

8th Grade Religion

Dear Parent(s):

I am very excited to be teaching religion to the 7th grade and 8th grade classes this year. Having taught this 8th grade class last year, I have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy watching them develop into respectful and caring individuals. I feel privileged to experience their 8th grade year with them as well as prepare them spiritually for the sacrament of Confirmation.

The 8th grade religion curriculum will be using two supporting textbooks entitled *Morality* and *Creed*. These books focus on what kind of an individual a young person wishes to become based upon the moral teachings of Jesus and the Church. These texts provide a presentation of the commandments, the Beatitudes, the virtues and the teachings of the church on moral issues. In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, each student will receive their own book entitled *Confirming Faith*. This year, we will also be discussing current events relating to Catholicism as well as the current events and conflicts stemming from other religions in our world.

Typically, there will be less homework in religion than in other classes. Much of what we do is covered during class time. Class participation will be a very important component of a student's grade. Class participation includes contributing to class discussions as well as leading prayer time. Students will be tested on material presented and discussed in class. Various projects and assignments will also be given throughout the year and some may need to be worked on at home.

Eighth grade students will also be required to complete eight hours (minimum) of service each trimester. Service hours can be attained by a student donating hours of their own time or taking part in group service projects. **Service of an 8th grade student may include two hours of service within the needs of their family, but six of the eight hours each trimester must be broadened to their school, parish or community.** Any service hours performed for a student's family are to be above and beyond their regular family obligations. If you have any questions or suggestions pertaining to service hours, please contact me. Students will also be required to keep track of their service hours and be accountable by turning in a form listing the type of service completed as well as the number of hours.

Again, I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your child. Please contact me at anytime with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maura Grochocinski
mgrochocinski@sjfschool.net

