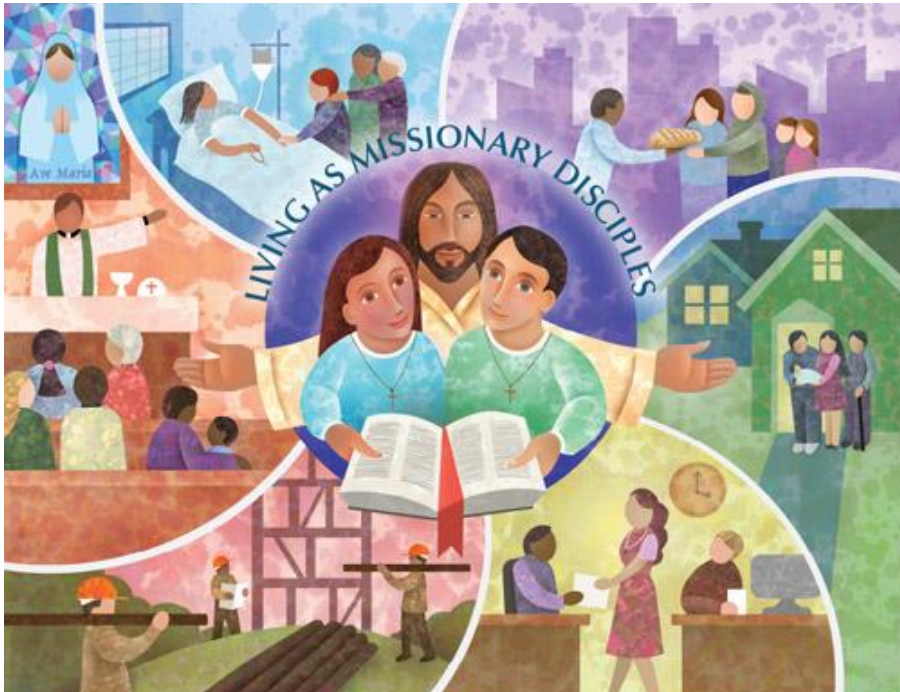


St. Lawrence Continuing Religious Education



Living as Missionary Disciples

“Catechists are called and sent by Jesus into the world, just as he called and sent out his disciples to preach in his name” (Luke 10:1).

Parent/Student Handbook 2017-18



St. Lawrence Parish
44633 Utica Road
Utica, Michigan 48317
586-731-5072

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Continuing Religious Education - CRE Overview

The St. Lawrence Continuing Religious Education ministry is responsible for the religious education and formation programs of the children and young adults in our parish.

Beginning with the **Children's Liturgy of the Word**, children 4 years old through Grade 1 are invited during the 10:00am Mass to listen and explore the readings at a child's level of understanding. This ministry is offered from September through the end of April. Please watch the Forum for details.

Continuing Religious Education (CRE) (also known as religious education or catechism) for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade is offered two evenings each week, on Mondays and Tuesdays, throughout the school year. An age appropriate curriculum provides formal religious education for each grade, as well as sacrament preparation during the second and eighth grades. Two consecutive years of formal religious education are required for the preparation of each sacrament. Registration begins each spring for the following school year.

Students over 7 years old having not yet received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Communion are invited to attend **RCIA for children**. This class will prepare a student for the Sacraments of Initiation, which are usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Parents and godparents attend classes with their children.

Our **Youth Minister, Deann Sitler**, welcomes **Middle School** students to Friday evening gatherings to share faith and prayer through fun activities and service projects. **High School** students and their friends are invited to attend Monday evening gatherings to grow in faith and fellowship. Both groups meet in the Youth Room.

Dates and Details can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/StLawrenceYouthGroup>.

Each summer, usually in July, St. Lawrence Parish provides a week of **Vacation Bible School** for students who are entering Pre-School (4yo) through grade 5 the following fall. Limited volunteer opportunities are available for older students.

Continuing Religious Education 2017-18

Catechesis: Catechesis is an official ministry of the Catholic Church, which centers on sharing the Gospel message, presenting Christian values and principles, building community and leading people into service and prayer.

Parental Role: In his "*Letter to Families*", His Holiness Pope John Paul II affirmed that parents are the "*first and most important educators of their own children.*" CRE classes support your mission and rely on your "constant and active" participation in your child's religious education.

Catechesis is a gradual process through which a catechist leads a student to a greater understanding and identification with the Catholic community. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students progress through all eight years of religious education as the curriculum builds upon itself each year and is designed to provide a comprehensive education of our faith.

As role models and primary faith educators, parents are encouraged to:

- Worship together as a family, including regular attendance at weekend Masses.
- Attend meetings and Sacrament gatherings.
- Oversee home assignments.
- Review semester Progress Reports.
- Participate in parish community life.

Class Times:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday 5:00 - 6:15pm | Grades 1 - 6 |
| Monday 6:45 - 8:00pm | Grades K - 8 |
| Tuesday 5:00 - 6:15pm | Grades K - 6 |
| Tuesday 6:45 - 8:00pm | Grades 1 - 8 Special Needs Classes |

Continuing Religious Education 2017-18

Curriculum:

Textbooks will be distributed during the first week of class and are required for every class. Discuss with your children the importance of being prepared to learn and the necessity of bringing textbooks each week to class. Lost textbooks can be replaced with an additional charge.

Please note:

7th and 8th grade students may not regularly bring their books home.

Be sure to review the “**Family Faith**” pages in your child’s religion book.

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Text</u> | <u>Publisher</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Kindergarten | Allelu! | Our Sunday Visitor |
| Grades 1 through 6 | Alive in Christ! | Our Sunday Visitor |
| First Reconciliation | Call to Celebrate Reconciliation | Our Sunday Visitor |
| First Eucharist | Call to Celebrate Eucharist | Our Sunday Visitor |
| 7th Grade | Visions - Gospel weekly | Pflaum |
| 8th Grade | Chosen for Confirmation | Ascension Press |
| Reconciliation for Older Students | Reconciliation: Pardon & Peace | RCL Benziger |
| Older Eucharist for Older Students | Eucharist: We Give Thanks & Praise | RCL Benziger |
| RCIA for Children | Journey of Faith | Liguori |
| Special Needs | Finding God - Adaptive Program | Loyola Press |
| Chastity Education | | |
| 5th & 6th gr. | Purely You! Growing God’s Way | Purely You Ed. |
| 7th gr. | Theology of the Body for Teens | Ascension Press |
| 8th gr. | Chosen for Confirmation | Ascension Press |

Continuing Religious Education Program Highlights

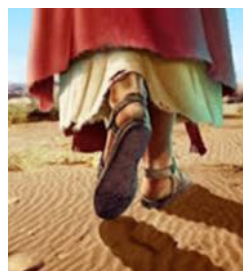


Family Faith Formation

opportunities will be offered and announced throughout the year. This year we will focus on:

Mission Sunday October 22, 2017 Noon Mass
 All Saints Day November 1, 2017 7:00p Mass
 Unleash the Gospel November 28, 2017 6:00p-8:00
 Lenten Musical Reflection Feb. 26/27, 2018

Adult Faith Formation



With the help of our parish Education Commission, the following Adult classes are offered this year: (contact the CRE Office for details)

Altaration: Mystery of the Mass
 monthly - Tuesdays 6:30p

ENDOW - Women’s Study
 monthly - Wednesdays 9:30a

Echoes of Faith - for parents & catechists
 monthly - Thursdays 6:30p



The **Circle of Grace** program is a Safe Environment lesson for children in Grades K through 8. The goal of the program is to educate and empower students to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others and to grow in their understanding and respect their own dignity and that of others. One lesson is included in the religious education curriculum each year for all grades, usually during the week of Thanksgiving in November.



Continuing Religious Education Program Highlights (continued)

Chastity Education: Catholic Values of Human Sexuality

Junior high students participate in lessons regarding the moral and religious dimension of human sexuality. The purpose of this program is to help young people appreciate their gift of human sexuality; cherish the relationships in their lives; treat themselves and others with respect; and understand the Church's teaching regarding Catholic values of human sexuality and chaste living. Respect for the primary role of the parents is supported with home-based materials, opportunities for conversation, reflections and prayer. Religion lessons about virtues may be provided for students who OPT OUT of these particular sessions. *Attendance will still count.*

Parents will have an opportunity to preview all materials prior to the scheduled lessons:

Parent Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2017

5:30-6:30p for 5th & 6th Grades

"Purely You"

7:15-8:15p for 7th & 8th Grades

"Theology of the Body for Teens"

"Chosen"



Grade 6: Physical Growth Video Session

Thursday, November 9, 2017 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

Boys attend in the Science Room, and Girls attend in the Youth Room.

Information and resources can be found at:

www.purelyyou.org

www.thetheologyofthebody.com & www.ascensionpress.com

Program materials are available for purchase at the Parent Meeting and in the CRE Office.



Continuing Religious Education Policies and Procedures

Please discuss and share the following rules and policies with your children to help us maintain a smooth-running and effective program.

Attendance Policy: Consistent attendance is important for students to grow in understanding of their faith formation lessons. This is especially true prior to the reception of a Sacrament. For each sacrament, students need two consecutive years of good attendance in preparation for First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation. After an absence, be sure to follow up with your child's catechist. Missed lessons must be completed at home. If a student is absent for more than one-third of the classes, credit may not be given for that year. Our policy is to contact the family after the student has missed three (3) or more classes.

Absence Policy: Please notify the office by phone (586-731-5072) or by email (CRE@stlawrenceparish.com) if your student will be absent. Please state the reason for the absence, the student's grade, and teacher.



Tardiness Policy: A student is tardy when arriving after the bell rings, at which time all doors to the school building are locked. Late students must enter via the "C" Parish/CRE Office door. The student will be admitted into the classroom after receiving a pass from the CRE office.

Early Dismissal: A student may be dismissed early from class only if the office has been previously notified in writing. Please come to the office for the Early Dismissal form, and to pick up your child at the early dismissal time. A Hall Monitor will bring your child to the office. Children will not be allowed to leave the building during class without a parental escort.

Arrival Procedure: Students may enter the building through three doors:

- 1) the Utica Road entrance - "U" doors
- 2) the CRE/Parish Office entrance - "C" doors
- 3) the Gym lobby entrance - Msgr. DeKeyser / "F" doors

When students arrive for class, they should report directly to their classrooms. However, students may not enter the classroom until the catechist is present. Students will stand outside the room, under the supervision of the Hall Monitors, in an orderly and quiet manner until the Catechist arrives. No running or loud talking in the halls.

Continuing Religious Education Policies and Procedures (continued)

Dismissal Procedure: Parents may enter through the same three doors to pick up students as follows:

- Kindergarten children are picked up at their classrooms 5 to 10 minutes before dismissal time.
- Children in grades 1 - 3 must have an adult enter the building and wait in the Gym Lobby to pick them up.
- Children in grades 4 - 8 will be dismissed from their classrooms to meet their parents/guardians at the Utica Road or Parish/CRE Office doors.

Students are not to wait unattended outside the building before or after class for any reason. They must wait inside the CRE Office if a parent is late.

Code of Conduct:

All participants in the St. Lawrence CRE program will conduct themselves in a manner that promotes and models Christian living and Catholic morality. Our classroom environment is one that is caring, nurturing, orderly, safe, respectful, and conducive to learning, reflection, and prayer. Furthermore, all participants in the CRE program will:



1. Help create, promote, and model an atmosphere that is free from bullying, harassment, and intimidation. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
2. Demonstrate and model honesty and trustworthiness.
3. Demonstrate and model respect, good manners, courtesy and consideration for the feelings of others.
4. Demonstrate and model responsibility, self-control and self-discipline.
5. Demonstrate and model fairness and following the rules.
6. Demonstrate and model compassion, kindness and forgiveness.
7. Demonstrate and model good citizenship and respect for authority.

Continuing Religious Education Policies and Procedures (continued)

Code of Conduct (continued):

Like Jesus, we must be open to reconciliation when there is conflict or disobedience. With a spirit of forgiveness, we encourage students to make good choices. When a student's behavior choice disrupts the classroom environment, the following disciplinary policy is implemented.

Discipline Policy:

1. On the first offense, the catechist will speak to the student on the day the offense occurs and suggest ways for improvement.
2. On the second offense, the student will be sent to the Office and the situation will be handled at the discretion of the Director.
3. On the third offense, the Director or her representative will contact the student's parent or guardian.
4. Additional offenses may result in removing the student from the classroom and completing studies at home.

Anti-Bullying Statement:

Violence is any mean look, gesture, action, or word that hurts a person's body, feelings, friendship, reputation, or property. Bullying is a form of violence that is repeated, intentional, and involves an imbalance of power between the people involved. Bullying can take the form of a look, gesture, word or action. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will be taken.



Policy for attire, accessories, cell phones/electronics: Hats, headphones, cell phones, handheld games, etc., are not permitted during any Continuing Religious Education classes or activities. Students will refrain from wearing jackets or coats in class, unless otherwise directed by the Catechist. Food, drinks or candy are not allowed in class, unless approved by the catechist. Gum is strictly prohibited in the school.

Continuing Religious Education Policies and Procedures (cont.)

Guest Students: We cannot accommodate guest students. Please do not bring friends, neighbors, or relatives to CRE classes.

“Do Not Release”: To assure the safety of our students, please alert the Continuing Religious Education Office and your child’s catechist concerning any individual to whom the student should *not* be released, including non-custodial parents (and/or a parent on non-visitation days).

Snow Days: If Utica Community Schools are closed for a snow day, then we will be closed. If the weather is not severe until later in the day, then we will notify families by e-mail. Emergency closings will also be posted on our webpage: www.stlawrenceparish.com/religiuseduc.html



Parking Lot: When picking up students at dismissal time, **please park in the designated parking areas only. Please do not block driveways or double park. Doing so is in direct violation of the Fire Code.**

There are often other parish meetings in the building, so access to the parking lot and driveways must be maintained at all times. If you park within the marked parking spaces, it is much less congested and much safer for the students. Watch for pedestrians and use extreme caution when backing out of parking spaces.

Address/Phone Number Changes: Please notify the CRE office of changes in address, email or phone numbers. It is important that we have accurate contact information for your benefit and for your child’s safety.

Policy for photographing students: Photographs of children/students of any kind on any device are not permitted during class or on parish grounds unless permission has been granted by parents as indicated on their child’s registration form for the current catechetical year.



Continuing Religious Education Sacrament Preparation

First Reconciliation (Grade 2): Preparation for First Reconciliation is for students who have been baptized and have completed 1st grade religion classes. Classroom study of the Commandments, sin, forgiveness and repentance are reviewed and reinforced at home. Parents will attend a Family Meeting and are involved in preparing their children at home for the Sacrament.



A Family Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2017
9:00am-11:00am in the Church and Social Hall. At least one parent is required to attend with their child to pray and learn together, as well as receive important information and student books.

First Reconciliation is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:00pm.
Several priests will be present to hear individual confession and offer individual absolution.

First Eucharist (Grade 2): Preparation for First Eucharist is for students who have been baptized and have completed 1st grade religion classes. Students will learn about the Last Supper, the Mass, and Jesus’ real presence in the Eucharist. Parents will attend a Family Meeting with their child and are involved in preparing their children at home for the Sacrament.



- **Family Meetings** are scheduled for (choose one)
Saturday, January 6, 2018 -or- Saturday, January 13, 2018
from 9:30am-11:30am in the Church and Social Hall.
At least one parent is required to attend with their child to pray and learn together, as well as receive important information and student books.
- **Enrollment weekend** for First Eucharist students is January 13/14, 2018 at all Masses. The parish community welcomes and prays for all of our candidates.
- **First Eucharist Masses are scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 9:00am (L-Z) and 11:30am (A-K)**
- **Rehearsals** (for parents and children) will be held:
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 5:00pm - 6:00pm (Last Name L-Z)
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 6:30pm - 7:30pm (Last Name A-K)

Continuing Religious Education Sacrament Preparation (continued)

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist for Older Students:

Sacrament classes are available for baptized students in Grades 3 and up who have completed at least one year of formal religious education prior to the current year of preparation. Students attend the sacramental preparation classes in addition to their regularly scheduled grade-level classes.



First Reconciliation for Older Students:

Preparation begins with the **Reconciliation Family Meeting on October 7, 2017 at 9:00am in the Church and Social Hall.** Parents will receive materials to guide their children through lessons on the Commandments, sin, forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation.

Older children preparing for Reconciliation will meet for two formal lessons in addition to their regularly scheduled grade-level class:

Tues., October 24, 2017 4:45pm - 6:00pm Parish Resource Center

Tues., November 21, 2017 4:45pm - 6:00pm Parish Resource Center

After their lessons, students may celebrate their First Reconciliation with their class during an Advent Reconciliation service or at a Parish Reconciliation service (Saturdays at 3:30pm) or at any Vicariate Advent Reconciliation service as listed in the Forum.

First Eucharist for Older Students:

Preparation begins with a **Eucharist Family Meeting on January 23, 2018 at 6:30pm in Room 507.** Parents will receive materials to guide their children through lessons on the Mass, Sacraments of Initiation, and the Last Supper. Older children preparing for their First Eucharist will meet during the second semester (January – April) for at least eight **formal lessons on Tuesdays at 6:30pm** *in addition to* their regularly scheduled grade-level classes. After their lessons, students will celebrate their First Eucharist during **Sunday Mass, April 29, 2018 at 10:00am.**

A copy of the student's Baptismal Certificate is required prior to receiving a sacrament. Please submit a copy to the CRE office as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

Continuing Religious Education Sacrament Preparation (continued)

Confirmation (Grade 8): This preparation is open to baptized 8th grade students who have completed the 7th grade Continuing Religious Education program.



The program begins with a prayer of **Dedication** scheduled for **Sunday, October 15, 2017 during the 10:00am Mass.** The student, parents and sponsor (if possible) should attend. Preparation continues throughout the school year and the sacrament will be celebrated in the Fall of 2018.

Confirmation Reflection: An evening of prayer and reflection for candidates and their sponsors will be held in the Spring:
to be determined

Confirmation (Grade 9): Candidates who have successfully completed all requirements will attend a retreat in September or October. Letters are mailed in the summer with retreat information and permission forms. As soon as the Bishop's office schedules our Confirmation Masses, candidates will be notified by mail of their assigned Mass and Rehearsal time.

2017 Confirmation dates for 9th graders:

Rehearsal: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 @ 7:00pm in church

Confirmation:

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Thursday, October 26, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Please note: Each student's journey of faith is unique. Please contact the CRE office if your child would benefit from celebrating a sacrament at a later time.

A copy of the student's Baptismal Certificate is required prior to receiving a sacrament. Please submit a copy to the CRE office as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

St. Lawrence Parish
Continuing Religious Education
Sacrament Preparation
2017-18 Sacrament Schedule

| DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|------------------------|--|
| September 16, 2017 | Confirmation Retreat (Grade 9) in Social Hall |
| October 7, 2017 | First Reconciliation Family Meeting (Grade 2) 9:00a-11:00a Church |
| October 15, 2017 | Confirmation Candidate Dedication (Grade 8) at 10:00a Mass |
| October 18, 2017 | Confirmation Rehearsal (Grade 9) in Church at 7:00p (ALL Candidates & Sponsors) |
| October 24, 2017 | Reconciliation Lesson #1 for Older Students at 4:45p in PRC |
| October 25 & 26, 2017 | Confirmation Masses (Grade 9) in Church at 7:00p |
| November 21, 2017 | Reconciliation Lesson #2 for Older Students at 4:45p in PRC |
| January 06 or 13, 2018 | First Eucharist Family Meeting (Gr 2) 9:30a-11:30a Church |
| January 13/14, 2018 | First Eucharist Candidate Enrollment - all weekend masses |
| January 23, 2018 | First Eucharist Family Meeting for Older Students at 6:30p, Rm. 507 |
| TBD | Reflection Night - Confirmation Candidates & Sponsors (Grade 8) |
| March 31, 2018 | Easter Vigil Mass - Sacraments of Initiation (RCIA) |
| April 16, 2018 | First Reconciliation (Grade 2) at 6:00p in Church |
| April 29, 2018 | First Eucharist for Older Students at 10:00a Mass (tentative) |
| May 02, 2018 | First Eucharist Rehearsal (Grade 2) 5:00p-6:00p (L-Z) |
| May 02, 2018 | First Eucharist Rehearsal (Grade 2) 6:30p-7:30p (A-K) |
| May 05, 2018 | First Eucharist Mass (Grade 2) 9:00am (L-Z) |
| May 05, 2018 | First Eucharist Mass (Grade 2) 11:30am (A-K) |

| DATE | SPECIAL EVENTS |
|-------------------------|--|
| September 25/26, 2017 | #1 |
| October 02/03, 2017 | #2 |
| October 09/10, 2017 | #3 |
| October 16/17, 2017 | #4 |
| October 23/24, 2016 | #5 |
| October 30/31, 2016 | <i>NO CRE Classes</i> |
| November 1, 2016 | Family Holy Day Mass @ 7:00p (Nov. 2 Parent Mtg., Nov 9 6th gr video) |
| November 06/07, 2017 | #6 |
| November 13/14, 2017 | #7 |
| November 20/21, 2017 | #8 "Circle of Grace" |
| November 27/28, 2017 | #9 |
| December 04/05, 2017 | #10 Confessions during regular class times, grades 3 thru 8 |
| December 11/12, 2017 | #11 |
| December 18/19, 2017 | #12 |
| Dec 25 thru Jan 2 | <i>NO CRE Classes -- Christmas Break</i> |
| January 08/09, 2018 | #13 |
| January 15/16, 2018 | <i>NO CRE Classes M.L. King B'day</i> |
| January 22/23, 2018 | #14 |
| January 29/30, 2018 | #15 |
| February 05/06, 2018 | #16 |
| February 12/13, 2018 | #17 |
| February 19/20, 2018 | <i>NO CRE Classes Winter Break</i> |
| February 26/27, 2018 | #18 |
| March 05/06, 2018 | #19 Confessions during regular class times, grades 3 thru 8 |
| March 12/13, 2018 | #20 |
| March 19/20, 2018 | #21 |
| March 26/27, 2018 | #22 |
| April 02/03, 2018 | <i>NO CRE Classes - Easter Break</i> |
| April 09/10, 2018 | #23 |
| April 16/17, 2018 | #24 <i>Apr. 16 First Reconciliation 2nd gr. 6:00pm</i> |
| April 23/24, 2018 | #25 Last Class (no class for 2nd graders) |



Please report absences to the CRE Office
before class time
 586-731-5072

When late, a tardy pass must be obtained in the CRE Office
 in order to be admitted to class.

Dates subject to change.
 Please read all parent notes for updates to calendar
 or check our website at
www.stlawrenceparish.com/religiouseduc.html

Parish Council & Commissions:
HELP WANTED

Your voice is needed to plan educational goals, activities,
 and formation opportunities for all ages of parishioners.
 Monthly meetings are held September thru June.
 Please contact Lisa or Deann if you would like to help!



Continuing Religious Education Staff

CRE Phone: 586-731-5072

Fax: 586-731-5393

Email: CRE@stlawrenceparish.com

CRE website: www.stlawrenceparish.com/religiouseduc.html

St. Lawrence website: www.stlawrenceparish.com

St. Lawrence Parish Office: 586-731-5347

St. Lawrence School Office: 586-731-0135

Director of CRE: Lisa Rajnicek, M.Ed.
 lrajnicek@stlawrenceparish.com

Director of Youth Ministry: Deann Sitler
 dsitler@stlawrenceparish.com

Grade Level Chairpersons:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Catechesis of the Good Shepherd | - AnnMarie Smith |
| KN & Grade 1 | Diane Scheuerman |
| Grade 2 | Pam Stephenson |
| Grades 3, 4, 5 | Lynn Rogers |
| Grades 6, 7 | Frank Cucchiara |
| Grade 8 | Theresa Brestovansky |
| Special Needs | Mary Chaudhuri |
| RCIA for Children | Ann Polakowski |

Office Staff:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Mary Worley | Secretary |
| Annie Verduin | Secretary & Librarian |



St. Lawrence Parish Mission Statement

St. Lawrence Catholic Community believes we are called by our Baptism to gather as a worshipping and prayerful people. As responsible disciples, we are called to be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasures. We value and foster Catholic education and evangelization. With open hearts and hands, we reach out to our brothers and sisters, who are in need, as together we strive to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.

The Mission of Catechesis

“Catechesis aims to bring about in the believer an ever more mature faith in Jesus Christ, a deeper knowledge and love of his person and message, and a firm commitment to follow him.” (NCD #19a)

“Catechesis leads people to enter the mystery of Christ, to encounter him, and to discover themselves and the meaning of their lives in him.” (NCD #19b)

2005, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
National Directory for Catechesis



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Plans are underway to prepare a new religious learning space for Pre-Schoolers!

CGS is religious formation for children that is taught in a sacred learning space called an **Atrium** in which every object is a help to knowing God. It is a place of simplicity and order, prayer, work, and community. Everything in the atrium is intended to be appropriate to the ages and size of the children who gather there. Children will explore scripture, the Mass, sacraments, parables, geography, and prayer. Help is needed to collect supplies, assemble materials, and serve as catechists and aides.

Contact the CRE Office for more information and to volunteer!



Archbishop Alan Vigneron

Pastoral Letter

to the Archdiocese of Detroit

Pentecost Sunday, 2017

read full text:

www.unleashthegospel.org



S eek Jesus' Mercy
T rust Jesus' Mercy
L ive Jesus Mercy



C hildren and Families who
R ely on the mercy of Jesus and
E cho the Good News!