

Aspirations for our Families

As a parent asking Ss Mary and Joseph for help in passing along the faith to my child through the PSR program, I will fulfill my role as primary teacher of my child in the way of faith by promising to the best of my ability:

1. To reclaim the sacredness of Sunday. We will do this by:

1. Attending Mass as a family
2. Spending time with one another, including a meal together
3. Refraining from unnecessary activity
4. Enjoying a leisure activity together
5. "Disconnecting" from unnecessary or leisure use of cell phone, internet, or TV

2. To make Scripture part of our family life. We will do this by:

1. Reading scripture daily – perhaps one reading from the upcoming Sunday readings.
2. Reading a scripture reflection
3. Share amongst ourselves what the Sunday scriptures means to our lives and examples we have encountered

3. To commit to at least one family meal a week without distraction.

4. To commit to family prayer time. We will do one or more of the following:

1. Family rosary
2. Devotions
3. Meal time prayers – before and after meals
4. Incorporating scripture (#2) as a part of prayer
5. Trust and develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit, starting with the prayer to the Holy Spirit our parish offers before every mass.
6. Ask for guidance and support from Jesus in all areas of life

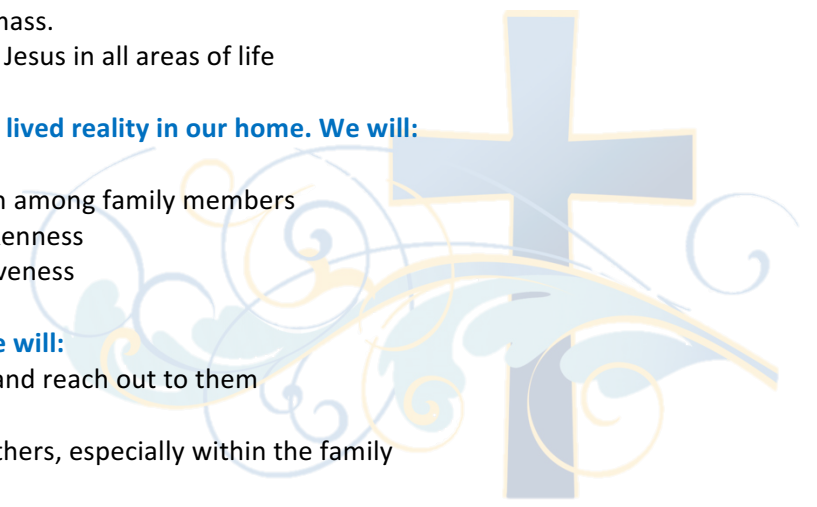
5. To make the sacrament of reconciliation a lived reality in our home. We will:

1. Be willing to say "I'm sorry"
2. Be willing to work for reconciliation among family members
3. Be willing to heal wounds and brokenness
4. Be willing to show mercy and forgiveness

6. To make our family a model of charity. We will:

1. Be aware of our neighbor's needs and reach out to them
2. Be welcoming of others
3. Be willing to share our faith with others, especially within the family

By God's grace, we will not only live out our responsibility to be the first teachers of our children in the way of faith, but also to be a witness to the community.



Our Commitment to You

To support our families in trying to fulfill these aspirations, Ss. Mary and Joseph will:

1. Provide at no charge the PSR program
2. Make registration easier by having it online (<https://goo.gl/forms/QIHxuOoTeR20Ho8W2>)
3. Provide materials that inform parents of what is being taught to the children at PSR and that will allow further faith development of your child outside of PSR
4. Provide a YouTube video of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies representative describing the program and how to access the material on their website. The video is available on our website under “Links” → “Religious Education”
5. Update the website (<http://www.macoupincatholicchurch.com/>) by Tuesday with:
 - a. Last Sunday’s homily
 - b. The upcoming Sunday readings – written and spoken
 - c. Links to websites that offer daily meditations and scripture readings
6. Communicate to parents and families via Bloomz, which will allow a unified platform for announcements, special event sign up, volunteer opportunities, and photo & document sharing
7. Be open to concerns and suggestions – not only through the Parent Council, but through the DRE, deacon and pastor
8. Offer daily prayers by the pastor and staff of Saints Mary and Joseph on behalf of all families



Expectations for Catechists

A Catechist is different than a teacher. A teacher passes along information and knowledge. A Catechist passes along the faith. They do this by providing the child with an encounter with Jesus and to call forth faith from the child and to help grow that faith. A teacher would not share what a math problem means to them. The Catechist should tell the children what the faith means to them. For example, what does baptism mean to you? It is the goal that by the eighth grade, the child will have heard 9 different perspectives on what baptism means (and similar aspects of our faith) by 9 different teachers.

1. A Catechist is expected to live a life of a missionary disciple.

If a Catechist is to be effective, he/she must have faith to give. One cannot give what one does not have. In addition, as a catechist, one is called to a higher standard of being a public witness. Therefore, we expect our catechists:

- To attend Sunday mass in one of the three parishes in our community.
- To live a life not contrary to the faith.
- To not publicly contradict Church doctrine.
- To support the parish and the staff.
- To continue to grow in their faith.

2. A Catechist is expected to pray for the children they have been entrusted to pass along the faith to.

No matter how good our PSR program is and how well our Catechists teach, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit to grow the faith of our children. Therefore, please ask the Holy Spirit for this grace.

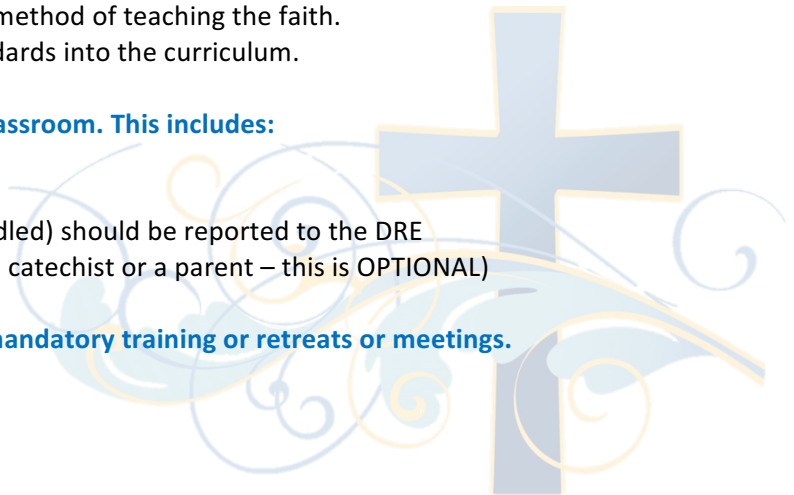
3. A Catechist is expected to follow the curriculum the pastor and parent council has approved.

- We will be using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies.
- We will be using multimedia in every lesson.
- We will be following the ecclesial method of teaching the faith.
- We will incorporate religious standards into the curriculum.

4. The Catechist is responsible for their classroom. This includes:

- Decorations and environment
- Taking attendance
- Any behavioral issues (even if handled) should be reported to the DRE
- Any food or drink provided (by the catechist or a parent – this is OPTIONAL)

5. A Catechist is required to attend any mandatory training or retreats or meetings.



Our Commitment to the Catechists

To enable our Catechists to pass along the faith, Saints Mary and Joseph will provide:

1. Training using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies
Deacon Denny and Karla, our DRE has used this program before and can assist
We have a YouTube video of a presentation on the Pflaum Gospel Weekly program
2. Resources in the Classroom
 - Pflaum Gospel Weeklies
The program provides a tremendous amount of video and resources.
Because the Catechist attends mass, they will be familiar with the readings.
 - Religion Curriculum Adaptation
These will give the catechist further guidance on what are the yearly learning goals for each grade.
 - Faith Teaching Strategies
We have 26 pages of strategies to help the catechist pass along the faith.
In addition, we have 14 pages listing supplemental resources
 - Kerygma4Kids
This teaches the Kerygma to the children at an age appropriate level.
The person who put this together, Anita Houghton, will be here on Sunday, September 30 at 6pm for 90 mins.
 - Lesson Plan Framework
This is a framework to guide you in preparing your lesson plan. This planner helps ensure the needed material gets covered as well as provides structure to the lesson. An example of this follows on the next page.
3. Director of Religious Education
Previous DREs have taught classes in addition to organizing PSR (setting the calendar, doing Protecting God's Children, and other duties). The new role of a DRE is more like a principal. The DRE is not expected to be teaching, but to support the catechists with the needed material and direction. The role of the DRE is also to evaluate the catechists and to offer feedback and suggestions on passing along the faith to our children. The DRE is also to be the connection between parents and the catechists and pastor as the first person for parents to go to if there is a concern or suggestion.
4. Spiritual Formation
 - a. A half day retreat during the summer or prior to PSR to reinvigorate the flame of faith of the catechists so that they may pass it along to not only the children, but their families.
 - b. Catechetical Institute through Franciscan University.
These are short classes to help you learn more about the faith. We will be paying for a parish subscription. I invite you to explore this at <https://catechetics.com>.
5. Prayer – from Dcn Denny, Karla, the parish, and myself.

Lesson Plan Template for Catechists

Catechist Lesson Plan Framework Week of _____

<u>Pflaum Gospel Weeklies</u> <u>(Content)</u>	<u>Ecclesial Method</u> <u>(Structure)</u>	<u>Grade Level Standards</u> <u>Addressed</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place to record ideas, inspirations, questions, etc. with regards to the content of your lesson 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation - Pflaum led by DRE in Parish Hall Proclamation – Explanation – Application – Celebration – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As you prepare for your lessons, please take a moment to review the Grade Level Standards to see which ones may lend themselves to the content covered in Pflaum, a particular church celebration happening this week or any other way in which to organically incorporate one or multiple standards... List each standard here