

Hello Parents,

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion!

Students will focus this year on the history of the Church, from the time that Jesus sent the Apostles out into the world to spread the Good News through today and our modern Church.

Student will begin by discussing the Four Marks of the Church. Jesus instructed his followers to continue his work in the world. Sometimes Christians have disagreed about how to do this. To help discern what Jesus wants, we can look to the Marks of the Church - One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. These are four characteristics that Jesus and the Church both share. We profess our beliefs in the Marks of the Church every time we pray the Nicene Creed. Students will take a closer look at the Marks of the Church, as well as the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed. Finally, they will create their own Personal Creed.

Student will continue with the second half of the Confirmation Program. Both in class and through several retreats, students will prepare to receive the sacrament in April. 10 Service Hours are also required. This is a Confirmation and Graduation requirement. Any student who has not completed their Service Hours in time will not have fulfilled the Confirmation requirements, and thus, not be confirmed.

Students will also continue with the Second Step Program for social and emotional development. We will focus on working collaboratively within a group, bullying prevention, goal setting, and substance abuse prevention.

The students will have several opportunities to meet with their Prayer Buddies throughout the year. And as in the past, Fr. Matt and Fr. Derek will join us in class each month.

Information about the class and all assignments can be found on our websites. Please let us know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a great year!

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Mrs. Esquivel  
Mrs. Chandler