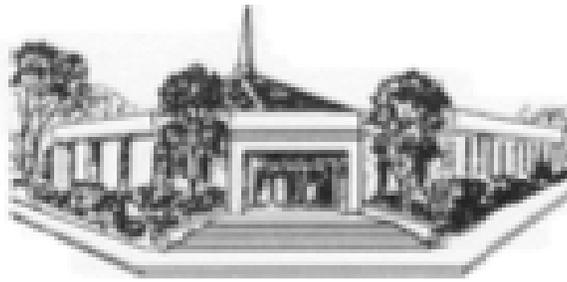


HANDBOOK FOR FAMILIES



St. Julian Eymard School of Religion

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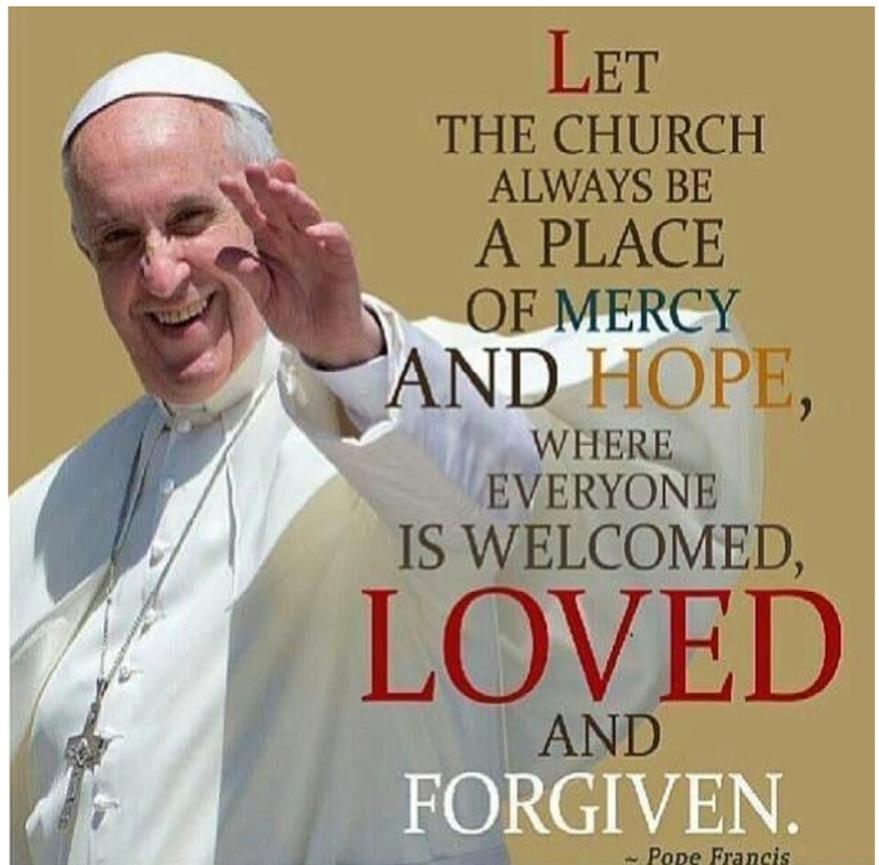
Welcome to the School of Religion at St. Julian Eymard Catholic Parish! The School of Religion Handbook will acquaint you with the philosophy and the organizational and administrative policies of our Parish Program of Religious Education. We are grateful for the opportunity to share our faith and our Catholic traditions with the families of our parish.

Mission of the Catholic Church

To help us understand our mission, The Catechism of the Catholic Church looks to the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas when he said that, “To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer.”

Catechesis is the teaching of our faith, its history and traditions. The task of catechesis is to lead our children to a life in the Sacraments. It is evangelization in the sense that it proposes to young and old a conversion of heart to the life and love of Jesus Christ.

One of the resources that Catechetical leaders use in the planning of religious education is called the General Directory for Catechesis, from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. The GDC also directs our attention to Jesus as a role model. We aspire to the pedagogy of Christ.



In his ministry, Jesus received everyone, “especially the poor, the little ones and sinners, as persons loved and sought out by God;” proclaimed the Kingdom of God as the good news of the truth and of the consolation of the Father; demonstrated a kind of delicate and strong love which liberates from evil and promotes life; offered an invitation to a manner of living sustained by faith in God, by hope in the Kingdom and by charity to one’s neighbor; used all resources of interpersonal communication, such as word, silence, metaphor, image, example, and many diverse signs; invited his disciples to follow him unreservedly and without regret.

St. Julian Eymard Parish Mission Statement



We, the people of St. Julian Eymard Parish, recognize God's call to be the 'Church,' to be the local community of faith built on the foundation of the Apostles.

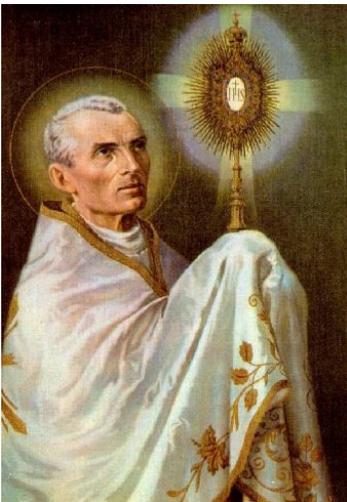
The St. Julian Eymard Parish purpose is to provide good and faithful stewards not only for the present but for the future.

Our goal is to provide the best opportunities for prayer, worship, education, and faith formation to all by providing programs that meet the current and future needs of the community.

As a family of faith, St. Julian Eymard will continue to help our youth form a strong Catholic identity so they are enabled to carry out God's plan.

As parishioners of St. Julian Eymard, we will rise to meet this challenge so that all are welcomed and inspired to proclaim the loving presence of Jesus in Word and Eucharist, and in our service to all of God's people.

School of Religion Mission Statement



To advance the reign of God at
Saint Julian Eymard Church
by helping parents, catechists
and the parish community provide
joyful growth in the Catholic faith
for the young people in our parish family.

How we live the mission...

THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Each year, from August to April, the School of Religion offers formation for the children of St. Julian from the age of four through ninth grade. Each grade level curriculum aligns with the Archdiocese of Chicago and includes many opportunities for families to be fully engaged. Adult education and faith formation are offered to welcome the Holy Spirit into our dialogue and prayer.

Prayer is used in many ways during class times. Prayer services, liturgies, reflections, as well as the celebration of the sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation are all a part of the religious formation at St. Julian.

Lessons in the School of Religion include moments for prayer, saint studies, faith words, mini retreats, liturgies, and scripture studies. Each lesson is thoughtfully planned out by the catechists and child centered.



THE ROLE OF THE PARISH FAMILY

"Man encounters Christ not only through the sacred ministry, but also through individual members of the faithful and their communities." (LG35)

The parish is the basic structure within which most Catholics express and experience faith and consists of people who provide on-going spiritual and moral support. During the course of the year as First Communion, Confirmation and other special events arise, the parishioners are asked for their prayers and are reminded of the importance of their personal witness to the Gospel in their families and in the community.

Parishioners share the responsibility to witness to Christ in the community to which they belong. Children will recognize members of the parish in the stores, restaurants and parks in their community. By their witness, the adults provide example of the integration of Catholic ideals and values in everyday life. Life-long spiritual activities and ministries are sponsored to aid in the personal growth of everyone.

ROLE OF PARENTS & FAMILIES

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. It is the responsibility of the parish community, specifically the catechists, to assist parents in the faith formation of their children.

It is from the family that children's attitude toward the church, sacraments, prayer, worship, and moral decision making develop. They absorb their parent's sense of value that is placed on Christian life. The participation of the family in the life of the Church tells the children that the things they are learning in class are important.

Working together catechists and families prepare the children to receive the graces of the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.

In conversation, catechists and parents find support in the observation and study of the moral and spiritual development of children. Studies offer us a great fund of knowledge about the relevance of the typical stages of development of children to their expression of faith: spiritual, moral, emotional, physical, and intellectual.

Through adult formation we also refresh parents' understanding of the teachings of the Church and reinforce their confidence as religious educators. Families are invited to attend special liturgies, prayer services or programs planned by the School of Religion. These specific learning and faith formation experiences also offer an opportunity to meet informally with clergy, other members of the community, the Director of Religious Education and other volunteers involved in the School of Religion.

The Archdiocese of Chicago, Archbishop Blasé Cupich, the auxiliary bishops, Fr. Kean, Mrs. Donahue and the catechists of St. Julian Eymard are committed to this family perspective. Our Church is comprised of families. We are a domestic church. Formation of the domestic church respects the presence and talents of all members of the family. A family perspective strengthens the catechetical, liturgical, sacramental, and worship life of the parish and entire Church. A family perspective helps form and nurture in our children, adolescents, teens and adults a personality of faith. As partners in catechesis, we hope to model Christ's mission and advance the reign of God here in Elk Grove.



Building a Life of Prayer in Class and at Home

SHARING OUR FAITH

1. Children should demonstrate appropriate and respectful behavior in class.

*Please enter the building in an orderly manner and report to the classroom or class area on time. Each child is responsible for his/her own behavior.

*Good manners are expected in interactions between all children and toward the catechist. Students should know and use the name of their catechist, our Pastor and the Director of Religious Education.

*The children are expected to come prepared for class, to participate and to be attentive.

*Children are expected to be respectful of church and school property. At the end of each session, the children will assist the catechist in returning the classroom to its original state.

* No food should be brought to class by the student; this includes chewing gum. Water bottles are allowed.

*Cell phones must be turned off during class time. If cell phones are used during a class time, without the permission of the Catechist, the phone will be collected and returned at the end of the class time.

2. Children should demonstrate responsibility for their knowledge.

*Classroom conversations and personal growth require a little bit of home study and discussion as well.

*As disciples of Christ, we are called to learn the faith and share it. This experience and these memories are integral to the formation of a strong Catholic Identity. When self-discipline is developed, personal religious growth occurs. We are then able to respond freely to God's self-revelation.

3. Students should demonstrate comprehension of material presented through oral and/or written participation in class.

*As our children face the challenges and important decisions of growing, the life of Jesus can help open hearts. By learning more about Jesus, the children are able to grow closer to God.

4. Students should demonstrate a personal response to God's Presence.

*Jesus, present in the most Holy Eucharist, is the source and summit of our Catholic life.

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.”¹³⁶ “The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.”¹³⁷ - Catechism of the Catholic Church

*Faith is a lifelong journey. When children attend Mass often with their families, their understanding of God, community and prayer increases. They are able to express the difference between the ordinary and the extraordinary - what is visible and what is mystery. They desire to participate in ministry with gratitude will help to build a personal spirituality supported by the graces of the Sacraments.

In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: “Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.”¹⁴⁰ - Catechism of the Catholic Church

Quote from St. Peter Julian Eymard

“The Eucharist is the life of the people. The Eucharist gives them a center of life. All can come together without the barriers of race or language in order to celebrate the feast days of the Church. It gives them a law of life, that of charity, of which it is the source; thus it forges between them a common bond, a Christian kinship.”

Curriculum - Engage: Explore: Reflect

The School of Religious catechesis is based on the sharing of the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church. Faith formation is most effective when the concepts being presented connect with the life of the learner. The catechetical process is a four- step process that helps make the connection between the life of the child and the teachings of the Catholic Church. On-going communication about how your children are participating in class and demonstrating their acquired knowledge is key to successful partnership in catechesis.

Engage the children in discussion and activities that relate the session theme to their lives.

Explore the teachings of the Church and reflect on God's invitation of faith through Scripture, prayer, stories, and activities.

Respond by sharing the Good News with others.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered at the 9:30am Mass most Sundays of the year for 4 year olds through second graders.

Preschool and Kindergarten will study using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and introduces the children to Jesus in terms they can understand by developing their natural sense of wonder, celebration, and prayer.

Grades 1 through 5 will study using Loyola's Parish Faith Formation program. Each session reflects on our response to God's gifts that lead us and the children, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to an increased awareness of God's invitation to love him and one another. Second graders also prepare for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Grades 6 through 9 will study using RCL Benzinger's Be My Disciples program and are instrumental in preparing the child for the Sacrament of Confirmation with is conferred in the fall of 9th grade.

The Junior High Youth Ministry offers the spirit, strategies, and support for our young teens in 8th -12th grade.

RCIA welcomes new members to the Catholic faith who are older than 9th grade.



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

The Archdiocese of Chicago requires that all employees and volunteers, eighteen years and older, who serve our children and their families in Youth Ministry, the School of Religion, Liturgical Ministry, or involved in any parish events register on-line with the Archdiocese to complete registration for a criminal background check. All volunteers attend a VIRTUS Child Abuse and Awareness program.

All volunteers complete an Illinois Division of Child and Family Services background check as well as comply with the Archdiocese of Chicago Code of Conduct. Mandated reporter training is also provided for all staff and volunteers.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RIGHTS

The Archdiocese of Chicago, Office for Religious Education, has established guidelines for catechetical records. These guidelines describe your rights with regards to the records of your child/youth that are maintained by your parish catechetical program. These rules include:

- **RIGHT TO INSPECT:** Following local catechetical program procedures, you have the right to look at all of your child's/youth's records maintained in his/her permanent catechetical records.
- **RIGHT TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE:** The catechetical program will not disclose anything to third parties unless you consent in writing prior to the disclosure, or the request for information meets one of the limited circumstances described in the Federal Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act.
- **RIGHT TO REQUEST CORRECTION:** You have the right to present evidence that the catechetical program should amend any part of your child's/youth's record that you believe to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the child's/youth's rights. If the catechetical program decides not to change the record, you may insert an explanation into the record.

In the case of family separation, or has any special arrangements, it is necessary that the School of Religion has custody/guardianship records on file. Photocopies of court documents need to be on hand in the School of Religion in order to help uphold your rights. Without such written notification we are bound by law to give equal access to both parents of the child/children. We do not need documentation if there is joint custody.

**Class
Information,
Registration
and
Policy

CLAS
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TIMES**

GRADES PS/K, 1, 2, 3:	TUESDAY 4:30-5:45 P.M.
GRADES 4, 5, 6:	WEDNESDAY 4:30-5:45 P.M.
GRADE 7 and 8:	SUNDAY 9:30 -11:30 A.M. Mass + Class
9 th Grade CONFIRMATION:	SUNDAY 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Children's Liturgy of the Word:	SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. Mass
Youth Group:	3 rd SUNDAY of the Month 6:00-8:00 P.M.
RCIA:	SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. Advent-Easter Vigil

REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available beginning in June of each year. All forms will also be placed on the website. Please note the School of Religion will create classes with the whole group in mind and will not guarantee placement preference.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

St. Julian Eymard School of Religion does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national or ethnic origin in the admission policies, hiring practices, administration of educational policies, or other School of Religion programs.

TUITION

Tuition payment is appreciated at the time of Registration, but is expected in October of each year. Arrangements can be made for monthly payments and scholarship if financial need is warranted. Financial need may be requested in writing or in person with the School of Religion office.

Tuition balance is recorded yearly in the parish data base program. Follow-up letters are mailed home requesting payment throughout the year as necessary. All payments received are recorded in the data base program. Registration for the year will not be processed until the outstanding tuition balance is resolved.

MEDICATION

Parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the administration of medication to their children. The administration of medication to students during School of Religion or Youth Ministry sessions is discouraged unless necessary for the critical health and well-being of the student.

Students who suffer from asthma, allergies or other conditions that require the immediate use of medication shall be permitted to carry such medication and to self-administer such medication without supervision by St. Julian Eymard personnel. The parent must provide the School of Religion with a current and completed Medication Authorization Form.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency situation, evacuation plans are posted in each classroom. Children and adults will exit and proceed to a designated safety zone. In the case of tornadoes, other severe weather, or lockdown, students will conduct themselves according to prescribed plans which will be explained to them by their catechist on the first day of classes.

Parents will be contacted and a sign out policy will be activated. No child will be excused to anyone but their parent in the event of an emergency.

When religious education classes are canceled due to inclement weather, please listen to your major news radio stations, check the website and watch for a Constant Contact email.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The St. Julian Eymard School of Religion reserves the right to inspect all parish

areas. In addition, we reserve the right to inspect all personal property when there is a reasonable belief that the participant is violating the rules, regulations and policies of St. Julian Eymard catechetical program.

Participants who possess such contraband such as drugs, weapons and other contraband will be subject to discipline and expulsion. The catechetical program will assist local government authorities by reporting such possessions and will cooperate fully with the police and other government authorities.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

The safety of our children is our priority. Parents and guardians are responsible to escort their children to and from their parked car. All children will enter the building through the School of Religion doors on the west side of the Church. On days when the School of Religion hosts a prayer service, please bring your child in to the church.

At Tuesday's dismissal, parents must come into the School of Religious to pick up the children. At Wednesday's dismissal, the children will meet parents in the safety zone marked with the child's classroom number.

For the safety of everyone, the doors to the School and the Church will be locked at the beginning of each class. There will be adult supervision for late arrivals. If your student must leave before dismissal, the parent or guardian must sign the student out. The supervising adult will contact the catechist and the child will be excused from their class.

