

# ST. JAMES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## GRADES 7 & 8

Our Religious Education Program is doctrinally based, and follows the belief that parents are the first and primary educators of their children. As parents you have a unique role in the religious formation of your child. The Church views this role of parents as both a privilege and a responsibility. It is within your family that your child has first come to faith. It is within your family that your child will continue to live out faith and witness the daily example of Catholic believers. We, at St. James, are committed to assisting as parents guide their child's faith life and journey together to a greater understanding of our Catholic heritage.

Religious Education classes for grades seven and eight are held Sundays from 12:30pm to 1:30 pm in St. James School. Classes meet from mid September to early/mid May with some weekends off that correspond to public school holidays. Recognizing how one year builds upon another, parents should note the importance of consistent and sequential attendance of their children in our Religious Education classes.

Sunday classes are scheduled around our mass times so that families can attend mass without a conflict.

**Classes are in no way intended to replace Mass and children are expected to attend a weekend Mass in addition to attendance at Religious Education.**

Our Religious Education Program has a team of volunteer catechists (teachers), aides, and substitutes who are committed to sharing their faith and their gifts with the children of our parish. All adult volunteers are *Virtus* certified and are also encouraged to enrich their own faith formation by attending basic and advanced Catechetical training. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team and are always open to welcoming new members to our Religious Education family.

## BASIC OVERVIEW OF GRADE 7

**Our seventh grade students do not use textbooks. Instead our Catechists use a variety of resources such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *YOUCAT*, and *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* to build their lesson plans. In seventh grade Religious education the students will study:**

- **Prayer**
  - review prayers
  - learn the Prayer of St. Francis and learn about his life
  - the Rosary and learn about our own Rosary Makers
  - the Nicene Creed.
  - responses at Mass and Silence in Prayer ...
  
- **Scripture**
  - what's in the Bible?
  - the four steps in the development of the Bible: experience, oral tradition, writing of the story, the authoritative selection of the story

- the gospels
- the Liturgy of the Word.
- the Adventures of Paul
- **Christian Life**
  - the Principle of Stewardship of God's Creation.
  - the Principle of Human Dignity
  - the Principle of Solidarity
- **Catholic Identity**
  - the Principle of Subsidiarity.
  - the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity.
  - the cardinal and moral virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.
  - the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy

## **BASIC OVERVIEW OF GRADE 8**

**Our eighth grade students do not use textbooks. Instead our Catechists use a variety of resources such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *YOUCAT*, and *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* to build their lesson plans. In eighth grade Religious education the students will study:**

- **Moral Decision Making**
  - the Ten Commandments
  - the Beatitudes
  - the Two Greatest Commandments.
  - See, Judge, Act. Relying on what we know to make a moral decision ...
- **Community**
  - Adam and Eve the first community.
  - a Catholic Christian understanding of sexuality and sexual moral values.
  - Marriage as a sacrament.
  - Respect
- **Church**
  - Jesus' vision of Church that similar to your experience today, through service, education, worship and social activities.
  - What is the definition of the Church? What was Vatican II?
  - Ministries and Vocation
  - What does Catholic mean?
  - the six precepts of the Church.
- **Eucharist**
  - Sacraments of Initiation ... what is the RCIA
  - The Last Supper ... I Corinthians and the Gospels
  - Breaking down the parts of the Mass