

St. Margaret of Cortona Parish School of Religion

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"...only together are we able to build the Body of Christ, the Church."

The next celebration for First Holy Eucharist is scheduled for April 18, 2010, at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Consistent class attendance and participation in the grade 2 workshop scheduled for February 6, 2010 are required.

The next celebration for the Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for Spring 2011.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Parish School of Religion at St. Margaret of Cortona is to prepare students to become full and active members of the Catholic Church who are capable of making significant contributions to society and managing change in a culturally diverse world community. Our goals are to:

- Provide a loving, caring, and disciplined Parish School of Religion environment where all students can reach and maximize their full human potential as children of God.
- Encourage students to serve the Church, their local community, the nation, and the world community by actively engaging in ministry to others.
- Educate children so they may be prepared for responsible, life-long learning, and productive participation in the Church as a community under the guidance of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Promote the home-school partnership in education by recognizing parents as primary educators of their children and providing opportunities for them to be active participants in the educational ministry of their child's religious education.

St. Margaret of Cortona Religious Education believes that we all share in Jesus' own mission of proclaiming the Reign of God. This is that activity which enables faith to become living, conscious, and active through the light of instruction - especially sharing God's Word in Scripture and sharing the Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We seek to open our children and youth to the discovery of the goodness and beauty of God as reflected in their world, and help them to experience this world within the Catholic Christian Community.

Tuition: The tuition for the Parish School of Religion, Grades 1-8, is \$150.00 for one child; \$200.00 for two children, and \$250.00 for three or more children. Checks can be made out to St. Margaret of Cortona.

No child will be turned away based on the inability to pay for instruction.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Ages: Preschool & Kindergarten

Director: Lisa Latorre



Catechists:
Kim Gajda Lisa Latorre
Linda Broderick Janet Wood

Class is currently scheduled for Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. until 9:40 a.m., as well as 10:00 until 11:10 a.m. in the Borrelli Center Atrium, room #4. **Registration will take place August 16th and 23th, 2009, following all Sunday Masses.**

"Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the result of a long period of careful observation of children by Sofia Cavalletti and her Montessori collaborator, Gianna Gobbi, in Rome. It began quite by accident, without warning or planning, the way God so often comes into our lives. In 1954 Sofia was a Hebrew and Scripture scholar, comfortable in her role in the academic world, when a mother asked her to give some religious instruction to her son. At first Sofia refused, saying she knew nothing about children. But the mother

persisted and eventually Sofia consented. That experience with a 7 year-old changed her whole life. She saw in that child, and in numerous other children since, a way of being in the presence of God that is both unique to the child and a gift to the adult who stops long enough to notice. Perhaps it is because Sofia went before the child with no preconceived ideas of what should happen that the child responded with such joy.

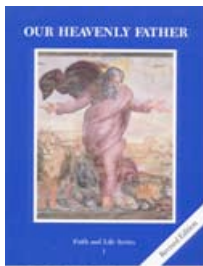
Certainly her background in Scripture made it possible for her to talk about God in a way that opened and enthused the child as well as Sofia herself. From that day to the present time Sofia and Gianna remind us constantly to look to the child to watch for that sign of a deeply religious life - joy - and to always ask the question: "What face of God is the child telling us he or she needs to see"

[\(http://www.cgsusa.org/\)?](http://www.cgsusa.org/)

"The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use. You may be wondering how these materials help the religious life of children. If an adult hears a beautiful passage from the Bible, the adult might take a Bible, find the passage, and read it slowly again and again. He or she may think deeply about the words and perhaps speak to God in a thankful or hopeful prayer. But a little child, too young to read, needs another way. In an atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the material for that text and working with it - placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist. Older children who do read often copy parables from the Bible, lay in order written prayers from the rite of baptism, or label a long time line showing the history of the kingdom of God" (<http://www.cgsusa.org/>). This is indeed an excellent program for young children.

Questions concerning this program can be answered by calling **Lisa Latorre**, the Director of C.G.S., at 272-1127. For local training and certification classes, please email Patti Jones (St. Ladislav) at pattiejones@prodigy.net.

Parish School of Religion, Grades 1-8



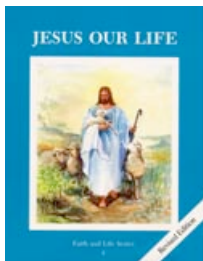
GRADE 1
Our Heavenly Father

Grade 1: Our Heavenly Father

Catechists – Mrs. Katie Callahan & Mrs. Stephanie Kozman, Room 2

THEME: Introduction to the Holy Trinity through presentations on God the Father, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's plan of salvation and our part in that plan. Acquaints children with Mary, angels, and the saints. Children learn basic prayers.

SEQUENCE: Ch.1-8: The Old Testament, God our creator; our home in Heaven lost through original sin; the world prepares for the Savior. Ch. 9-21: The Incarnation, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Ch. 22-28: The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Mary our mother.



GRADE 2
Jesus Our Life

Grade 2: Jesus Our Life

Catechists – Mr. & Mrs. Mike Brewster, Room 8

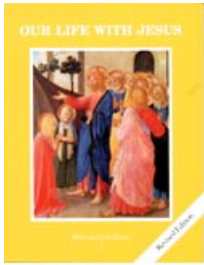
THEME: Preparation for the first reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, with the law of God and salvation history as background. The lesson emphasizes God's mercy and love. Covers Creation, the Covenant with Moses, the Ten Commandments, Redemption, Forgiveness of Sins, and the Mass.

SEQUENCE: Ch. 1-16: God teaches us through his law; we obey through love. Ch. 17-23: We find forgiveness of sins through Jesus' sacrifice. Ch. 24-34: We prepare for life in Heaven by reception of Jesus in the Eucharist and our life in the Church.

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Grade 3: Our Life with Jesus

Catechist – Mr. Paul Landry, Room 11



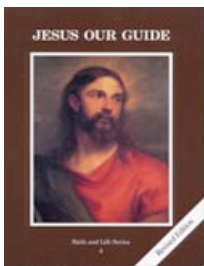
GRADE 3
Our Life With Jesus

THEME: God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion and the Mass.

SEQUENCE: Ch. 1-7: The Old Testament Covenant with God. Ch. 8-14: Obedience through love of God and His laws. In Confession we meet Jesus in His mercy. Ch. 15-25: The life of Jesus and the sacrifice of Jesus in the Mass. Ch. 25-30: Our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit; our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints.

Grade 4: Jesus Our Guide

Catechists – Mrs. Rosie Herrick and Mrs. Maria Clark, Room 3



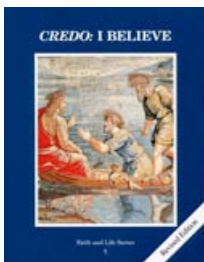
GRADE 4
Jesus Our Guide

THEME: God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

SEQUENCE: B.C.: Before Christ
Ch. 1-14: The fall and the first murder. The sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his people and their leaders. A.D. In the Year of Our Lord Ch. 15-30: History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially in the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good

Grade 5: Credo: I Believe

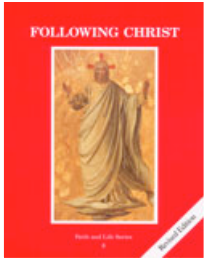
Catechist – Mr. Ken Hagy, Room 5



GRADE 5
Credo: I Believe

THEME: A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, and the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

SEQUENCE: Unit 1: God the Father of All. The Old Testament and mankind's participation in and loss of God's life. Unit 2: God the Son, the Redeemer. The fulfillment of God's plan in Christ, God and Man. Unit 3: God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. Our call to holiness and witness in the Church.

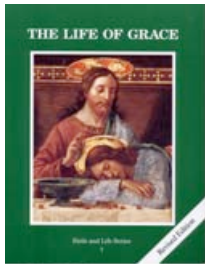


Grade 6: Following Christ

Catechist – Mr. Sean Fitzgerald, Room 6

THEME: The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

SEQUENCE: Part 1: The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God. Part 2: The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass. Part 3: The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.



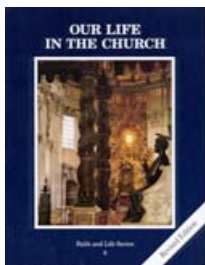
GRADE 7
The Life of Grace

Grade 7: The Life of Grace

Catechist – Mrs. Katie Brintlinger, Room 13

THEME: Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

SEQUENCE: Part 1: God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people. Part 2: God becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice. Part 3: God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.



GRADE 8
Our Life in the Church

Grade 8: Our Life in the Church

Catechist – Mr. Joe Wickham, Room 12

THEME: The history of the Church--its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

Curriculum: Faith and Life Series
Ignatius Press, San Francisco

For further information on the Faith and Life Series visit: www.ignatius.com

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

"Child sexual abuse is a worldwide public health issue. Child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse, is reprehensible—especially when the wrongdoer is affiliated with the Church. The VIRTUS® programs assist the Church in being a safe haven for children and a messenger for preventing child sexual abuse within the Church and society in general. We seek to achieve this lofty goal through our child sexual abuse prevention program, PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" (<https://www.virtus.org>). Anyone in the care or control of children here at St. Margaret of Cortona Parish **is required** to attend a Protecting God's Children Workshop and to complete a police check. A listing of classes near you is available at www.virtus.org . Pre-registration is required and **must be completed on line** at www.virtus.org. Click on "registration" and follow the prompts. The cost is free.