

Religion

- **Kindergarten** - Children will master the Our Father, Sign of the Cross and the Hail Mary prayers. Children will be introduced to St. Francis, St. Nicholas, St. Isadore and Maria, and St. Patrick. They will learn several Old and New Testament bible stories such as the Christmas, Easter, Jonah, Noah, feeding the 5000 and wedding feast of Cana stories. Baptism is introduced. We will be involved in some service projects.

Children gain communication skills with character education as they learn to identify feelings, solve problems and get along with others.

- **First Grade** - Our religious studies include specific prayers (Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary), the liturgical year, theology, scripture, and our Catholic heritage. The upcoming Sunday scripture is highlighted in the weekly Promise magazine.

Second Step is introduced to help children improve their social skills, by learning how to respond emphatically to others and practice skill steps for calming down, reducing anger and solving problems.

- **Second Grade** - The most eagerly anticipated goals of the second grade Religion program is receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. You will receive more information regarding these from the OLOL parish Religious Education staff. In order to prepare for the sacraments, we will focus our study in class on the life of Jesus (Jesus, My Best Friend) along with learning about the church year, the special times of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter as well as the parts of the mass, the lives of saints, and character education. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved on the planning of some of our school liturgies.

Second Step education continues to help children become socially competent, form healthy relationships, and develop strong bonds in school.

- **Third Grade** - The third grade religion classes focus on “We are the Church”. Study includes Jesus on earth, God’s love, the power of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the early Church. We study the Church Year, our membership in the Church, Marks of the Church, and the parish as our home where we serve, worship, and care for others. We study the Mass and the Sacraments. Third graders learn about the Easter Season and our call to discipleship and pray the rosary.

Steps to Respect is introduced to help children solve the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program integrates bullying prevention into academics with various activities for all subject areas.

- **Fourth Grade** – Jesus taught us how to live and in 4th grade we learn how to become disciples of Jesus and spread the Word of God. We focus on following the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. We also study sin and forgiveness through Reconciliation.

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- **Fifth Grade** - The fifth grade Religion classes study the mission of the Church, the sacraments, saints, and the liturgical year with the use of our textbook. Students are introduced to bible studies. Following the liturgical year, we read and study Bible stories from the Old Testament dealing with the promise of a Messiah. We then read and study bible stories from the New Testament dealing with the Life of Christ.

Steps to Respect education continues to engage children in solving the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program integrates bullying prevention into academics with various activities for all subject areas.

Middle School (Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades) -

- **RELIGION 6**

The Old Testament is the main focus of sixth grade religion classes. Students explore the bible, our covenant with God, the scripture heroes and prophets and how we live by faith. The final unit is devoted to the connection between the Old Testament and Jesus. Students are given opportunities to try various prayer forms, service projects and proclaiming the Word.

Steps to Respect education continues to help children solve the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program teaches prosocial skills – empathy, problem solving and emotion management – that help children succeed both socially and academically.

- **RELIGION 7**

The seventh grade class explores the topics of morality and the creed. Students are invited to learn the truth of Christianity, and to begin to understand how to apply their values to issues facing them in the world today. Students read and discuss such issues as authentic happiness, true love, and the dynamic teachings of our Catholic faith. Through practicing various prayer forms, service projects and sharing, our hope is that students will be strengthened socially, morally and spiritually.

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- **RELIGION 8**

Church History is the main focus of eighth grade religion class. Students are invited to learn what the first church was like by reading the Gospel of Mark and Acts of the Apostles. We then explore the history of the Catholic Church, both the successes and failures, up to the church today. We also spend time learning about religious orders, other Christian faiths, global social issues, and continue to expand our experiences of prayer, scripture, and service. Students also participate in two retreats, one focusing on their leadership role in our school, and another at the end of the year celebrating their gifts and challenging them to live out their faith in the future.

All middle level students participate in studies of social justice issues occurring in our world today in light of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Students also develop the use of journaling as a way of exploring their thought processes and aiding in spiritual growth.

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