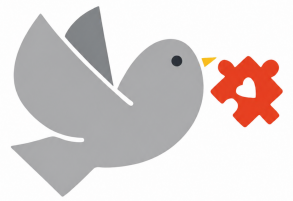




St Joseph Bradley Religious Education

August 2026



We Are All Pieces of God's Peace

New Year of Faith Formation

Dear Religious Education Families,

We are officially ONE MONTH AWAY from the first day of Religious Education! We are excited for a new year focused on helping our children know Jesus, understand their Catholic faith, and grow as lifelong disciples.

WE'RE BACK EVERY WEEK!

This year, Religious Education returns to weekly Wednesday classes, giving our children consistent time to learn Scripture and Catholic teaching, pray together, ask questions, and build friendships rooted in faith.

Every Wednesday

Arrival: 5:30 PM | Class: 5:45-6:45 PM

Parish Hall

We recognize the commitment weekly classes require, and we sincerely thank you for making your child's faith formation a priority. Our goal is more than preparing children to receive a Sacrament—we are helping them build a faith they can carry throughout their lives.

Sacramental Sundays with Father Marek

Families with children preparing for a Sacrament will also participate in special Parent Faith Formation Sundays with Father Marek. These gatherings will help parents grow in their own understanding of the Sacraments and support their child's faith at home.

9:45-10:45 AM

Sept. 20 • Oct. 11 • Nov. 8 • Feb. 14 • Mar. 14

MassPass™ — Faith Continues at Mass

Because the Eucharist is the heart of our Catholic faith, students will participate in our MassPass™ Program to encourage regular

Sunday Mass and Holy Day participation.

Monthly faith-themed trinkets will add some fun, but our children will be reminded that the greatest reward is not something we collect—
The greatest gift is Jesus Himself, received in the Eucharist.

We Are All Pieces of God's Peace

Inspired by "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9), our theme reminds us that every child and family has an important place in the Body of Christ.

Parents remain the first and most important teachers of the faith. Father Marek, our catechists, and volunteers are blessed to partner with you as we help our children grow closer to Christ.

One month to go—we can't wait to welcome everyone back!

May God bless us as we learn what it truly means to be one piece of God's peace.

Blessings,
Sandra Jefferson

Save
The
Date



A Conversation with Our New Pastor

Getting to Know Fr. Mark Jurzyk



As we prepare for a new year of Religious Education, I recently had the opportunity to sit down with our new pastor, Fr. Mark Jurzyk, to talk about his journey, his hopes for St. Joseph Parish, and especially his vision for our children and families.

Fr. Mark brings more than 35 years of priestly ministry. Born and raised in Poland, he was ordained in 1991 and later continued his studies in philosophy and Spiritual Theology. He began serving in the Diocese of Joliet in 2005 and most recently spent 12 years as pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in Carol Stream.

One thing became very clear during our conversation: Fr. Mark believes strongly in helping families grow in their relationship with Jesus and understand the Catholic faith.

Why Weekly Religious Education?

When we discussed our return to weekly Religious Education, Fr.

Mark emphasized the importance of giving children consistent opportunities to learn and grow in their faith. Just as children need regular practice to grow academically, musically, or athletically, their faith also needs time, consistency, and encouragement.

Weekly RE gives our children more opportunities to learn Scripture and Catholic teaching, pray together, ask questions, build friendships, and connect what they learn in the classroom with what they experience at Sunday Mass.

For Fr. Mark, Religious Education is not simply about completing classes or preparing for a Sacrament. It is about helping our children develop a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

Parents Are Part of the Journey

Fr. Mark also spoke about the important role parents have in forming their children's faith. Our catechists can teach, and our priests can guide, but parents remain their children's first and most important teachers of faith.

This year, Fr. Mark will meet with parents of children preparing for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation at scheduled Sacramental Parent Meetings throughout the year.

These meetings are not meant to add another obligation to an already busy family schedule. They are opportunities for parents and Father to talk, ask questions, better understand the Sacraments their children are preparing to receive, and make this journey together.

Perhaps my favorite part of our conversation was hearing Fr. Mark describe St. Joseph as his new family. With his own family more than 5,000 miles away in Poland and Europe, he hopes that we will welcome him not only as our pastor, but as another member of our parish family.

And he is looking forward to meeting you—and especially our children.

As we begin this new chapter together, his message is simple: let us grow together—in faith, in knowledge, in love for the Eucharist, and most importantly, in our relationship with Jesus.

Please continue to keep Fr. Mark in your prayers as he begins his ministry with us. He has assured us that he is praying for us, too.



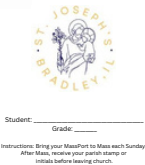
Sandra Jefferson

Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry



WE ARE ALL PIECES OF GOD'S PEACE
 Our 2026–2027 Religious Education theme is “We Are All Pieces of God's Peace.”
 Just as every piece is important to completing a puzzle, every child and family is an important part of our parish family. Throughout the year, our students will discover how God calls each of us to be a peacemaker—at home, at school, in our parish, and in our community.
 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” — Matthew 5:9
 Together, may we build a community of faith, one piece of God's peace at a time.

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING... MASSPASS™! TO OUR RELIGIOUS CLASSES



Name: _____

Student: _____
 Grade: _____

Instructions: Bring your MassPass to Mass each Sunday.
 After Mass, receive your special stamp or tokens before leaving church.

This year, our Religious Education students will have a new way to celebrate something at the very heart of our Catholic faith—coming together for Sunday Mass.
 With our new MassPass™ Rewards Program, students will be encouraged to participate in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation while discovering that the greatest reward isn't something we collect—it is Jesus, present to us in the Eucharist.
 There may be stamps. There may be special monthly rewards. And there may even be a few surprises along the way!
 But the greatest gift is waiting for us at every Mass.
 Come to Mass. Meet Jesus. Grow in Faith.
 MassPass™ is coming soon!



*Mark
 YOUR
 Calendar*
sacramental
Sunday
09/20/2026

Coming in September Newsletter

*Parish Picnic
 *1st RE Session
 (Back To Weekly Session)
 Sacramental Sunday
 *1st Sacrament and Confirmation
 meeting for parents and candidates
 Our 1st RE Fundraiser of the new
 school year

Saint Feast Days for August

August 1: Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori | Start of World Youth Day celebrations
 August 4: St. John Vianney
 August 5: Feast of Our Lady of the Snows
 August 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
 August 8: Feast of St. Dominic
 August 9: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (St. Edith Stein)
 August 10: Feast of St. Lawrence (deacon and martyr)
 August 12: Feast of St. Clare
 August 14: Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe
 August 15: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 August 20: Feast of St. Bernard
 August 21: Feast of St. Pius X
 August 22: Memorial of Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 August 23: Feast of St. Rose of Lima
 August 24: Feast of St. Bartholomew
 August 25: Feast of St. Louis of France
 August 27: Feast of St. Monica
 August 28: Feast of St. Augustine
 August 29: Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of August 2026

For evangelization in the city
 Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

August Family Challenges

Spend time drawing your heart and include the symbols that you want to be represented.

Attend Mass on at least one of the August feast days!

Plan a cookout for your family and friends in honor of Saint Lawrence, patron saint of grill cooks. His feast day is August 10th.

Make a sacrifice this month that benefits another person. Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who gave up his life to save someone else's life, has his feast day on August 14th.

Receive Holy Communion on August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Have some prayer time for family members that may have fallen away from the church in honor of Saint Monica's feast day on August 27th.

Most importantly, go to confession and confess anything and everything impure in your heart.



August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart. Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

This devotion has received new emphasis in this century from the visions given to Lucy Dos Santos, oldest of the visionaries of Fatima, in her convent in Tuy, in Spain, in 1925 and 1926. In the visions Our Lady asked for the practice of the Five First Saturdays to help make amends for the offenses committed against her heart by the blasphemies and ingratitude of men. The practice parallels the devotion of the Nine First Fridays in honor of the Sacred Heart.

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII made a solemn Act of Consecration of the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart. Let us remember this devotion year-round, but particularly through the month of August.

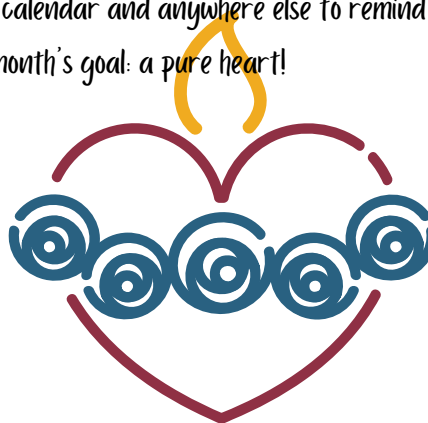
Excerpted from The Prayer Book by Reverend John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is surrounded by a saintly glow. Her heart is crowned with flowers, pierced with a sword, and has the Holy Spirit's fire flowing out of it. It is certainly full of grace, purity, and carries the sorrows of Christ's Passion.

We sin because we love something, at least temporarily, more than we love God. This month it's time to ask Mary's intercession for a pure heart. Just like Mary was a tabernacle, sacred and pure, for Our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to be temples of the Holy Spirit.

Mary, Immaculately Conceived, was pure and saw God Incarnate. As Matthew 5:8 tells us, the pure in heart will see God. I would even say that we can see God in others who are pure in heart.

Draw her heart on your calendar and anywhere else to remind you of this month's goal: a pure heart!



Family Activities to Celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary

- ♥ Wear the Miraculous Medal for the entire month
- ♥ Create a home altar honoring the Immaculate Heart
- ♥ Engage children by making heart-shaped cookies or cake
- ♥ Have children make Immaculate Heart greeting cards
- ♥ Begin the First Five Saturdays devotion
- ♥ Spend time in prayer with the Prophecy of Simeon
- ♥ Pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary
- ♥ Consecrate yourself to the Immaculate Heart





ST JOSEPH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2026-2027



WE ARE ALL PIECES OF GOD'S PEACE

Matthew 4:9



SEPTEMBER

Sept. 16 – First RE Class

Sept. 20 – SACRAMENTAL SUNDAY

(Parent Meeting for Sacramental
Families with Father Marek)

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Sept. 23 – RE Class

Sept. 30 – RE Class



OCTOBER

Oct. 7 – RE Class

Oct. 11 – Family Mass

(Parent Meeting for Sacramental
Families with Father Marek)

9:45–10:45 a.m

Oct. 14 – RE Class

Oct. 21 – RE Class

Oct. 28 – RE Class

NOVEMBER



Nov. 4 – RE Class

Nov. 8 – Family Mass

(Parent Meeting for Sacramental
Families with Father Marek)

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Nov. 11 – RE Class

Nov. 18 – RE Class

Nov. 25 – No Class (Thanksgiving Break)



DECEMBER

Dec. 2 – RE Class

Dec. 9 – RE Class

Dec. 13 – Family Mass

Dec. 16 – RE Class

Dec. 23 – No Class (Christmas Break)

Dec. 30 – No Class (Christmas Break)



JANUARY

Jan. 6 – Catechist In-Service (No Student Classes)

Jan. 10 – Family Mass

Jan. 13 – RE Class

Jan. 20 – RE Class

Jan. 27 – RE Class



FEBRUARY

Feb. 3 – RE Class

Feb. 10 – RE Class

Feb. 14 – Family Mass

(Parent Meeting for Sacramental
Families with Father Marek)

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Feb. 17 – RE Class

Feb. 24 – RE Class



MARCH

Mar. 3 – RE Class

Mar. 10 – RE Class

Mar. 14 – Family Mass

(Parent Meeting for Sacramental
Families with Father Marek)

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Mar. 17 – RE Class

Mar. 24 – No Class(Spring Break)

Mar. 31 – No Class(Spring Break)



APRIL

Apr. 7 – RE Class

Apr. 11 – Family Mass

Apr. 14 – RE Class

Apr. 21 – RE Class

Apr. 28 – RE Class



MAY

May 5 – Last RE Class & End-of-Year Celebration