

Most Precious Blood Religious Education Program Grades 1-5
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Dear Most Precious Blood families:

I hope that this summer has provided much needed family time for all of you with plenty of sunshine!! I am writing to inform you of some wonderful changes to the religious education program for the parishes of Most Precious Blood and Saint Theresa for grades 1-5.

Fr. Grimes assembled a religious education board consisting of parishioners from Most Precious Blood and Saint Theresa. They met and reviewed the religious education program in both parishes. The decision was made in the interest of unity as one parish two worship sights, and consistency of formation, that the programs for grades 1-5 in both parishes be the same, just as they are in the upper grade levels. I have accepted Fr. Grime's invitation to run both programs with Sue Nealon as my support person. This will allow Regina O'Connor to continue to run the Religious education program for grades 6-10 and youth ministry in both parishes. She and I enjoy working together supporting one another and sharing ideas, and we are both looking forward to this new venture.

I am thrilled to be part of the faith formation in the families of both of these wonderful communities. These changes will not affect the religious education schedule for Most Precious Blood parish. **Grade 2 will meet on Mondays from 3:15-4:15, and Grades 1,3, 4, and 5 will be given a choice, either to meet on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:15 or 4:30-5:30. The program in both parishes will begin on October 3 and 4, as long as we have catechists to teach each class. The children will meet for 21 weeks, and for consistency in each program, where there is a Holiday on Monday there will be no class on Tuesday.**

The only noticeable change for MPB will be that Sue Nealon has agreed to be my partner and be present at MPB every other session, as I will need to be present in both parishes now. Most of you all ready know Sue as she has been the assistant for Regina and me for several years. She does all of the registrations, schedules class list print outs etc. She is my computer wiz, and makes everything in the parish work!! In addition to her computer skills, she is a lovely person whose presence at Most Precious Blood will be welcome. She and I will alternate between parishes and offer the same programs to both. Please introduce yourself to her, and welcome her with the same love and support you have shown to me over these last five years.

This change took place over these past summer months and as a result the registrations did not go out in the spring, please sign and return it as soon as possible. We will continue to offer placement on a first come, first serve basis.

I am asking every first grade family to offer one hour of their time to aid in a first grade classroom. Last year my first grade catechists were overwhelmed with no offer of help from parents and very large classes. First grade children are very young, and only one hour out of 21 weeks will provide them with a nurturing and caring environment. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

I look forward to being with all of you again. **My hope is that many of you will consider becoming catechists (teachers), as I will need catechists at every grade level.** I encourage you to “team teach” and share this responsibility with one another as we are all parents trying to raise faith-filled children. Please also consider offering to give one hour of your time to a classroom, as a support person for a catechist, volunteering as a hall monitor, or babysit someone else’s child so that they could teach.

The Sadlier program as an easy-to-understand, and therefore easy-to-teach religious education book. It does not assume that you remember the truths of your faith, but rather encourages you to learn again and pass that faith along to the children. I will help and encourage you as much as you need, and I invite you to share ideas with other catechists. **Please consider teaching as this program is based completely on volunteers.** If you are team teaching your commitment to the children is only 10 hours of your time in a year. Please consider this as a way to give back to this Church community that supports and cares for your children.

God Bless,
Ann Carroll