

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades Pre-K through 4

Parent Handbook 2025–2026

## Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Mark Schuster

**Catechists:**  **TEACHING IS A  
WORK OF HEART**

- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 1:** Terri Shaffer, Marsha Van Sickle
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 2:** Nina Gouge
- **Kindergarten:** Sarah Clarke
- **Grade 1:** Brooke Bratta
- **Grade 2:** Donna Syler, Filipina Phan
- **Grade 3:** Diane Below
- **Grade 4:** Lynne Szajkowski

**Director of Religious Education:**  
Julie Radachy (dre@sjnknox.org)

## Curriculum

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 (Pre-K) and Level 2 (Grades 1–3) use a Montessori (hands-on) approach to learning our Catholic faith.

Kindergarten through Grade 4 uses *Word of Life* published by Augustine Institute. This series uses salvation history, Christian anthropology, heroic virtue and character formation, and learning through discipleship to help students learn about the faith.

## Class Times

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 2:**

Wednesdays 6:00–7:30 pm

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Level 1 and Grades K–4:**

Sundays 9:40–10:20 am

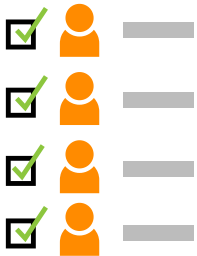


Parents, check the hallway TVs each Sunday to see what is being covered in your child's class that day. Then, introduce a discussion at home with what you saw on the **What is my child learning today?** screen.



**Our theme of the year  
is APE =  
Always Pray Every  
Day!**

#### ATTENDANCE



It is expected that absences be kept to a minimum. Notifying Julie is appreciated if your child must be absent.

**Arriving to class and  
picking up your child on time is important.**

Children must be dropped off at the classroom and signed out at dismissal.

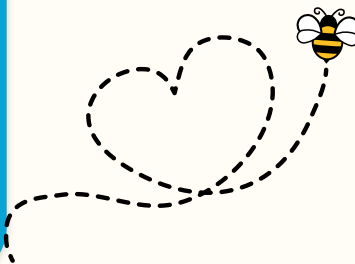


Catechetical Sunday is on Sunday, September 21 this year. More details will be coming about how you can celebrate your catechist!



#### Behavior

We expect that all students will conduct themselves in a caring, responsible and respectful manner. Parents will be notified if a serious or consistent discipline problem occurs.



**“God sees every one of us; He creates every soul for a purpose.”**

-- St. John Neumann

## Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, every effort will be made to announce cancellation of classes. When in doubt, please err on the side of safety.

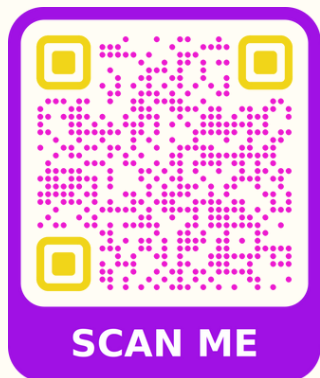


## God's Team Day

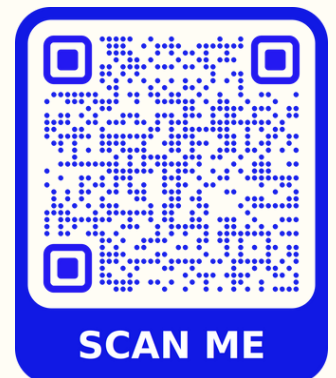
There will be a God's Team Day during the school year! It will consist of 8:30 Mass (students can sit with their families or with a class group), faith formation, and activities for all ages!



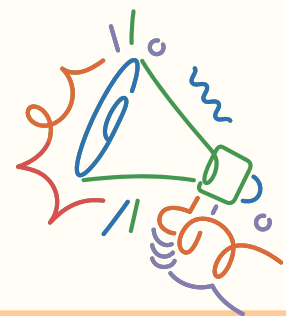
*Instagram*



*Facebook*



## GroupMe for SJN Religious Education Parents



Be sure to check out our newly-designed Religious Education page, too!



# CLASS CALENDAR (SUNDAYS)

## September

September 7: Opening Mass (8:30) and Class (9:40-10:20)

September 14: Class

September 21: Class

September 28: Class

## October

October 5: No Class (Fall Break)

October 12: No Class (Fall Break)

October 19: Class

October 26: God's Team Day (8:30 Mass with Extended Religious Education Class with pickup at 11:30 am)

## November

November 2: Class

November 9: Class

November 16: Class

November 23: Class

November 30: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

## December

December 7: Class

December 14: Class

December 21: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

December 28: No Class (Christmas Vacation)





# CLASS CALENDAR (SUNDAYS)

## January

January 4: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

January 11: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

January 18: No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend)

January 25: Class

## February

February 1: Class

February 8: Class

February 15: Class

February 22: Class

## April

April 5: No Class (Easter)

April 12: Class

April 19: Class

April 26: Class

## March

March 1: Class

March 8: No Class (Spring Break)

March 15: No Class (Spring Break)

March 22: Class

March 29: Class

## May

May 3: Last Day of Class  
for All Programs: May  
Crowning beginning at  
9:40 am--parents and  
siblings welcome!





# CLASS CALENDAR (WEDNESDAYS)

## September

September 10: Class

September 17: Class

September 24: Class

## October

October 1: Class

October 8 : No Class (Fall Break)

October 15 : No Class (Fall Break)

October 22: Class

October 29: Class

## November

November 5: Class

November 12: Class

November 19: Class

November 26: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

## December

December 3: Class

December 10: Class

December 17: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

December 24: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

December 31: No Class (Christmas Vacation)





# CLASS CALENDAR (WEDNESDAYS)

## January

January 7: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

January 14: No Class (Christmas Vacation)

January 21: Class

January 28: Class

## February

February 4: Class

February 11: Class

February 18: Class

February 25: Class

## March

March 4: Class

March 11: No Class (Spring Break)

March 18: No Class (Spring Break)

March 25: Class

## April

April 1: Class

April 8: No Class (Easter)

April 15: Class

April 22: Class

April 29: Class

## May

May 3: Last Day of Class  
for All Programs: May  
Crowning beginning at 9:40  
am--parents and siblings  
welcome!

