

# School Of Religion

## September Newsletter

### 911 Prayer

Almighty God, the year of 2001 will be indelibly inscribed in our memories.

We looked with horror on the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. But we looked with honor on acts of courage by ordinary people who sacrificed themselves to prevent further death and destruction.

We shed our tears in a common bond of grief for those we loved and lost. We journeyed through a dark valley, but your light has led us to a place of hope. You have turned our grief into determination. We are resolved to do what is good, and right, and just.

Help us to remember what it means to be Americans—a people endowed with abundant blessings. Help us to cherish the freedoms we enjoy and inspire us to stand with courage, united as one Nation in the midst of any adversity.

Lord, hear this prayer for our Nation as we remember 9/11.  
Amen.



# Welcome Back



## Parking lot schedule

### September 12

Aguirre, Aldape,  
Alexander, Amedio,  
Amesquita, Anderson

### September 19

Arenz, Barajas, Barton,  
Bautista, Benson,  
Bradley

### September 26

Brendich, Brusek,  
Burchett, H Burke,  
K Burke, M Burke

## Cultivating The Best In Ourselves

*"I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt".—Jeremiah 31:4*

Commit yourself to daily growth. Day by day consider ways to cultivate the best in yourself. Here are some simple suggestions for enriching your life and that of your children:

*Pray and meditate.* Make time to heighten spiritual awareness. This can be done quietly in the privacy of your home or during a lunch hour walk. Ask God for the desire and strength to do what is right.

*Be gentle with yourself.* Avoid the twin demons of self-pity and inappropriate shame or guilt.

*Concentrate on the present.* Learn from the past, but don't dwell on it. Do not allow yourself to become imprisoned by past events and actions.

*Focus on the future.* Remember that God can help you take charge of your life. No matter what has happened to us, God's intention is to "build you up again."

*Reflect on virtues.* Cultivate daily virtues such as compassion, honesty, respect. Read about people in whose lives such virtues were preeminent. Some good individuals to start with could include Albert Schweitzer and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

*Act on virtues.* Seek ways, both simple and demanding, to spread kindness, compassion, honesty, and love.

*Solve problems.* Consider using your talent, insight, wisdom, and energy to solve problems, not to run from difficult situations.

*Learn from others.* Observe good people. Praise and imitate their virtues.

*Have fun.* Read a book for pure pleasure. Play a sport. Enjoy a hobby. Take a walk.

*Study the Bible.* Learn more about Jesus. Go to Mass and receive the Eucharist.

This year our students will concentrate on the Liturgy—attending weekly Mass is vital for their spiritual growth. Make it your goal this year to pray together with your child at Mass. Help your children; pray with them, let them see you pray.



#### Dates to Remember

- ✓ September 11, Mass in Duffy Park at 11 a.m.
- ✓ September 12, classes begin
- ✓ September 18, Catechetical Sunday; CLW begins
- ✓ September 19, Prayer Service
- ✓ September 26, New Parent Meeting

## Liturgy

will be our emphasis this year.

Parents, mark your calendar for a special class for you and your student; Monday, October 17. You are invited to attend class with their students to learn about the Roman Missal changes that will begin the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, November 27.

Parents and students will meet in Briody Hall at regular class times, 5:30 or 7 p.m.

## Help Wanted

Come and be a committed Catholic and share your many gifts. We have some opportunities:

- ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> grade catechist - last session 7 - 8:15 p.m.
- ✓ There are also a few aide positions available

Thank you parents for saying "Yes" to the call to serve your parish helping the School of Religion. Together with 28 catechists, 25 aides, 6 faith companions for the CARE group, 4 office helpers, 2 parking lot supervisors, and numerous other volunteers you have answered the call. Bless you all.

We're **GREEN**—everything about us is online—Handbook, Calendar—Lesson Plans—Sacramental Prep—Newsletters—to name a few! Visit us at [www.mostholyredeemer.org](http://www.mostholyredeemer.org) and click on the School of Religion. If you would like a hard copy of our Newsletters, please let us know.

SchoolReach will continue to keep you informed about all upcoming events. As usual you are required to call when your student will be absent. We will call you if you forget.

All prayer services and Masses will begin in Church. Parents are always invited to accompany their students, stay, and pray. Sit in the grade level section in Church; the catechists will gather students after the service and process to school.

Second session students will line up in the parking lot next to the west doors of the school. Parents will assist with this and traffic control.

**MOST HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH**

9525 South Lawndale Avenue  
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805-2128

September 1, 2011

Dear Parent(s),

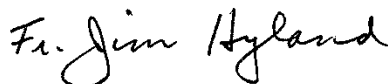
For many years, the practice here at Most Holy Redeemer has been for students to receive the Sacrament of Penance, or Reconciliation, for the first time when they are in the fourth grade. Among the reasons for waiting until fourth grade were that the children would understand the sacrament better when they were a little older, and that by separating Penance from First Holy Communion more attention could be given to the preparation for Penance.

While this practice has served us well, the Code of Canon Law and the most recent directives from the Archdiocese of Chicago make it clear that the reception of the Sacrament of Penance is to precede the reception of First Holy Communion. To comply with Canon Law and the Archdiocesan guidelines, this coming year we will begin the process of moving First Reconciliation from fourth grade to second grade.

This move will take place over the next three years. This year, students in fourth grade will have their First Reconciliation as they normally do. However, the third grade students will also receive this sacrament for the first time this year. Next year, students in third grade and second grade will receive Reconciliation for the first time. The following year, the celebration First Reconciliation will take place only in second grade.

This letter is to inform you about this change and why we are doing it. I hope we will have your support and cooperation as we make this change in our practice here at Most Holy Redeemer.

In Christ,



Fr. Jim Hyland  
Pastor

## Most Holy Redeemer Liturgy Guidelines

To facilitate the process of working on these guidelines, we are asking all who are involved in the formation of our children to concentrate on a few simple things at each liturgy.

### ENTRANCE

We want our children to have a growing appreciation of sacred space and sacred time. To facilitate this we are asking the following:

- A. All children should bless themselves with Holy Water when entering the church. It is helpful to explain that this is a reminder of their Baptism.
- B. The children will genuflect (toward the tabernacle) when entering and leaving church. The reasons presented should include the following:
  - a. Genuflecting is a sign of respect.
  - b. The Blessed Sacrament (Jesus) is in the tabernacle.
- C. When in their pew they should kneel to pray for a few minutes, before they sit down.

### PARTICIPATION

The Liturgy is a participatory event. All of us (priests, musicians, parents, teachers, catechists, etc.) must work to foster participation at Mass.

### EUCCHARIST

We need to continue to foster reverence for the Eucharist. Please remind children of the following:

- A. Children should be reminded to bow before reception of Holy Communion as a sign of respect.
- B. Children should kneel after reception to say a prayer. Again, the teachers may know an appropriate prayer for them to say.

These are areas that we will work on when we attend Mass or prayer services, and we hope you can remind your children when you attend Mass. Together we can make a difference in your child's spiritual life.

### Children's Liturgy Of The Word



All 4 - 10 year olds are invited to attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the Sunday 9:30 and 11 a.m. Masses. Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin Sunday, September 18.

Parents, encourage your child to go and hear the scripture stories of the week in a way they can relate to. Children's Liturgy of the Word helps the children see that Jesus came to show us who God is.

The celebrant will call the children to the altar rail right after the opening prayer. The children will process to Adamich Hall to hear the Word. They will return to the big church during the collection.

If you are interested in helping out once a month or have any questions, please call Arlene Astrowski at 346.8185 ext 226.

# School of Religion Choir



Dear Parents of the School of Religion,

With the new school year approaching, we are inviting any boy or girl in grades 3 - 8 to join our School of Religion Choir here at Most Holy Redeemer. We will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 27, from 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. in Adamich Hall. This choir will combine with the school choir and sing at the Family Masses and other special Masses during the year.

This is a great opportunity for your child to participate in weekend liturgies and also to meet and socialize with other children from the parish. We do expect your child to come to all the practices and to participate fully in all of our liturgies. Good behavior is always expected.

I hope to see many children at our first practice on Tuesday, September 27. Please bring the permission slip to the first rehearsal.

Thank you,

Christine Rojek  
Choir Director

## Permission Form

+++++

I will allow my son or daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to join the School of Religion Choir at Most Holy Redeemer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Please print email address so you can be contacted with Choir updates.

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

# What to expect in the coming year at a glance...

All children will be using a new series called "Finding God" by Loyola Press

## Grade 1

In class the students will begin to learn more about God's love and the Sacrament of Baptism, which makes us part of God's family. One main goal is to learn about the Holy Trinity.

We will also work on the prayers that you will be teaching at home. They will hear stories about Jesus and His Apostles. We will be going to church to practice the procedures of worship.

Your students will all be part of our "Christmas Pageant".

## Grade 2

In class the students will begin to learn more about God's love and being good Christians. One of our main goals is to learn about the Eucharist.

We will review prayers covered in 1st grade and learn the Act of Contrition, Grace Before Meals, the Eucharistic Prayer, the Great Commandment, and the Ten Commandments. It is very important that you practice these prayers with your child(ren).

Our focus will be to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion by visiting church, attending prayer services, reading from the Bible, studying the Mass, and the way to worship in church.

Mass attendance is necessary so that your child will understand the liturgy.



*it is utmost to our development in faith.*

## Grade 3

In class the students will continue to learn more about the Rosary, Apostles Creed, and the parts of the Mass. **Our main goal is to learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

To help enhance the growth in this area, their book will have a supplement to help ready them to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in March.

Our students will all be part of the "Living Rosary" and make special ornaments (Chrismas) for our tree at Christmas.

## Grade 4

In class the students will begin to learn more about Reconciliation. One of our main goals is to learn about our loving and forgiving relationship with God. The students will also review the Ten Commandments, the Sacraments, and the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy.

Many of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be part of the "Living Stations of the Cross."

The students will also be practicing Mass procedures as often as possible.

## Grade 5

In class the students will continue to learn more about the Mass, Saints, and Scripture. One of our main goals is to learn about their individual roles in the Sacraments.

To help learn more about our church, a saint project will be assigned to each student. The assignment may consist of:

Identifying Saint qualities in themselves and others

Examining their Saint's teachings, lifestyle, and commitment to God

Writing a one page report on a saint or making a poster

This report will be presented in Church on November 7 in honor of All Saints Day. Symbols and props are encouraged.

## Grade 6

In class the students will delve into the Bible. One of our main goals is to learn about Jesus in Scripture.

To help enhance the growth in the area, the Passover Meal will be a project that the students will be involved in. Other assignments may consist of:

Scripture search

Journal writing

Quizzes

Bible Book Report

Passover Meal and report during Lent



*it is utmost to our development in faith.*

## Grade 7

The junior high series, *"Finding God - Following Jesus"* presents the teachings of the Catholic faith in a manner appealing to young people staying true to scripture and the teachings of the Church.

In class the students will continue to learn more:

about the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

the person of Jesus Christ and his liberating good news of salvation.

living as Christians in the world through mission and action.

on reflecting on personal experience in light of growing in relationship with God.

about a full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgical life of the Church.

about a climate of prayer and nurtured in a faith that is expressed in prayer.

One other goal is the beginning stage of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, through journaling, service to family and friends, and attending weekly Mass. Our special projects are *"Candle Light Rosary"* and a NET retreat..

## Grade 8

The junior high series, *"Finding God - Celebrating Church"* presents the teachings of the Catholic faith in a manner appealing to young people staying true to scripture and the teachings of the Church.

In class the students will continue to learn more:

- ✓ about the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ the person of Jesus Christ and his liberating good news of salvation.
- ✓ living as Christians in the world through mission and action.
- ✓ reflecting on personal experience in light of growing in relationship with God.
- ✓ conscious, and active participation in the liturgical life of the Church.
- ✓ about a climate of prayer and nurtured in a faith that is expressed in prayer.

Another goal will be to learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is done through participation in four intensive classes on the sacrament. Our special projects are *"Living Stations of the Cross"*, Confirmation, and a NET retreat.

The students will also be practicing Mass procedures as often as possible.

# Photo/Academic Work Permission Form

On occasion, Most Holy Redeemer School of Religion uses photos and/or academic work of students in parish publications to share information about our program. Publications include, but are not limited to: the website, advertisements, annual reports, posters, newsletters, parish bulletins, and other public relations material.

In addition, local new organizations may hear of our activities or events, and our program may invite or allow them to photograph or record our events.

Our policy does not allow the release of residential addresses, email addresses, or phone numbers, and only first names might accompany certain photos.

**Please check and sign below:**

My child's photo, first name, and academic work may be published in any format including group or individual photos.

My child's photo, first name, and academic work may **NOT** be published in any format including group or individual photos.

**Please print:**

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

This form will remain in effect until the parent/guardian requests a change in writing.

**If you do not return this form by Monday, September 19, 2011, it will be understood that you give permission for your child's photo, name, and academic work to be included in any form of communication.**

# For The Safety Of All The Children




Due to the concerns for our parking lot safety, we need your help. Each Monday night families will be assigned to help keep the children safe. All families will have only one time to help; if you cannot make your assigned night, trade with another family. As always thank you for placing the safety and religious education of your child(ren) first and foremost.

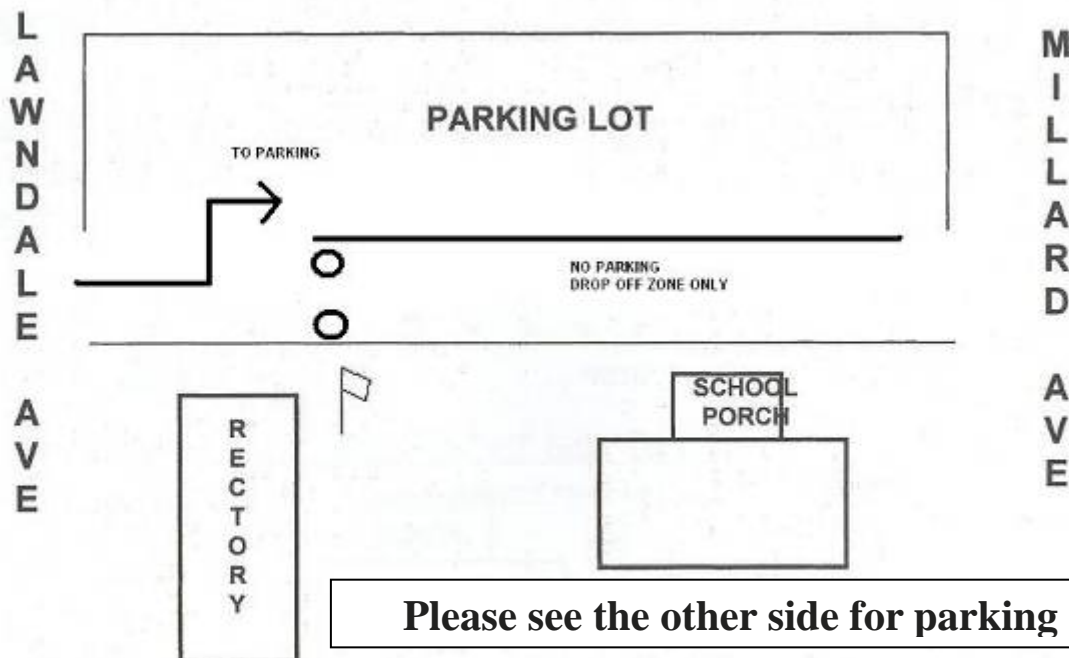
**Drop off procedure at 5:30 p.m.**

1. Enter the parking lot from **LAWNDALE Avenue ONLY**.
2. Pull ahead as far as possible in the drop off zone.
3. Children should exit from the passenger side only.
4. Exit on **MILLARD ONLY**.

**Pick up at 6:45 and 8:15 p.m. AND Drop off at 7 p.m.**

1. Enter the parking lot from **LAWNDALE Avenue ONLY**.
2. If dropping off only, pull ahead as far as possible in the drop off zone.
3. If picking up, you must park in the lot on the north side of the yellow lines.
4. **THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE DROP OFF ZONE.**
5. Exit on **MILLARD ONLY**.

-  For the safety of all the children, please drive slowly and carefully and follow these parking lot instructions.
-  If carpooling, please share this information with the other drivers.
-  Please follow crowd control volunteers.



## Buy Gecko-Pay Your Tuition

Gecko is a fund raising program that benefits families and the MHR SOR.

By purchasing gift cards, families receive one half the card's discount towards their tuition. The other half of the discount is passed directly to the School of Religion.

<u>Children</u>	<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Monthly Gecko Purchases</u>
One	\$220	\$900
Two	\$330	\$1400
Three	\$380	\$1600

While the purchase commitments might appear daunting, they're not. Twenty-eight parish families purchased at this level last year.

Gecko's vendors provide goods and services you purchase every day. Have your shopping help pay tuition!

**Supermarkets**=Jewel, Ultra Foods, Pete's Market, County Fair, Freshline, etc.

**General Retail**=Kohl's, Wal\*Mart, JC Penny, GAP/Old Navy, K-Mart, etc.

**Restaurants**=Barraco's, Lettuce Entertain You, Louie's Chophouse, Palermos, etc.

**Home Improvement**=Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Menard's, Lowe's, etc.

**Fast Food**=Pappy's, Panera Bread, Dunkin Donuts, Oberweis, Subway, etc.

**Health & Beauty**=Walgreen's, CVS, Everything's Relative, New Day Spa, etc.

**Services**=Garden Cleaners, Park Cleaners, Jiffy Lube, Shell, Speedway, etc.

**Sales Hours @ the Rectory**

Tuesday-8AM-9AM

Thursday-7PM-8PM

Saturday-9:30-10:30AM

### AN INVITATION

Christ welcomes all to his church but he depends upon *us* to extend the personal invitation to 'come and see.' It was Andrew who invited his brother Peter, and Phillip who brought his friend Bartholomew to meet Jesus. Is there someone whom you know, perhaps a relative or friend, that is simply waiting for the invitation to become a Catholic?

**The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Program** is designed for those interested in becoming Catholic and those who have been baptized Catholic but have not received the Eucharist/Communion or Confirmation.

The Program is divided into four sections. The first section, *Inquiry* provides an opportunity to ask whatever questions one may have about the faith and to learn some of the traditions, history and teachings of the Catholic Church before deciding whether or not to continue in the Program.

This year classes will begin at the end of September from 7-9 pm in the Convent Community Room.

If you want to learn more about the process give us a call. We will be glad to answer any of your questions. Steve and Winnie Ligda 636-7862.