

**ST. JOSEPH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**OFFICE: 100 SPRING STREET  
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719**

**TELEPHONE: 508-994-8679**

**DIRECTOR: MARY LORENZO  
ASSISTANT: KATHY VINCENT**

Dear Families,

This document is a compilation of the Mission Statement, philosophy and policies of the St. Joseph Religious Education program. It is an important document so please take the time to read it and discuss it with your children.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call us at the above number.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mary Lorenzo, Director of Religious Education

**FAMILY HANDBOOK**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

St. Joseph Parish is a Catholic Community called by God to: Love, Witness, Evangelize and Serve.

**PHILOSOPHY**

The Religious Education program is committed to provide St. Joseph Catholic learning community that is an integrated part of a larger faith based parish community that is dedicated to proclaim the love of God as found in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

We support the efforts of families to provide a quality Catholic education based on Christian values. In partnership with parents, the child's primary educator, we are committed to the modeling of principles of Jesus and nurturing the child's religious, spiritual and moral growth.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

- All visitors must report to the Religious Education office (rear of the school building) during class time. Please ring the bell, identify yourself and state the purpose of your visit.
- Parents are not allowed to interrupt a class while it is in session.
- Students shall not open any entrance for any visitor.
- Written permission must be submitted for those children allowed to walk home from class.
- Medical conditions e.g.: allergies, attention problems, etc. are to be brought to the director's attention via the registration form or personal conversation

## **COMMUNICATION**

Director of Religious Education: 508-994-8679

WEB SITE: [www.sccc.org](http://www.sccc.org) (go to links)

## **SCHOOL CANCELLATION**

In the event of inclement weather, please listen to the following radio stations for specific NO SCHOOL announcements: WBSM and WFHN or a recorded message 508-994-8679. Please note that St. Joseph Religious Education program follows the schedule for Fairhaven schools for all school cancellations.

## **POLICIES**

### **ARRIVAL**

Please refer to the calendar for arrival times. Students should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before class. They should be on time and enter as described in the drop off and pick up procedures. Tardy students must ring the bell at the right side of the door to be admitted. Please check the sign on the door before dropping your children off. There will be a large sign posted if there are NO CLASSES.

### **DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES**

#### **PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE INTO THE PLAYGROUND/PARKING LOT**

For Monday afternoon classes (3:30-4:30 PM):

Please walk the First grade children into the playground/parking lot on the Homestead St. side of the school and into the lobby. When picking them up, please walk into the playground/parking lot and come to the entrance of the lobby. Please walk the Second grade children to the Spring St. entrance and walk to the Spring St. entrance to collect them.

SPRING STREET PARKING

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF

THE SPRING STREET GARAGE DRIVEWAY

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL

For Tuesday afternoon classes (3:30-4:30 PM):

Please walk the Third and Fourth grade students into the playground/parking lot on the Homestead St. side of the school. When picking them up please walk into the playground/parking lot and come to the entrance at the lobby. Please walk the Fifth and Sixth grade students to the Spring St. entrance and walk to the Spring St. entrance to collect them.

SPRING STREET PARKING

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF

THE SPRING STREET GARAGE DRIVEWAY

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL

For Tuesday evening classes (6:30-7:45 PM):

Please drop the Seventh grade students at the Homestead St. entrance of the playground/parking lot and pick them up there. Please drop the Eighth grade students at the Spring St. entrance and pick them up there.

SPRING STREET PARKING

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF

THE SPRING STREET GARAGE DRIVEWAY

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE INTO THE PLAYGROUND/PARKING LOT

## **DISMISSAL**

Please refer to the calendar for dismissal times. Kindly call or send a note if the child is to be dismissed early. When and if a child has to be dismissed during class time, it will be necessary that the parent/guardian call for the student at the office. No child will be allowed to leave on his/her own since the safety of the child is foremost. If on occasion a child will be picked up late, call the office before dismissal time.

## **ASSESSMENT**

All children will be assessed on their progress, participation and cooperation. An evaluation will be sent home to the parents regularly. Parents are welcomed to participate in these assessments.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Faith formation is a life long process. In these formative years the children have only one hour per week for this process. Attendance at each class for the whole class is important for the student's learning experience. Particularly in the sacramental preparation years good attendance is crucial. In these years if the student has more than three absences, the lessons will be sent home and completed then returned to the director. There are many choices made regarding extra curricular activities and priorities must be set. Those students preparing for sacraments (grades 1 & 2 and grades 7 & 8) must attend class and be present for all classes except for illness or other family emergency. Both school and home have the responsibility to encourage regularity of instruction. When a child is absent on a given day the parents are requested to call the office at 508 994 8679.

## **CALENDAR**

A school calendar is distributed at the beginning of the school year. A monthly calendar will be sent home. All calendars and important meetings are posted on the web site.

## **CARE OF BOOKS**

It is important that each student have a book to attain the benefit of each class. If the student loses or damages a book the family must pay to replace it.

## **CONDUCT**

Discipline is fundamental to Catholic education and Catholic life. Worthwhile discipline teaches and directs students to be loving Christians who act and react constructively and in accord with Christian charity and Gospel values. Every effort will be made to nurture individual responsibility, self-discipline and self worth. Mutual respect and courtesy are expected of all individuals at all times.

We mean to create a safe and nurturing learning environment in which all can learn and pray in peace. All classroom guidelines support the mission of the parish and the RESPECT model for behavioral expectations.

Responsibility	To be dependable: put caring for ourselves and others in the world around us into action
Excellence	To do your best and use your God given talents
Service	To perform an action to meet the needs of others
Perseverance	To do something until you get better at it; to continue with patient effort
Equality	Accepting of all; to understand and be understood, to seek justice; everyone has rights
Courage	The gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to make wise choices and bravely act on our beliefs
Trustworthy	To be truthful, dependable and honest

As a result each student is held accountable for his/her own action and must accept the consequences of those actions. The following are meant to serve as guidelines for disciplinary action.

Behaviors that may cause a parent conference:

Arguing with authority

Dangerous behavior to oneself or others

Forgery of parental or other person's signature  
Harassment of any type  
Insolence, disrespect or insubordination  
Leaving a classroom or leaving the school without permission from the teacher or the DRE  
Possession or transmission of dangerous substances or materials, weapons on parish grounds  
Profanity, crude or vulgar language  
Stealing or borrowing without permission  
Threatening, fighting, intimidating, or causing bodily harm to any person  
Vandalism

- This list is not inclusive

If a student over the course of time refuses to comply with program standards, further disciplinary action may result. The Pastor and the DRE reserve the final authority in all matters of discipline.

## **CURRICULUM**

Resources for Christian Living: *Faith First* Legacy Edition

In each of the grades 1-6 there are four units titled *We Believe (Creed)*, *We Worship (Liturgy and Sacraments)*, *We Live (Christian Morality)* and *We Pray (Prayer)*

## **GOALS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN THE DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER**

Students will:

- Review the cornerstone of Christianity-Jesus Christ, His teachings, mission and values.
- Express the value of a personal covenantal relationship to God and/or to Jesus Christ.
- Examine their own relationship with God and investigate ways to deepen that relationship.
- Demonstrate a reverence for God's revelation through a study of the Sacred Scriptures and the Sacramental life of the Catholic Church.
- Articulate an appreciation for the gift and dignity of life.
- Describe and synthesize the values of the Kingdom of God as tolerance, reverence, respect for human life, forgiveness, compassion, humility, concern for the marginalized and suffering, and a preferential option for the poor.
- Uncover the meaning of discipleship as a response to the Gospel to "act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)
- Demonstrate an ability to make sound moral decisions in light of Catholic Christian Tradition.
- Summarize and evaluate the key developments and persons within the history and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Examine primary and secondary sources that shed light on the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church.

## **GRADE ONE**

The children learn about the gift of faith. God the Father created human beings as images of Him. Jesus the Son of God became a man and lived in a family. We find our stories in the Bible. They learn about the Church year, the sacraments and the Mass. Respect for life and God's laws are presented to help the students make good choices. Different kinds of prayer are explored especially the meaning of the Our Father.

## **GRADE TWO**

Sacramental preparation is experienced through two keepsake books: Reconciliation and Eucharist. The first part of the year is spent learning about God's forgiveness and healing. The period before First Eucharist is spent learning of God's gift of a lifetime of spiritual nourishment in the sacrament of the Eucharist,

### **GRADE THREE**

The children learn that God created all things and gave it to us to care for. Mary and the stories of the women of the New Testament are explored. The Paschal Mystery as well as the work of the Holy Spirit is taught. The conversion of St Paul is introduced as well as other saints of the Church. Sunday Mass obligation is taught as well as the different parts of the Mass. The Commandments are explored more in depth. The Creeds and the Hail Mary are presented.

### **CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION GOALS GRADES ONE - THREE**

Integration of Child Maltreatment Prevention Teaching Objectives

1. God created me. He made me special. Because I am created in God's image and likeness, I must give and receive respect. (Added information to Grade 1)
2. We have families, friends and a church family to help us grow in love. (This is currently covered)
3. Safe touch makes a person feel loved and cared for. Unsafe or unwanted touch makes a person feel uncomfortable and unhappy. Unsafe and unwanted touch must be avoided or immediately reported to a parent or adult friend. (Added information to Grade 1)
4. We show respect for ourselves and others by how we talk and how we act and interact. Inappropriate language, jokes, and actions are not acceptable. The privacy of our bodies must be respected. (Added information to Grade 1; already in Grade 2)
5. Choices are important. Good choices help us be happy and bad choices on our part or others can cause great unhappiness. Sometimes other people make bad choices that hurt us and we must go for help. (Added information to Grade 1; information already included in Grades 2 and 3)
6. Small children, older children, and adults can do things or behave in ways that are wrong and sinful. These actions and behaviors can damage our bodies, our minds, and our spirits and may cause us to be unsafe. We avoid and report bad or wrong behaviors to stay safe. (Added information to Grade 1)
7. Secrets are not good and can harm us. We must tell secrets to a trusted adult. (Added information to Grade 2)
8. Games and activities should be safe, fun, and enjoyable. When they are not we must tell a trusted adult. (Added information to Grade 2)
9. We learn to tell who is a good friend and who is not. When people misuse our friendship and try to get us to do something wrong, they are not really a friend. When we are misused or mistreated we need to go to a trusted adult for help. (Added information to Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3)
10. I am surrounded by friends and family who will try to keep me safe. While there are people who make bad choices and who hurt other people, there are also good and loving people to help me. (Added information to Grade 1 and Grade 2)
11. My family and other trusted adults will listen to me and help me. I will make a list of three trusted adults I can go to with any problem, in addition to my parents and family members. My parents and I will make this list together. (Added information to Grade 1)

### **GRADE FOUR**

The students learn of the covenant God made with his people and through the Book of Samuel the living out of that covenant. Jesus life from his birth to his resurrection is explored. The children learn about living the Corporal Works of Mercy. The sacraments are ordered by service, initiation and healing. The commandments are reiterated again in more depth. Learning how we can make God the center of our lives through prayer is discussed.

### **GRADE FIVE**

Our human desires can only be realized in God and we learn this by the writings found in the scriptures. Jesus public ministry and his teachings and healings are explored. The meaning of the Body of Christ and the Marks of the church are discovered. Conscience development is discussed. The liturgical year and the sacraments are looked in view of Jesus fulfillment of the commandments. The prayer of Jesus, of Abraham, psalms and chants are learned.

## **GRADE SIX**

The Bible, Old and New Testaments are taught in depth. In light of the Old Testament, the sacraments and liturgy are reviewed. In light of the commandments our freedom to choose rightly is discussed. Jesus' ministry of service calls us to ministries of service as clergy or religious, Christian married couples or the Christian single life. A discussion of the many forms of prayer is held.

## **CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION GOALS GRADES FOUR - SIX**

Integration of Child Maltreatment Prevention Teaching Objectives

1. We are all created in the image and likeness of God. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (This is currently covered)
2. We have families, friends, and a church family to help us grow in love. (This is currently covered)
3. Safe touch makes a person feel loved and cared for. Unsafe or unwanted touch makes a person feel uncomfortable and unhappy. Unsafe and unwanted touch must be avoided or immediately reported to a parent or adult friend. (Added information to Grades 4, 5, and 6)
4. We show respect for ourselves and others by how we talk and how we act and interact. Inappropriate language, jokes, and actions are not acceptable. The privacy of our bodies must be respected. (Added information to Grades 4 and 5)
5. God gives us the gift of free will. All actions have consequences. Choices are important. We must learn how to discern the implications of the choices we make each day. When we experience the bad choices of others, we must report the offense and get help. (Currently covered; additional information added to Grades 4, 5 and 6)
6. Adults and even children sometimes engage in actions or behaviors that are wrong or sinful. The harmful consequences of these actions and behaviors can damage our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. (Currently covered; additional information added to Grades 4, 5, and 6)
7. Secrets can be harmful to us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Always question secret play, secret games, and determine how the secret helps or harms others. Report secrets to a trusted adult. (Added information to Grade 6)
8. Games and activities should be safe, fun, and enjoyable. When they are not we must tell a trusted adult. (Added to Grade 4)
9. There are many different kinds of friendship. Healthy relationships help us to understand ourselves, God, and others. Unfortunately we meet false friends who mistreat us, take advantage of us, or try to get us to do things that are wrong. This can harm us psychologically, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We must report relationships that are harmful to us. (Added information to Grades 4, 5, and 6)
10. I am surrounded by friends and family who will try to keep me safe. While there are people who make bad choices and who hurt other people, there are also good and loving people to help me. Good communication with family members and friends is important. It is also important for me to help keep younger siblings and others safe by being observant and concerned. (Added information to Grades 5 and 6)
11. Families may become overwhelmed with problems and stressors and not be able to keep children safe. They may not mean to harm their child. Families can be helped and receive support. (Added information to Grade 5)

## **GRADE SEVEN**

### **CREED AND PRAYER**

This text presents the doctrine of the Catholic Church plus the importance of prayer in our rich Catholic tradition. The lessons are presented so that the teens can know its relevance and put it into practice in their daily lives.

## **GRADE EIGHT**

### **LITURGY AND MORALITY**

The text focuses on Catholic ritual and celebration as well as the moral demands of the Gospel. Teens are challenged to apply their faith and the Church's moral teachings to the issues of the day. Confirmation preparation is integrated into the lessons of the text. Just prior to Confirmation several chapters pertinent to the sacrament are explored to emphasize the seriousness of their call to be faith filled people.

## **CHILD MALTREATMENT PREVENTION GOALS GRADE SEVEN – EIGHT**

### **Integration of Child Maltreatment Prevention Teaching Objectives**

1. We are all created in the image and likeness of God. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (This is currently covered)
2. We have families, friends, and a church family to help us grow in love. (This is currently covered)
3. Safe touch makes a person feel loved and cared for. Unsafe or unwanted touch makes a person feel uncomfortable and unhappy. Unsafe and unwanted touch must be avoided or immediately reported to a parent or adult friend. (Added information to Grades 7 and 8)
4. We show respect for ourselves and others by how we talk and how we act and interact. Inappropriate language, jokes, and actions are not acceptable. The privacy of our bodies must be respected. (Added information to Grade 8)
5. God gives us the gift of free will. All actions have consequences. Choices are important. We must learn how to discern the implications of the choices we make each day. When we experience the bad choices of others, we must report the offense and get help. (Currently covered; additional information added to Grade 7)
6. Adults and even children sometimes engage in actions or behaviors that are wrong or sinful. The harmful consequences of these actions and behaviors can damage our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. (Currently covered; additional information added to Grade 7)
7. Secrets can be harmful to us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Always question secret play, secret games, and determine how the secret helps or harms others. Report secrets to a trusted adult. (Added information to Grades 7 and 8)
8. Games and activities should be safe, fun, and enjoyable. When they are not we must tell a trusted adult. (Added to Grades 7 and 8)
9. There are many different kinds of friendship. Healthy relationships help us to understand ourselves, God, and others. Unfortunately we meet false friends who mistreat us, take advantage of us, or try to get us to do things that are wrong. This can harm us psychologically, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We must report relationships that are harmful to us. (Added information to Grades 7 and 8)
10. I am surrounded by friends and family who will try to keep me safe. While there are people who make bad choices and who hurt other people, there are also good and loving people to help me. Good communication with family members and friends is important. It is also important for me to help keep younger siblings and others safe by being observant and concerned. (Added information to Grades 7 and 8)
11. Families may become overwhelmed with problems and stressors and not be able to keep children safe. They may not mean to harm their child. Families can be helped and receive support. (Added information to Grade 7)
12. Abuse and neglect can be reported to the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. I can talk to a trusted adult if I have concerns that I or someone I know is being abused or neglected. (Added information to Grade 7)
13. My family and other trusted adults will listen to me and help me. I will make a list of three trusted adults I can go to with any problem, in addition to my parents and family members. My parents and I will make this list together. (Added information to Grade 7)

## **HOME SCHOOL**

Parents may choose to home school their child/ children. The students must be registered and fees paid. These students will be assessed regularly by the parent and DRE.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Religious Education office hours are scheduled during class time Mondays and Tuesdays. You may leave a message on the voice mail at other times or send a written message.

## **PERSONAL ITEMS**

Any items displaying immoral and/or unchristian words, characters or logos are inappropriate for young people in a Catholic Christian environment. Any student not in full compliance may be excluded from class until the parent has come to school to pick up the item. Since the school is not responsible for lost, missing or broken belongings, the students are not permitted to bring items of value, i.e. large sums of money, audio devices, cell phones, etc.

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

As a means of maintaining positive communication with each family, all classroom children will be provided with a monthly calendar last day of class for the month. We encourage each family to ask your child for the calendar and review any information that is contained therein. Home study families can find the calendar on the web page. Other notices may be sent whenever needed. Parents are expected to attend one meeting per year at the beginning of classes. If the student is preparing for a Sacrament additional meetings will be held during the year.

## **PARENT CONFERENCES**

Conferences may be scheduled by making a request to the DRE and you child's teacher.

## **REGISTRATION**

Parents will complete a registration form that requests pertinent medical, physical, emotional and academic needs. A baptismal certificate is required the first time a student attends St. Joseph Religious education program. If the child has been baptized at St. Joseph, none is needed. Each family is expected to remit the designated fees with the application. An alternative monthly payment plan is available.

## **RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**

St. Joseph Religious Education program offers liturgies, prayer experiences and sacramental preparation to foster each child's development of faith and Catholic values. Special events will be noted on the monthly calendar.

**Revised 10/01/07**

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
100 SPRING STREET  
FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719  
508-994-8679

Your acknowledgement and signature will be kept on file for the duration of your child's enrollment or until an updated handbook is published. This document should be retained for ongoing review with your child.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_