

Hello Parents and welcome to 8th grade Religion Class!

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.

Students 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.

Students 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 the Spring. The Confirmation Mass will take place on **Thursday, May 14, 2020** and **Friday, May 15, 2020**. We will send out more information about which of these two masses your child will attend when we receive more details. Students must also complete 10 Service Hours as both a Confirmation and a Graduation requirement. Any student who has not completed their Service Hours in time will not have fulfilled the requirements, and thus, not be Confirmed or receive their diploma at the Graduation Mass.

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 will join us in class each month.

Religion class newsletters will be posted on our school website. Homework assignments, notes, and other materials will be posted on the students' Religion Google Classroom. Please let us know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a great year!

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Mrs. Esquivel
Mrs. Earhart