food Pantry, helping at the Ada Food Pantry, fundraising for the annual Rice Bowl collection, and an Advent Toy Drive.

With the combined commitment of parents, catechists, and clergy, the youth of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish shall be provided with many and various opportunities for growth in the Catholic faith.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

As the primary educators of your children, it is essential for parents to be well informed.

Parishioners are invited to take any opportunities for educational and spiritual growth. Included in the “handing on” of our faith is the modeling we do for the young people of our parish. We must all take responsibility for being examples of faith-full living: by our prayer, by our attitude, by our worship. It is God who has loved us first and adopted us in Jesus Christ; it is up to us to respond in kind and show our kids how to love God and follow Jesus. Parents set the tone and the example for the importance of ongoing faith formation and faith enrichment, especially by the attention given to what the children are learning and joyfully exploring Catholicism with them.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All children and adults are expected to act in all ways and at all times in a manner that is in keeping with gospel values and Christian discipline. Our catechists are volunteers, drawn from the parish, and parents themselves. They have a right to expect obedience and respect from the children in their charge and to expect the children to treat each other with kindness and respect. Catechists will be responsible for establishing a classroom environment in which the young people receive continuing instruction regarding acceptable behavior. Unacceptable behavior will be pointed out to the individual for him or her to correct. Persistent or outlandish misbehavior will be reported to the PSR Minister, the Pastor and to the parents.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the Parish School of Religion (PSR) begins in late August or early September each year. Children must be registered each new school year, so that the PSR Minister, PSR Administrator and parish office have current contact information. Those who register for PSR must also be registered members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Parish and PSR registration forms are available in the vestibule and in the parish hall. Families new to the parish may register at any time during the year by stopping at the parish office, located at 222 E. Highland Avenue.

TUITION

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish does not charge tuition for the religious education program. All of the expenses of the Parish School of Religion are paid out of the parish's general operating budget. Because the program's expenses are shared by all parishioners, every family participating in the program is expected to contribute regularly to the parish through Sunday offerings and may contribute specifically in the quarterly Religious Education Fund envelope.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all scheduled Religious Education classes and events is expected; each session builds upon the previous one. Regular attendance enables the child to benefit fully while promoting a sense of belonging to the parish community. Each year the students are not only learning about the Lord, the Catholic Church and our faith, but they are also gaining an understanding of the responsibilities that the Gospels entail. One of these responsibilities is to make the faith their own, and to demonstrate this by regular and consistent attendance. For this reason, should the attendance of a child become erratic and inconsistent, the parents will be asked to make an appointment with the pastor. Naturally, there will be circumstances and conditions in which a child is unable to attend, and this is certainly understood. However, if a student is habitually absent from classes (without fair and reasonable explanation), the parents will be obliged to meet with the pastor, in order to assess the sacramental readiness of the child.

Religious Education outside the Parish School of Religion.

As the sense of belonging to the parish community is so important for the children, we encourage enrollment in the Parish School of Religion. However, if you wish to home school your children, you may make an appointment with the pastor to outline a course of study and purchase the appropriate text books. In keeping with the practice of the Church, our program will offer instructions and support to parents and children who may wish to instruct their children at home, or whose sacramental needs do not fall within the design of our program. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children is an individualized process whereby parents or guardians, overseen by the Pastor, will prepare a child for full initiation into the Church; these children will also attend age-appropriate PSR classes.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

In addition to training and back ground checks for all who work with the children and young people of our parish, we have set up our classrooms to provide a safe environment: Class room doors are kept open during classes, except for Grade K/1. To cut down on distraction while keeping the children safe, K/1 classroom has two catechists in the room and has a window in the door. Wherever possible, there are two catechists with each class. OLLY, the students in Grades 8-12 meet in the parish hall. It is an area open and accessible to any parishioner at any time.

CURRICULUM

General

The Religious Education Program at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish follows the Diocesan Elementary and High School Religion Graded Course of Study. This Graded Course of Study (GCS) was developed by the Diocese of Columbus to ensure that the total content of faith is taught in a systematic and age appropriate way. The GCS contains general program goals and objectives and grade level objectives. This curriculum, based on the National Catechetical Directory, gives students an appreciation of the Catholic religion and an opportunity to freely choose to live according to its principles. It is the beginning of a lifetime of learning about their faith.

The general program goals for all of our students are:

- to discover the meaning of God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition and respond in faith;
- to reflect on one's own personal experience in light of the Catholic Church's Tradition;
- to participate in the praying, believing, celebrating and serving community of the Catholic Church;
- to witness by word and example the Christian moral life;
- to develop one's full human potential as a child of God.

Growth in faith occurs in stages according to many factors, including family heritage, individual response, and formal and informal instruction. The curriculum developed for our parish religious education program is only one of many ways to form a child in the faith. It will be effective, at best, when viewed as a supplement and support to parental instruction and witness in faith and religion.

The textbook series for students in Grades K through Six is RCL's Faith First – Legacy Edition. Faith First is a spiral approach to learning our Catholic faith. The four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church – Creed, Sacraments, Prayer and Morality – 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 method means that each catechist will build upon and reinforce what students have learned previously in other grades. The result is age-appropriate learning on all topics.

Each text will provide:

- Doctrine Chapters to help children understand what we believe as Catholics and how to live out those beliefs.
- Scripture Chapters to help children come to know and understand the Word of God. Each lesson has three distinctive elements: Bible background, Reading the Word of God, and Understanding the Word of God.
- Liturgical Season Lessons to allow children the opportunity to celebrate and prayerfully participate in the liturgy all year long.

In addition, each chapter of Faith First has consistent features that direct learning, develop religious literacy, reinforce content, and encourage integration of faith and life. The consistent features are:

- Faith Focus
- Faith Vocabulary
- Faith-filled People
- Our Church Makes a Difference
- What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life
- We Pray
- We Remember
- With My Family

The **Faith First Website** has tools and resources for students and families, as well as for catechists. You may access the website at faithfirst.com

As a weekly supplement, several grades use Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. PSR classes are immediately before Mass; the gospel weeklies prepare the children to hear the readings and also link the PSR classes with Mass and the community.

Preschool The preschool program (Children's Liturgy of the Word) is a religious readiness program designed to support the family in bringing the child closer to a love and knowledge of God and Church through the Sunday Scripture readings. There is a strong emphasis on self-worth and the child's relationship to God, creation, family, and the church community. Classes provide opportunities for the child to learn through discovery and experiences in an atmosphere of love and fun.

Elementary Grades

Kindergarten through Grade Six: In the elementary program, our goals are for each child to continue to develop as a disciple of Jesus by sharing their love, healing, forgiveness and compassion with others.

Each grade level includes age appropriate lessons in the areas of Scripture and Revelation, the Christian Message, Prayer, Sacraments, Liturgy, and Morality. At each grade level we continue to develop the child's gifts and talents and encourage them to share those both within our community and in service to others.

Classrooms for Kindergarten through Grade 7 are on the upper level of the parish hall.

Classes are Sundays at 9:45 am. *Preschool is upstairs during the 11:00 Mass when ONU is in session.*

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Grade Two is not combined with any other age group, allowing the catechists and children to focus on the sacraments, in a smaller group, with all students at the same learning level. The children will be prepared during the first half of the school year for and celebrate their First Reconciliation during the annual Advent Penance Service or Advent Day of Reflection. Children are prepared for their First Eucharist during the second half of the school year and celebrate the sacrament in May (usually the second Saturday in May).

Catechists use RCL's Faith First - Reconciliation and Faith First - Eucharist

Confirmation

The parish celebrates Confirmation every year with parish young people in Grades 7 (and any in Grades 8--12 who are not Confirmed*). The celebration takes place at Our Lady of Lourdes odd numbered years and at Immaculate Conception in Kenton even numbered years. Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation seeks to challenge our young people to accept the gift of faith freely given to them, to take hold of the responsibilities of that faith and share it with others, to become active members of their parish, and to continue in their journey to strengthen their faith and deepen their relationship with God. The group uses the Dynamic Catholic "Decision Point" videos and textbook.

**Students in Grades 8-12 will be prepared for Confirmation by family members at home while attending age-appropriate PSR Classes on Sunday.*

Our Lady of Lourdes Youth (OLLY)

Confirmed Youth Grades 8 - 12 Guiding our Confirmed young people into accepting ownership of their faith, along with the responsibility for expressing it in their lives, lies at the heart of our Youth Ministry. Fully initiated by their Confirmation, with facilitation by the adult guides, the students gather to explore and exercise their Catholic identity. As background for youth group activities, catechists use RCL's Path Through Catholicism textbook and resource book, AMP 'This Is Our Faith,' the Catholic Teen Bible, as well as many other resources to work within those outlined in the document **Youth Ministry: Renewing the Vision** and the Diocese of Columbus curriculum framework.

OLLY meets in the parish hall at 9:45 a.m.