

# St. Gertrude Parish Religious Education Program Parent Packet



*2020-2021  
School Year*

# Religious Ed Class Schedule

*All classes will be held online via Zoom on Tuesdays. Please email [kchears@stgertrudechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertrudechicago.org) for the Zoom links. The same link will be used all year.*

**Grades 1-4: 5:00-5:45 pm**

**Grades 5-8: 7:00-7:45 pm**

## Welcome Letter

*How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!  
~ Pope Francis*

Thank you for taking the step of sharing our faith tradition with your daughters and sons!

This year, the unexpected has become our normal and much of what we had viewed as foundational to our lives has been turned upside down. Home is now a workplace, school, and church. We are all doing more than we ever thought we would. Difficult times make faith even more important.

As you know, this year all of our instruction is online. While I will miss the opportunity of seeing your families in church, it is the right decision given the uncertainty of our communal immediate future. This year, we will be using the [Alive in Christ series from Our Sunday Visitor](#). Every registered child will have a workbook that is age/grade-appropriate.

In response to the pandemic, the Archdiocese of Chicago has reduced the number of educational hours to 15 for this year. This means we will have 20-45 minute sessions from October to May. Children who are in a sacramental year will still be prepared to receive the sacraments in the spring of 2021. First Reconciliation will be sometime early in 2021 and First Communion will be (I hope) the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 8. The date for Confirmation is yet to be determined pending scheduling decisions from the Archdiocese.

This parent packet is intended to provide information and insight into what this year of online learning has in store. It includes:

- The schedule for the year.
- An outline of the learning topics we hope to cover by grade. While we may not engage every topic in depth, it does provide a road map for how we would like to proceed.
- Family Resources – a selection of background information, prayers, and other material that supports the topics we will be covering.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

May the Holy Spirit infuse our time together with joy, enlightenment, and hope.

~ Kevin Cheers, Pastoral Associate, St. Gertrude

[kchears@stgertruechicago.org](mailto:kchears@stgertruechicago.org)

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# Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year

## **October**

October 20 - parent meeting

October 27 - first class

## **November**

*November 3 - No Class*

November 10

November 17

November 24

## **December**

December 1

December 8

December 15

*December 22 - No Class*

*December 29 - No Class*

**January**

*January 5 - No Class*

January 12

January 19

January 26

**February**

February 2

February 9

*February 16 - No Class*

February 23

**March**

March 2

March 9

March 16

*March 23 - No Class*

**April**

*April 6 - No Class*

*April 13 - No Class*

April 20

April 27

**May**

May 4

May 11 - final class

# Learning Topics by Grade

| Topic | Core Concepts | Topic | Core Concepts |
|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|

| <b>First Grade</b>   |                                | <b>Second Grade</b>   |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| All of creation is a gift from God for which we are responsible. | <i>Creation</i>                | The Bible is the written word of God.   | <i>Creation</i>                |
| We are all created in the image and likeness of God.             |                                | Jesus is the son of God and Mary and uses parables to teach us how to relate to each other. | <i>Jesus</i>                   |
| The Trinity is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.                  | <i>Trinity/Jesus</i>           | The Ten Commandments  | <i>Sacramental Preparation</i> |
| The Holy Family: Jesus is the son of God and the son of Mary.    |                                | Sin, contrition, and mercy  |                                |
| Prayer is our way of talking to God.                             | <i>Prayer</i>                  | Sacraments: Focus on Reconciliation and Eucharist.  | <i>Sacramental Preparation</i> |
| Serving others is a way to serve God.                            | <i>Service</i>                 | Mass - the parts of mass.   | <i>Liturgy-introduction</i>    |
| Introduction to the Sacraments: Focus on Baptism.                | <i>Sacramental Preparation</i> | Structure of the church   | <i>Foundations of Faith</i>    |
| Prayer   |                                | Prayer  |                                |

| <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Core Concepts</b>                        | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Core Concepts</b>                              |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Third Grade</b>   |   | <b>Fourth Grade</b>  |   |
| The Bible is the written word of God. Structure of the Bible: focus on Old Testament and New Testament through stories they contain. | <i>Foundations of Faith and the Trinity</i> | Paschal mystery  | <i>Foundations of Faith and the Trinity</i>       |
| Jesus is the son of God and Mary and uses parables to teach us how to relate to each other.  |   | A covenant is a sacred promise with God.   |   |
| The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.   | <i>Relationship with God/ Sacraments</i>    | The ten commandments and the Beatitudes helps us to understand how to keep our promise to God. |   |
| Sacraments: Focus on Anointing of the Sick.  |   | How do we share God's love in the world? Mercy, faith, hope, and charity.                      | <i>Foundations of Faith/Mission/ Discipleship</i> |
| Mass: Relationship of readings.  | <i>Understanding the liturgy</i>            | A saint is a human person who the church has declared has lived a holy life.                   |   |
| What does it mean to serve God?  | <i>Service</i>                              | We are called to serve God.  |   |
| Prayer   |   | Prayer   |   |

| <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Core Concepts</b>                | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Core Concepts</b>                    |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Fifth Grade</b>  |                                     | <b>Sixth Grade</b>                                   |   |
| Faith is a belief/trust in God  | <i>Faith</i>                        | Faith is a belief/trust in God                       | <i>Faith</i>                            |
| The structure of the Bible: overview of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. | <i>Foundations of Faith</i>         | Salvation history as a witness of God's love for us. | <i>Relationship to God and to Jesus</i> |
| The parables of Jesus help us to know how to handle life.                             |                                     | Abraham: The father of three faiths                  | <i>Foundations of Faith</i>             |
| The corporal and spiritual works of mercy.  |                                     | The Gospels  |   |
| Building God's Kingdom in our day.  | <i>Mission/Discipleship/Service</i> | What is a Creed? Nicene and Apostles' Creeds         | <i>Profession of Faith</i>              |
| Sacraments: Focus on vocations, holy orders and marriage,                             | <i>Sacraments</i>                   | Sacraments: Focus on Anointing                       | <i>Sacraments</i>                       |
| The church is a place of celebration, service, and love.                              |                                     |  |   |
| Prayer  |                                     | Prayer   |   |

| Topic  | Core Concepts                | Topic  | Core Concepts   |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Seventh Grade</b>   |                              | <b>Eighth Grade</b>  |   |
| Salvation is the loving act of God's forgiveness.              | <i>Faith</i>                 | What does it mean to believe<br>What is faith for me ?                           | <i>Faith</i>  |
| The Trinity:<br>The Father,<br>the Son, and<br>the Holy Spirit | <i>The Mystery of Faith</i>  | Believers as the the Body of<br>Christ/The Church as the<br>People of God        | <i>Relationship to<br/>God / Mission /<br/>Discipleship</i> |
| What is a Creed?<br>Nicene and<br>Apostles' Creeds             | <i>Profession of Faith</i>   | What is a Creed? Nicene and<br>Apostles' Creeds<br>How do I live out the creed ? | <i>Profession of<br/>Faith</i>                              |
| The footsteps of<br>Jesus                                      | <i>Mission/ Discipleship</i> | The Sacraments of the<br>church – Confirmation                                   | <i>Sacramental<br/>Preparation</i>                          |
| The Acts of the<br>Apostles                                    |                              | The Gifts of the Holy Spirit   |   |
| Service as a way of<br>connecting to God in<br>our lives       | <i>Stewardship</i>           | What comes next ?  | <i>Looking ahead</i>  |
| Prayer   |                              | Prayer   |   |

# Family Resources

## The Trinity

**God Our Father:** Jesus taught us to call God “Father”, because of the loving care that his Father has for everyone and everything. Jesus told us to tell God our Father our needs in prayer, and that God would always be listening.

**Jesus Christ:** Jesus Christ is the Father's greatest gift to us. Jesus Christ is God's Son. Jesus has a divine nature and a human nature. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. God's Son becoming man is called Incarnation. Jesus gathered his followers into a group called disciples who became the Church after he ascended to his Father in Heaven. He taught his disciples how we are to live as Christians. Jesus suffered and died on a cross, and rose from the dead to free us from sin

**The Holy Spirit:** Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit to guide his church until the end of time. The Holy Spirit fills the Church with strength and wisdom. The Holy Spirit comes to us in baptism and other sacraments to help fill us with God's life and lead us to be true followers of Jesus.



### **Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer/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.

### **Glory Be to the Father**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among woman and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **An Examination of Conscience for Children Using the 10 Commandments**

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.
  - *Have I wanted more things, making things or money more important than God?*
  - *Have I made an idol of sports or entertainment figures?*
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
  - *Do I use God's name carelessly?*
  - *Do I use God's name in anger?*
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
  - *Did I attend Mass on Sunday?*
  - *Did my behavior make it difficult or impossible for my parents to get to church on time?*
  - *Have I remembered to pray daily?*
4. Honor your father and your mother.
  - *Do I obey my parents?*
  - *Have I done my chores without complaining?*
  - *Do I do my chores without being reminded?*
  - *Have I been disrespectful to teachers, coaches or others in authority?*
5. You shall not kill.
  - *Do I keep my patience or do I lose my temper?*
  - *Do I hold grudges and try to get even with others?*

- *Have I been unfair to others, especially those who are different than I am?*
6. You shall not commit adultery.
    - *Do I show respect for my body?*
    - *Do I respect the bodies of others?*
    - *Do I avoid harmful things like drugs, tobacco and alcohol?*
  7. You shall not steal.
    - *Have I taken something that belongs to someone else?*
    - *Have I “forgotten” to return something that I borrowed?*
    - *Have I used money responsibly?*
  8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
    - *Do I play fairly or do I ever cheat at school or games?*
    - *Have I been honest or have I lied?*
    - *Have I hurt someone by what I have said or done?*
    - *Have I copied someone else’s homework?*
  9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
    - *Have I been jealous of the friends that someone else has?*
    - *Have I tried to be kind to others?*
  10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
    - *Have I been jealous of the things that my friends have?*
    - *Have I nagged my parents into buying things because my friends have them?*
    - *Have I helped others when they needed help?*

*Taken from Seven Frequently Asked Questions About Children and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, written for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by Kathleen D. Beuscher, 2010*

### **Act of Contrition**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

### **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the scriptures: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

### **Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

### **Ten Commandments**

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other God's before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **The Beatitudes**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.  
 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.  
 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.  
 Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.  
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
 Blessed are they who are persecuted For the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

### **The Seven Sacraments**

#### ***Sacraments of Initiation***

Baptism  
 Eucharist  
 Confirmation

#### ***Sacraments of Healing***

Reconciliation  
 Anointing of the sick

#### ***Sacraments of Service***

Marriage  
 Holy Orders

### **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

#### **Wisdom**

Wisdom helps us make right decisions and guides us from doing wrong.

Wisdom is a gift people build up through experience. A wise person knows what to do in many situations. A wise believer sees the people and events of human history fitting together in the large plan of God's love.

#### **Understanding**

Understanding helps us discover what the stories in the bible, especially Jesus' instructions, have to teach us. Understanding is the gift of thinking and reflecting on experience. People with understanding think things through for themselves and act on their insights.

#### **Right Judgement**

This gift helps us to lead others in knowing what is right and wrong and how to be courageous in doing what is right. Right Judgment is willingness to consider the insights and understanding of others about a situation and to work together towards a solution.

#### **Knowledge**

The gift of knowledge helps us to know Jesus as our friend. The gift of knowledge helps us to comprehend what is needed to serve God. The gift of knowledge helps us seek out the facts and information necessary to make wise and fair decisions.

**Courage**

This gift helps us to love God and others and to do what God wants us to do, even when we are afraid. Courage is strength to do what isn't always easy. Courage is to stand up for the unpopular. Courage is to speak the truth. Courage is to put one's self on the line for what is right.

**Reverence**

Reverence helps us to show our love for God, for God's people and God's earth in our words and actions. Reverence is the gift of honoring God and others. The pious person reveres and worships God. The pious person has reverence for all people with the respect he wants for himself.

**Wonder & Awe**

The gift of wonder and awe helps us put God in everything we say and do. It helps us show respect for God's holy name. It helps us respect all of creation. Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and awe at God's presence in creation and in us.