



IHM PSR PROGRAM CURRICULUM BY GRADE 2023-2024

PSR at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church always comes from a kerygmatic angle (it's the Jesus Show 24/7). We use the Bible, the Church, and the Holy Spirit (the Fire) to catechize at the appropriate grade level, with the Paschal Mystery, Eucharist, Sacred Scripture, and Sacred Tradition as our central focus. All grade levels will be in the Church throughout the year which exposes children to the richness of the Mass, sacraments, and lay ministry. Yes, being in the church and learning about Jesus and His Church is part of the core curriculum! 3rd-7th grade uses St. Mary's Press Children's bible. Older children have their noses in *Fireside Catholic Youth Bible*, listen to exciting podcasts, watch videos, and learn to use the Holy Spirit as their guide.

Kindergarten: Uses *Promise Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group. This series includes weekly handouts based on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the Liturgical calendar. This helps your child easily connect what they hear and see at Mass with what is taught in the classroom. Music, activities, and crafts are a large part of the hands-on learning of this age group. Expect all kinds of crafts and activities to come home.

First Grade: Uses *Promise Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group. This series includes weekly handouts based on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the Liturgical calendar. This helps your child easily connect what they hear and see at Mass with what is taught in the classroom. There are lots of hands-on activities, crafts, games, and music. During the second half of the year your child begins preparation for their First Reconciliation (Confession) which will take place in December of their 2nd grade year. Ascension Press' brand new *Renewed* series is the basis of the First Reconciliation curriculum. There are home-based aspects of this series, so expect to be involved in the faith formation of your child for reception of the sacraments.

Second Grade: Uses *Good News Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group. *Good News* series includes weekly handouts based on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the Liturgical calendar. The second **primary** resource for this grade is Ascension Press' brand new *Received* series for preparation for First Holy Eucharist in May of 2nd grade year. There are home-based aspects to *Received* so expect to be involved in the faith formation of your child for reception of the sacraments. Music, activities, and crafts are also part of the hands-on learning of this age group.

Third Grade: *Good News Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group is the basis of the curriculum. This series includes weekly handouts based on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the Liturgical calendar. *YouCat for Kids* is the secondary source for third grade curriculum. Third graders concentrate on the **green** section of *YouCat Kids* which deals with prayer. St. Mary's Press Children's Bible is also used, so they begin to understand how to use the Bible and read the Word of God. Music, activities, and some crafts are also part of this grade's hands-on learning.

Fourth Grade: Uses *Venture Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group as its base curriculum. This series includes weekly handouts on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the liturgical calendar. It also includes a student Handbook, and activities. *YouCat for Kids* is the secondary source for the fourth-grade curriculum. Fourth graders concentrate on the **blue** section of the *YOUCat kids* which deals with the 10 Commandments. This grade is introduced to the role of lay people who assist at Mass including the choir, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Altar servers, and Ushers. The fourth grade includes hand-on activities and crafts.

Fifth Grade: Uses *Venture Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group as its base curriculum. This series includes weekly handouts on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the liturgical calendar. It also includes a student Handbook, and activities. *YouCat for Kids* and the *YouCat* are the fifth grade's secondary source for curriculum. This grade concentrates on the **red** portion of *YouCat Kids* which deals with the sacraments. Each sacrament is taught again with a more mature understanding. This grade gets hands-on experiences with all lay ministries (altar server, choir, lector, usher, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion).

Sixth Grade: Uses *Venture Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group as its base curriculum. This series includes weekly handouts on the Gospel reading for that Sunday and stays within the liturgical calendar. It also includes a student Handbook and activities. *YouCat* is the secondary source for sixth grade curriculum. This grade concentrates on the first 2 sections of the *YouCat*, which includes Creation and Creed. Using engaging videos on FORMED.org this grade takes a mature look at Creation, God, science, reason, and the transcendentals (Truth, Beauty, and Goodness) to show the powerful, personal existence of a loving Creator, who deeply loves them.

Seventh Grade: Uses *Visions Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group as its base curriculum. There is a corresponding handbook which teaches from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The grade uses *The Fireside Catholic Youth Bible* as its secondary source. Students view engaging videos from FORMED.org and have appropriate activities. This grade dives deep into the life of Jesus, his Church, the sacraments, the Saints, and a more mature understanding of the Mass and Eucharist.

Eighth Grade: Uses *Visons Gospel Weeklies* by Pflaum Publishing Group as its base curriculum. *The Fireside Catholic Youth Bible* is the secondary source. There is a corresponding Bible study which is also utilized. Continuing a deep dive into Jesus, salvation history, the saints, catholic social teaching, and service to others. This grade is also taught Theology of the Body by Jen Ricard over the course of 2 PSR sessions, which teaches the dignity of the human person. Students view engaging videos, listen to podcasts and have meaningful activities.