

Mission Statement

As a faith-filled community, we grow in spirituality through prayer, respect for family, support of education and acceptance of all. By the wisdom of our past and the energy of God's Spirit for our future, we demonstrate being alive in Christ through the sharing of our faith.

St. Theodore Parish

5059 Hwy. P

Wentzville, MO 63385

636-332-9269x283

PSR Coordinator, Erika Haydon

psr@sainttheodore.org

St. Theodore Parish School of Religion 2024-2025 Parent Handbook



Philosophy of Education in the Archdiocese

Catholic education is an expression of the teaching ministry of the church, organized to promote human development in response to the Gospel. It fosters growth in all individual and social human dimensions—spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and physical—through a ministry embracing a message of faith, taught and lived in community, and reaching out in service to others. God entrusts children to parents who have a primary right and duty to educate their children in the practice of their faith.

The desired outcome of Catholic education includes: “personal sanctification and social reform in the light of Christian values.” (TTJD) The development of a positive self-concept and moral values are sought. The religious training is provided to deepen an understanding of the faith experience.

Goal

- To have the students of St. Theodore Parish develop a personal relationship with God.
- To provide various prayer experiences for the students and parents, including both private and public forms of prayer.
- To have students obtain knowledge of the basic doctrines of the Catholic Faith; of its history, tradition, and liturgical rites and to understand how they can serve God and grow in appreciation of His love through instruction from and witnessing of catechist.
- To have the students fully participate in the communal, sacramental, and liturgical life of the church, especially the celebration of the Eucharist.
- To seek and implement strategies to involve parents in the religious formation of their children.
- To help the students respond to God’s grace by exhibiting kindness, concern and love for fellow human beings in their family, community and throughout the world.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival- Enter the parking lot near the rectory, drive around the back of the church and school, and when the doors by the cafeteria open at 6:10pm students may enter the building. The doors will remain open until 6:20pm. If you arrive after 6:20pm, you will need to walk your student to the front doors of the school and press the intercom button.

Dismissal- Parents will pull in on the driveway next to the rectory and park in long rows facing the soccer fields. We typically fill about 4 or 5 rows. The

cemetery will be on your right and the school building on your left. Children will be dismissed from the rear building doors at 7:30pm, immediately following closing prayer on the intercom. Parents should get out of their car and go pick up their child from their teacher. Cars will not be dismissed from the lot until all children are safely in vehicles

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and activities scheduled for them by the parish school of religion. A student who is not present at a scheduled session is designated “absent.” Teachers will keep weekly records of attendance for the student’s permanent file during the time of enrollment in the parish school of religion.

Regular attendance and punctuality are necessary if a child is to make satisfactory progress. It is important that students miss class only for a serious reason. Athletic activities, scouting events, birthday parties, dance classes etc. will not be a valid excuse for a child’s absence. **If your student is unable to attend class due to illness or family emergency, please notify Mrs. Haydon. It is best to call my cell number or text me at 636-544-0495. If I am unable to answer, please leave a message. If you would like a call back, please include that in your message. You can also call the PSR office at 636-332-9269x283 or email psr@sainttheodore.org.** Give the student’s name, grade and teacher’s name. Also, with the Faith and Life series, each grade has a Family Guide. We will be using these to help you understand what your child is learning. If your child is absent, the teacher may send home the lesson for the evening that you are requested to complete with your child before returning to the next class so they do not miss some of the important lessons they need to learn.

Early dismissal of a student will be permitted only after checking into the office. Students will not be released from PSR class without the knowledge and consent of parents and guardians. Please arrive at the front of the school building and use the door on the far left (as you are facing the building) and press the intercom button.

Books and Supplies

Textbooks and activity books are provided for all students at the beginning of the year. Students will not need to bring any school supplies to class. Students are expected to take his/her text or activity book home each week so that the

family has the opportunity to complete assignments at home, if needed, and so you can keep up with what your child is learning.

Each child must assume responsibility for his/her books. The student must pay for the loss of any books. Three appearances at class without a book will constitute a loss and will be subject to a reimbursement fee of \$20.00. We are using the Faith and Life by Ignatius Press. The children will have both a text and activity book for the Faith and Life series. We will use the Dynamic Catholic Series called DECISION POINT as a supplement for Confirmation preparation for the 8th grade.

Class Time

Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 PM

Discipline/Conduct

The catechist, with the support of the parents, challenges the young person to grow in the Christian faith, attitudes, values and behavior and to develop a healthy Christian acceptance and respect of self, others, and property.

Students are expected to follow all explicit and implicit rules of the school and to accept the consequences for failure to do so.

- At all times respect will be shown to teachers and fellow students.
- Textbooks, school supplies and property are to be treated with proper care.
- Contents of desks are not to be disturbed.
- Hats and gum chewing are not allowed.
- Food and drink will be allowed only for special class parties that are approved by the Coordinator.

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress and present an appearance consistent with standards of good taste and appropriate for the Parish School of Religion. Any dress or wearing of insignia which conveys the image of gang membership, supports the beliefs of hate groups, makes sexual innuendos, or promotes drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is inappropriate for school and will not be allowed.

Electronic Communications Devices and Applications

All tablets, e-readers, cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, laser pointers and all other electronic devices are not to be used or visible during PSR.

Emergency Closings

If Wentzville and St. Theodore full time schools close due to weather conditions, there will be no PSR classes. If St. Theodore full time school is open, but Wentzville is closed, PSR may not be canceled. PSR closing will be emailed to the parents or you will receive a call.

Sacramental Programs

The sacramental program is designed with a focus on family participation and celebration. The school aids the parents in preparing their children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in second grade and Confirmation in eighth grade.

Preparation for Eucharist and Reconciliation actually begins in First Grade; preparation for Confirmation is ongoing from that time. It is very important for students to be active in PSR classes during these elementary through middle school years. It is absolutely necessary that students preparing for the reception of sacraments attend class regularly, complete all assignments promptly, and participate fully in the process.

In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the normal time for children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time is the first semester of the Second grade. Preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion will begin after the catechesis and celebration of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation has been completed. The celebration of First Communion should be in the second semester of second grade. The established time for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is eighth grade.

PLEASE USE THESE PRAYERS LISTED BELOW AT HOME ON A REGULAR BASIS. It will help your child become comfortable with basic Catholic Prayers.

The Sign of the Cross

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

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.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women 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.

Glory Be

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.

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.

Prayer Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and there your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty, through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Law of Love or God's Two Greatest Commandments

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39)

This page just contains basic facts the children should know by heart by the time they are in junior high.

Sacraments of the Church

Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

- Matrimony
- Holy Orders

Precepts of the Church

- You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- You shall receive the Sacrament of Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
- You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
- You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Ten Commandments

- I. You shall honor no other God but me.
- II. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- III. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath.
- IV. Honor your father and your mother.
- V. You shall not kill.
- VI. You shall not commit adultery.
- VII. You shall not steal.
- VIII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- X. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Apostle's 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; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence he will 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. Amen.

Rosary

The complete rosary is composed of twenty decades, divided into four distinct parts, each containing five decades. The first part consists of five joyful events in the life of Jesus and Mary, the second part recalls five sorrowful events, the 3rd part are the mysteries of light or luminous mysteries. These celebrate important events in Jesus' life. Finally, we have the Glorious mysteries which celebrate the Resurrection, Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption of Mary, and the Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

We begin by making the Sign of the Cross. Then we say the Apostle's Creed, one Our Father, three Hail Mary's and one Glory to the Father on the small chain. Then recall the first mystery, say one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory to the Father. This completes one decade. All the other decades are completed in the same manner, with a different mystery meditated upon during each decade. At the end of the rosary, the Hail Holy Queen may be recited. Most people say the mysteries according to days of the week. Usually the Joyful mysteries are said on Mondays and Saturdays, the Sorrowful mysteries are said on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the Glorious mysteries are said on Sundays.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us O holy

mother of God. Response: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Holy Days of Obligation

January 1: Mary, Mother of God

November 1: All Saints

Thursday the Sixth Week of Easter:
Ascension

December 8: Immaculate Conception

August 15: Assumption

December 25: Christmas

These can vary if they occur on a Sunday or the day before. The parish priest can announce that as the Holy Days are celebrated.

Contact Information

Erika Haydon, Coordinator

Parish School of Religion

psr@sainttheodore.org

636-544-0495 (cell)

636-332-9269x283