

Religious Education Parent Handbook 2026-2027

Grades Pre-K through 5



STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Mark Schuster

Catechists:

- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 1:** Terri Shaffer
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 2:** Nina Gouge
- **Kindergarten:** Courtney Ferrara
- **Grade 1:** Brooke Bratta
- **Grade 2:** Angelina Cicero, Marsha Van Sickle
- **Grade 3:** Diane Below
- **Grade 4:** Lynne Szajkowski
- **Grade 5:** Tam Aldrup

Director of Religious Education:
Maria Schroeder
(mschroeder@sjncs-knox.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.

Grade 5 will prepare students for Confirmation and continue learning 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 (Pre-K) and RE Grades K-5:

Sundays 9:45-10:45 am

Theme of the Year

Our theme of the year is “Faith Gives Us Courage!” A lion is often depicted as a Christian symbol of divine strength and fearlessness! This theme also coincides with the Youth Ministry theme and saint of the year.



Attendance Policy

It is expected that absences be kept to a minimum. Notifying Maria via email 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.

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.

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.

SJN Religious Education Parents 26-27

GroupMe

Please join the “SJN Religious Education Parents 26-27 GroupMe to be notified about Religious Education throughout the year.

https://groupme.com/join_group/116225874/CqeOxV6J



Scan QR Code or click on the link to join the GroupMe for this school year.

Sunday Class Calendar

September 13: Class

September 20: Class

September 27: Class

October 4: **NO CLASS: FALL BREAK**

October 11: **NO CLASS: FALL BREAK**

October 18: Class

October 25: Class

November 1: Class

November 8: Class

November 15: Class

November 22: **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK**

November 29: **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK**

December 6: Class

December 13: Class

December 20: **NO CLASS: CHRISTMAS VACATION / MLK WEEKEND**
December 27: **NO CLASS: CHRISTMAS VACATION / MLK WEEKEND**
January 3: **NO CLASS: CHRISTMAS VACATION / MLK WEEKEND**
January 10: **NO CLASS: CHRISTMAS VACATION / MLK WEEKEND**
January 17: **NO CLASS: CHRISTMAS VACATION / MLK WEEKEND**
January 24: Class
January 31: Class
February 7: Class
February 14: Class
February 21: Class
February 28: Class
March 7: **NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**
March 14: **NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**
March 21: Class
March 28: **NO CLASS: EASTER SUNDAY**
April 4: Class
April 11: **NO CLASS: FIRST COMMUNION**
April 18: Class
April 25: Class
May 2: **MAY CROWNING**

Wednesday Class Calendar

September 16: Class
September 23: Class
September 30: Class
October 7: **NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)**
October 14: **NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)**
October 21: Class
October 28: Class
November 4: Class

November 11: Class

November 18: Class

November 25: **NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)**

December 2: **NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)**

December 9: Class

December 16: Class

December 23: **NO CLASS (CHRISTMAS/MLK)**

December 30: **NO CLASS (CHRISTMAS/MLK)**

January 6: **NO CLASS (CHRISTMAS/MLK)**

January 13: **NO CLASS (CHRISTMAS/MLK)**

January 20: Class

January 27: Class

February 3: Class

February 10: Class

February 17: Class

February 24: Class

March 3: **NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)**

March 10: **NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)**

March 17: Class

March 24: Class

March 31: **NO CLASS (EASTER)**

April 7: Class

April 14: Class

April 21: Class

April 28: Class

SUNDAY MORNING: May 2

May Crowning