

# **St. Rita Catholic Church**

*Catahoula, Louisiana*



**Saint Rita with  
Her Two Boys**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2015-2016**

June 18, 2015

Dear Parent(s) and Student(s):

Welcome to St. Rita's Religious Education Program. We are excited about this new year and hope that you had a prayerful and eventful summer.

You and your child will find a list of procedures he/she must follow for the Religious Education Program. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT YOUR CHILD FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES.** If he/she chooses not to follow the procedures, they may be placed in the same religion class next year.

#### **DISCIPLINE POLICY:**

##### **RULES**

- Come to class on time and prepared with all required material(s)
- Show respect to the teacher and classmates at all times
- Follow all classroom rules

##### **CONSEQUENCES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Conference with student
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Letter and/or meeting with Parent
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Taught in a separate environment or home taught

##### **REWARDS**

- Verbal Praise
- Treats
- Positive notes

Should you have any questions about the Religious Education Program or the procedures, please call me at 394-4030.

Thanks for helping,

*Ray Latiolais*

Ray Latiolais  
Director of Religious Education  
St. Rita Church

# **HISTORY OF ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**ESTABLISHED:** May 29, 1952

**PASTORS:** Father Marcel Dion (1952-1961)  
Father Francois Bussieres (1961-1971)  
Father John Spekschate (1971-1974)  
Father Columban Lesquivit (1974-1989)  
Father Allen Breaux (1989-1998)  
Father Donald Pelous (1998- 2009)  
Father Richard Fabre (2009 – present)

**GOALS:** Provide each student with a religious education in the Catholic faith

Inspire in each student an eagerness for the Word of Jesus Christ

Encourage worship and prayer

Motivating students to become active members of St. Rita Church community

Fostering community involvement with the help of the parents and parishoners

## **NOTE TO THE PARENTS:**

Parents are their child's first and **MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER IN THE CAHOLIC FAITH.** We ask that you be active, cooperative, and encouraging with your child(ren)'s religious education, as we work together along the journey of Spiritual Growth.

We encourage parents to volunteer their help in the classroom and/or Church Service.

If you have any questions about the Religious Education Program while it is in operation, please feel free to call the Parish Secretary Patsy Blanchard @ 394-4679. If necessary, she will refer your question(s) to the Director of Religious Education or the Pastor.

**ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CATAHOULA, LOUISIANA**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>Monica Latiolais (T)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Tina Frederick (T)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Cherie Foti (T) Carolyn Boudreaux (T)</b>
<b>3/4</b>	<b>Hailey Buillard (T) Penny Poche' (T)</b>
<b>5/6</b>	<b>Geralyn Blanchard (T) Ida Trautman (T)</b>
<b>7/8</b>	<b>Crystal Louviere (T)</b>
<b>9/10/11</b>	<b>Ray Latiolais (T)</b>

# ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH CATAHOULA, LOUISIANA

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: REGISTRATION

The registration fee is \$15.00 per family of one and \$25.00 per family of two or more. A registration form must be completed on each child and returned with the correct fee in a sealed envelope. A late fee will be charged to any late registrations. The form may be placed in the offertory basket during the Mass on the weekend with *religion* written on the sealed envelope. It can also be dropped off at the rectory during business hours, or mailed to the rectory at:

St. Rita Church  
Religious Education Program  
1006 St. Rita Hwy.  
St. Martinville, LA 70582

**NOTE: Kindergarten, Second graders, and Confirmation students MUST have a copy of their BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE at the time of registration.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: TEACHERS

The Religious Education Director and all teachers work on a voluntary basis. This is a ministry of tremendous value to our children and our faith community. They have heard the call of Jesus and have answered...YES! They are honoring their baptismal promise. Let us support them in their ministry of teaching the Gospel message. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Director of Religious Education Ray Latiolais @ 394-4030. If needed, a meeting will be convened.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: MATERIALS

The teacher will advise students as to what supplies are required for class. Students are required to come to each class with a notebook and a pen/pencil.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: DISCIPLINE

Teachers will instruct students concerning their discipline policy. The teacher will decide upon appropriate consequences and rewards. Continued disruptions and disrespect by a student will be a cause to have the student removed from the class and sent home. Following a parent meeting, the student may be allowed to return to the class. Individual transgressions will be handled in an appropriate manner, in regard to its seriousness, and/or disregard for proper social behavior. Parents are invited to visit the classes. This makes your child and others aware of your interest in their faith journey.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: ATTENDANCE**

Students are required to attend all scheduled classes at specified times and dates. Since Dion Hall is used as a community funeral home, in the event there is a wake; being exposed, classes will be cancelled and held the following week.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

- **Death in the family**
- **Sickness (student or family member)**
- **Medical appointments**

For a student to be excused, one of the following is required:

- **A parent note to the teacher**
- **A parent phone call to the teacher or parish secretary**
- **A doctor's excuse**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: LESSONS AND CLASSWORK**

Teachers will:

- **Instruct students as to what is expected of them concerning class work**
- **Follow a lesson design during the delivery of the lesson**
- **Upon a student's absence, provide make-up work for the student. It is up to the parent to see that the make-up work is completed. If the work is not completed, it will be at the discretion of the Pastor and Director of Religious Education to decide whether summer make-up classes will be required to enter the next grade level**
- **If a student is home schooled, the parent must receive permission from the Religious Education Director.**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: EVALUATIONS**

Teachers in each class will decide upon the appropriate evaluation tool to use with the students.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION**

Candidates for First Communion and Confirmation are required to attend special classes, activities, and practice. The teachers will inform parents and students of the requirements in order to receive the sacrament. It is the parent's responsibility to insure that all requirements are completed before the sacrament is received.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS**

Parents are to make sure that there is an adult present when leaving students at the appointed place where classes will be held. For the safety of our students, parents of students in grades K, 1, and 2 are asked to get down to pick-up their child.

**ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CATAHOULA, LOUISIANA**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**2015-2016**

**SUMMER 2015: June 18, 19, 25, 26**

Grades K-2 (At the Church)

Grades 3-8 (At the Hall)

Classes begin at 7:30 and end at 12:45

7:15– 7:30 Parent Drop-Off

7:30 – 7:50 Snack

7:50 – 11:45 Class

11:45 – 12:15 Lunch

12:15 – 12:45 Class

12:45-1:00 Parent Pick-Up

**HOLY THURSDAY SCHEDULE**

8:10 – 8:25 Grades K-2

8:30 – 9:00 Grades 3-6

9:10 – 10:00 Grades 7-11

Monthly Meeting Dates from 5:30 –6:00

**(ALL GRADES/CLASSES)**

Monday, November 30-Prepare for Jesse Tree

Monday, December 7-Bring Jesse Tree ornament

Monday, March 21-Prepare for Holy Thursday

Pre Confirmation (Grade 9/10) & Confirmation (Grade 11) Class Dates 7:30 – 10:00 at Dion Hall

Saturday, September 12

Saturday, October 10

Saturday, December 12

Saturday, February 6

Saturday, March 5

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Only:**

First Confession Prep

Monday, January 25

Monday, February 1

Monday, February 15

First Communion Prep

Monday, March 14

Monday, March 21

Monday, April 4

**OTHER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:**

Jesse Tree Practice: Saturday, December 12, 2015 @ 10:00 AM Jesse Tree: Saturday, December 19, 2015 @ 4:00 PM Mass

Nativity: December 24, 2015 @ Christmas Eve Mass

Eucharist Practice: Saturday, April 16, 2016 @ 9:00 AM

First Confession: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 @6:30 PM

First Communion: Sunday, April 17, 2016 @ 10:00 AM

Holy Thursday-Visit to Blessed Sacrament-ALL GRADES: Thursday, March 24, 2016

Ash Wednesday: February 10, 2016

Easter: Sunday, March 27, 2016

Confirmation/Activities: June 8, 2016 (tentative date)

Students in grades K-4 must bring a sweet for the Annual Church Fair on Saturday, April 23, 2016 in the park.

Students in grades 5-11 must bring a bingo gift (\$10.00 value) to Dion Hall on March 5, 2016 between 9:30 – 11:00 AM

## **Catholic Facts and General Knowledge**

### **Catholic Belief**

- I. To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love, and serve God in this world. Man must know, love and serve God in a supernatural manner in order to gain the happiness of heaven. Man is raised to the supernatural order only by Supernatural Grace, a free gift of God bestowed on man at Christian Baptism
- II. We learn to know, love, and serve God from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who teaches us through the Catholic Church.
- III. In order to be saved, all persons who have attained the use of reason must believe explicitly that God exist and that He rewards the good and punishes the wicked; in practice, they must also believe in the mysteries of the Blessed Trinity and the Incarnation.
- IV. By the Blessed Trinity we mean one and the same God in three divine persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
- V. By the Incarnation is meant that the Son of God, retaining His divine nature, took to Himself a human nature, that is, a body and soul like ours.
- VI. The Church is the congregation of all baptized persons united in the same true faith, the same sacrifice, and the same sacraments, under the authority of the Sovereign Pontiff and the bishops in communion with him.
- VII. We find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church in the Apostle's Creed.

### **The Ten Commandments of God**

- I. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.**
- II. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day**
- IV. Honor your father and your mother.**
- V. You shall not kill.**
- VI. You shall not commit adultery.**
- VII. You shall not steal.**
- VIII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**
- X. You shall not covet you neighbor's goods.**



## ROMAN CATHOLICISM'S HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

In Roman Catholicism, Holy Days of Obligation are the days other than Sundays when Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. Below are the Holy Days of Obligation:

- \* All Sundays of the Calendar Year
- \* December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- \* December 25, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- \* January 1, the Solemnity of Mary
- \* Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter, the Solemnity of the Ascension  

In our diocese, this Solemnity is celebrated the Sunday following Ascension Thursday.
- \* August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- \* November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints

### NOTE:

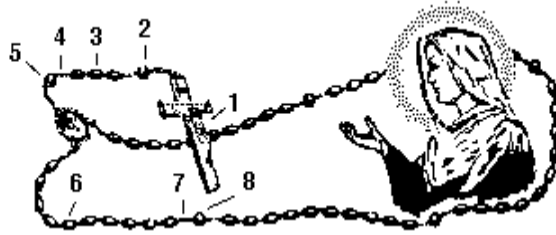
In the U.S., when a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Saturday or Monday, the Obligation is suspended.

**\*Our Catholic Faith obliges the student and their family to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. If it is not possible for parents to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, we encourage parents to make arrangements for a relative or a friend to accompany their children to Mass. Religious education, without Mass attendance, makes it difficult for students to relate to the materials being taught in the classroom.**

## SACRAMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- I. **Baptism**
- II. **Penance/Reconciliation**
- III. **Eucharist**
- IV. **Confirmation**
- V. **Matrimony**
- VI. **Holy Orders**
- VII. **Extreme Unction or Anointing of the Sick**

## Prayers to Our Lady



### THE ROSARY

Six fundamental prayers are part of the Catholic rosary, a devotion dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God. (CCC 971). The rosary consists of fifteen decades. Each decade focuses upon a particular mystery in the life of Christ and his Blessed Mother. It is customary to say five decades at a time, while meditating upon one set of mysteries.

#### **Joyful Mysteries (Mondays and Saturdays)**

- I. The Annunciation
- II. The Visitation
- III. The Birth of our Lord
- IV. The Presentation of our Lord
- V. The Finding of our Lord in the Temple

#### **Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesdays and Fridays)**

- I. The Agony in the Garden
- II. The Scourging at the Pillar
- III. The Crowning with Thorns
- IV. The Carrying of the Cross
- V. The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord

#### **Glorious Mysteries (Wednesdays and Sundays)**

- I. The Resurrection
- II. The Ascension
- III. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- IV. The Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven
- V. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

#### **Luminous Mysteries (Thursdays)**

- I. The Baptism, of our Lord, in the Jordan
- II. The Wedding at Cana
- III. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
- IV. The Transfiguration
- V. The Institution of the Eucharist



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations may be of stone, wood, or metal, sculptured or carved, or they may be merely paintings or engravings. Some Stations are valuable works of art, as those, for instance, in Antwerp cathedral, which have been much copied elsewhere. They are usually ranged at intervals around the walls of a church, though sometimes they are to be found in the open air, especially on roads leading to a church or shrine. In monasteries they are often placed in the cloisters. The erection and use of the Stations did not become at all general before the end of the seventeenth century, but they are now to be found in almost every church. Formerly their number varied considerably in different places but fourteen are now prescribed by authority. They are as follows:

1. Christ condemned to death;
2. The cross is laid upon him;
3. His first fall;
4. He meets His Blessed Mother;
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross;
6. Christ's face is wiped by Veronica;
7. His second fall;
8. He meets the women of Jerusalem;
9. His third fall;
10. He is stripped of His garments;
11. His crucifixion;
12. His death on the cross;
13. His body is taken down from the cross; and
14. Jesus' body is laid in the tomb.

### GUIDE OF EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR CONFESSION OF SINS

#### 6 STEPS FOR A GOOD CONFESSION

1. Examine your conscience-what sins have you committed since your last good confession?
2. Be sincerely sorry for your sins.
3. Make certain that you confess all your mortal sins and the number of them.
4. After confession, do the penance the priest gives to you.
5. Pray daily for the strength to avoid the occasion of sin, especially for those sins you were just absolved from.

**ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CATAHOULA, LOUISIANA**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**GENERAL CURRICULUM**

The students should know the following prayers and concepts by the end of:

**GRADE K: THEME: GOD ASKS US TO CARE**

- Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is Mary?
- The Sign of the Cross and The Lord's Prayer
- Who made us?
- The difference between Heaven and Hell
- What is the Mass? Why do we attend and participate?
- What is the Bible?
- Who is the Priest? Why is he in the Parish?
- How to genuflect on the right knee before entering a pew.

**GRADE 1: THEME: MEETING JESUS AND HIS FATHER**

- The Hail Mary, The Glory Be, Blessing Before and After Meals
- Beginning of the Apostles' Creed
- What is sin? What are the kinds of sins?
- What are the Ten Commandments?
- What is the story of Adam and Eve?
- What are Angels? (Good and Bad)
- What are the parts of the Mass?
- Encourage the development of a prayer life

**GRADE 2: THEME: MEETING JESUS IN RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST**

- The Apostles' Creed and The Act of Contrition
- What is Confession?
- What is the Holy Eucharist?
- What is a Penance?
- What is the definition of forgiveness?
- Continue discussing the Ten Commandments
- Encourage the development of a prayer life
- Regular attendance at Mass and asking for forgiveness
- How to make a good, prayerful confession

**GRADE 3: THEME: BELIEVING IN JESUS AND OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY**

- How to pray the Rosary, The Hail Holy Queen, and Prayer to St. Michael
- What are the Sacraments?
- Discussion of the Pope, Cardinals, and Bishops
- Apply the Apostles' Creed
- Who are the disciples and apostles?
- What are saints?
- What are the teachings regarding your Easter Duty requirements?
- Encourage the development of a prayer life, regular attendance at Mass, and regular use of the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation (Confession)

**GRADE 4: THEME: LIVING AS JESUS' FOLLOWERS**

- The Act of Faith, Act of Hope, and Act of Love
- Further discussion of the Ten Commandments and Sin
- What are the Holy Days of Obligation and their meaning?
- Discuss the events of the birth of Jesus Christ
- More detailed discussion of the Sacraments
- What are indulgences?
- How to recite a complete Rosary
- What are the teachings regarding your Easter Duty?
- Encourage the development of a prayer life, regular attendance at Mass, regular use of the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation (Confession), and praying the Rosary.

**GRADE 5: THEME: CELEBRATING JESUS' PRESENCE**

- The Morning Offering Prayer, and The Angelus
- Discuss the life of Jesus
- What is the Blessed Sacrament?
- Overview of the books of the Old Testament
- What are Sacramentals?
- What are the teachings regarding your Easter Duty requirements?
- Encourage the development of a prayer life, regular attendance at Mass, regular use of the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation (Confession), praying the Rosary, and visiting the Blessed Sacrament.

**GRADE 6: THEME: DISCOVERING THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

- How to recite a complete Rosary
- Come, Holy Spirit Prayer
- Overview of the books of the New Testament
- Detailed discussion of The Way of the Cross
- What is the Holy Spirit?
- What is the Church's teaching about the Blessed Trinity?
- What are the traditions of the Church?
- Review the requirements for the yearly Easter Duty
- Encourage the development of a prayer life, regular attendance at Mass, regular use of the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation (Confession), praying the Rosary, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, and attending The Way of the Cross services

**GRADE 7: THEME: ENCOUNTERING JESUS AND THE GOSPELS**

- Different forms of prayer

- Detailed discussion of each Sacrament, sin, and the Ten Commandments
- Discussion of the four Gospels
- Review of your Easter Duty requirements
- Encourage the development of a prayer life, regular attendance at Mass, regular use of the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation (Confession), praying the Rosary, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, and attending The Way of the Cross services

**GRADES 8 and 9: THEME: BELONGING TO OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY**

- What is the history of the Church?
- Detailed study of the Bible
- Review the requirements for the yearly Easter Duty
- How to complete an examination of conscience
- Encourage the development of a prayer life, regular attendance at Mass, regular use of the Sacraments of Communion and Reconciliation (Confession), praying the Rosary, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, and attending The Way of the Cross services

**GRADES 10-11 THEME: RECEIVING THE GIFTS**

- Detailed discussion of Confirmation
- Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation
- Participate in the sacraments
- Committed to service-for the Church, community, and to other students

## **EASTER DUTY**

The obligation is for members of the Catholic Church to approach the Sacrament of Penance, if in a state of mortal sin, once a year, and also of receiving the Holy Eucharist, as a mark of fidelity to membership, and under penalty of exclusion from it and all rights as a Catholic. The prescribed time for fulfilling the Easter duty extends: from the first Sunday of Lent to Trinity Sunday, in the United States; One may follow the direction of his priest judging it proper for him to abstain for some time, if necessary, but the precept binds even after the time has expired and is not fulfilled by an unworthy communion.

New Catholic Dictionary

## **PRAYERS**

Pope John Paul II indicates that people sometimes say they don't know how to pray. "How to pray? This is a simple matter. I would say: *Pray any way you like, so long as you do pray.*" You can pray the way your mother taught you; you can use a prayer book. Sometimes it takes courage to pray; but it is possible to pray,

and necessary to pray. Whether from memory or a book or just in thought, it is all the same. *See, John Paul II, The Way of Prayer, Crossroad Publishing Co. (1995).*

## THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,  
who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen

## THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with Thee.  
Blessed art Thou among women  
And Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God  
Pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of our death.  
Amen

## GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen

## ACT OF FAITH

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
**and** in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
**who** was conceived by  
the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended **into hell**;  
on the third day he rose again  
**from the dead**; he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of **God** the Father **almighty**;  
**from there** he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our  
defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May  
God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of  
the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell  
Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the  
world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**O my God, I firmly believe all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches; I believe these truths, O Lord, because Thou, the infallible Truth, hast revealed them to her; in this faith I am resolved to live and die. Amen.**

#### **ACT OF HOPE**

**O my God, relying on Thy promises, I hope that, through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ, Thou wilt grant me pardon of my sins, and the graces necessary to serve Thee in this life and to obtain eternal happiness in the next. Amen**

#### **ACT OF LOVE**

**O my God, I love Thee with my whole heart and above all things, because Thou art infinitely good and perfect; and I love my neighbor as myself for love of Thee. Grant that I may love Thee more and more in this life, and in the next for all eternity. Amen**

#### **ACT OF CONTRITION**

**O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because of Thy just punishments, but most of all they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more, and avoid the nearest occasion of sin. Amen**

#### **MORNING CONSECRATION TO MARY**

**My Queen, My Mother, I offer myself entirely to Thee. And to show my devotion to Thee, I offer Thee this day, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, as I am thine own, keep me, guard me as Thy property and possession. Amen**

#### **SALVE REGINA**

**Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy!  
Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope!  
To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.  
To Thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious Advocate  
Thine eyes of mercy towards us  
and after this, our exile,  
show unto us the blessed fruit of Thy womb, Jesus  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!**

#### **THE MEMORARE**

**Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired then with confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother! To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen**

#### **GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER**



Angel of God, my guardian dear  
To whom God's love commits me here  
Ever this day (night) be at my side  
To light and guard, to rule and guide.  
Amen

#### **PRAYER TO THE CHILD'S GUARDIAN ANGEL**

O Angels of God, from heaven so bright,  
watching beside my children to lead them aright;  
Fold your wings round them, and guard them with love;  
Softly sing songs to them of heaven above.  
Amen

#### **GRACE BEFORE MEALS**

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts  
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

#### **GRACE AFTER MEALS**

We give Thee thanks, O Almighty God,  
for these Thy benefits  
Who lives and reigns, world without end.  
Amen.  
May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
Amen.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE POPE**

Let us pray for our Most Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. May the Lord preserve him and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies. Amen

#### **PRAYER BEFORE A CRUCIFIX**

Behold, O kind and most sweet Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in Your sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul I pray and beseech You that You would impress upon my heart lively sentiments of Faith, Hope and Charity, true repentance for my sins and a firm purpose of amendment, while with deep affection and grief of soul I ponder within myself and mentally contemplate Your five most precious wounds, having before my eyes that which David spoke in prophecy of You, O good Jesus: they have pierced my hands and feet, they have numbered all my bones.

#### **ACT OF SELF-DEDICATION**

Take O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.  
Amen

#### **COME, HOLY SPIRIT**

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray, O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### **JESSE TREE**

GRADE KINDERGARTEN (CREATION) SYMBOL: STARS, EARTH, SUN

God was before anything else. He made man and woman like Himself.

GRADE 1 (ADAM AND EVE) SYMBOL: BITE IN AN APPLE

Adam and Eve do not do what God wants them to do. They disobeyed God and He punished them.

GRADE 2 (NOAH'S ARK) SYMBOL: THE ARK AND RAINBOW

After Adam and Eve, people continued to try to do things their own way instead of God's way. Each time they got into trouble, God shows them that they are still important to Him. Finally, things get so bad that He decides to destroy everything in a flood. He finds a family who will obey Him and places them and all kinds of creatures on the Ark.

GRADE 3 (ABRAHAM) SYMBOL: LAMB

God keeps his promise to Abraham and Sari. Soon their son, Isaac, is born. Their names change to Abraham and Sarah. Abraham still trusts in God even when it seems that God wants him to kill Isaac. However, God does not want Abraham to kill his son, but to be obedient.

GRADE 4 (MOSES) SYMBOL: TABLETS, STAFF, BURNING BUSH

Abraham's descendants are multiplying, as God promised, but now they are being held as slaves in Egypt. God will not leave them to suffer for long. He chooses Moses to lead them to freedom and promises Moses that He will be with him to solve the many problems they will face.

GRADE 5 (JOSHUA) SYMBOL: RAM, HORN, TRUMPET

Moses dies before God brings the people to the land He has promised them. So, Joshua becomes their leader. But whoever the leader is, God is still in charge. He shows them how to take each city He has allotted them, and they win victories by His power.

GRADE 6 (JOSEPH) SYMBOL: CARPENTER, SAW, HAMMER

Matthew introduces Joseph, through whose eyes we see some different things about Mary's special child. Jesus will save people from their sins. Especially all the sins that they have committed through the centuries. Also, God will be truly present with His people.

GRADE 7 (MARY) SYMBOL: LILY OR ROSE

Mary is chosen to be the Mother of Christ. After the angel visits her, she races to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with St. John. Mary tells the Good news to her cousin.

GRADE 8/9 (JESUS) SYMBOL: CHI-RHO, LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The baby is born. God has united Himself to Israel and to all humanity in the flesh of a child. From now on, God will be standing beside us to put right the things that go wrong and to bring us back to His path when we get off.

GRADE 10/11 (LIFE OF JESUS) SYMBOL: JESUS' FAMILY

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt,\* and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt."