

Parent News

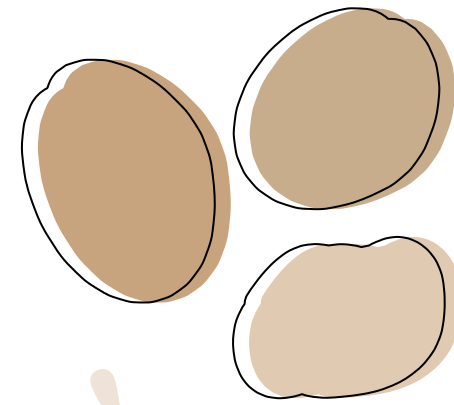
October 2022

St. Robert Religious Education
for school & after school atrium classes
Grades PK-6th





Welcome!



We are so excited to welcome all the children to Religious Education this year!

Every month, we hope to update you on what your children are learning in their atrium and what you can do at home to support your children in their spiritual life.

We are always happy to answer questions! You can contact us by calling (810) 659-8556 or emailing us: Joan at resecretary@srbcatholic.com or Hannah at hturchi@strobertschool.com.

Welcome to a new year! May God bless us!

Hannah Turchi (DRE) and Joan Clarke (Secretary)

Beginnings...

- 1 Growing at Home - The Prayer Table
- 2 Level One (ages 3-6)
- 3 Level Two (grades 1-3)
- 4 Level Three (grades 4-6)
- 5 News & Updates!



Growing at Home

The Prayer Table

1

2

3

4

5

Praying with our Children:

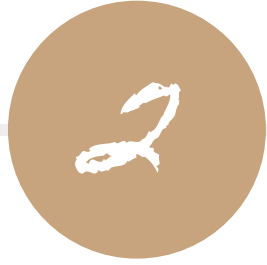
A Prayer Corner for the home

As parents, how can you help your child enter into prayer? You can offer them a special prayer corner in your home! Little children love to be with God! It is a simple thing to set up and adds richness to your family's prayer life.

Items you will need to set up a prayer table in your home:

- A low **table** where your child is able to reach and see everything on it.
- A **tablecloth** to set it apart as a special place
- A **statue** or **picture** of Jesus or Mary
- A Holy Bible (a real one if possible and not a children's Bible)
- A prayer card (we will be sending prayer cards home for your prayer table)
- A candle to light during prayer time to remember that Jesus is present when we pray.





The Level One Atrium

Ages three years through six years
(PK through Kindergarten)

1

2

3

4

5

Beginnings...

Practical Life...

Children begin the first few weeks in the atrium with **Practical Life** materials, which includes *pouring, sorting, grace and courtesy, and taking care of the environment*. Parents often wonder how “pouring beans” is connected to religious education and that is an excellent question! Practical Life is the integration of intellect, will, and body (unity). It allows the child to acquire order, self-direction, definition of movement, silence, and independence. The child is able to concentration which leads to prayer.

Practical Life is so important in helping the child prepare for future works to come!

The Model Altar...

The Model Altar is one of the first presentations given in the atrium! A little altar and sacristy is set up in the atrium. This work helps us to learn the names and uses of the articles we find on the altar at Mass - the altar cloth, chalice, paten, cross, candles, corporal, purificator, cruets, and lavabo. After being presented the work, the children are invited to set up the altar whenever they would like as part of their work.

As we learn the names and uses for these articles, we also begin to understand that Jesus is present in the Eucharist and He died and is risen.

3

The Level Two Atrium

1st through 3rd Grade

1

2

3

4

5

The History of the Kingdom of God

These presentations of the History of the Kingdom of God orient us to the rich reality that there has always been a plan in the mind of God to bring all people and all creation into the fullness of life in God's kingdom.

La Fettuccia (1st grade)

This work is a long ribbon (50 meters) which shows the vastness of time and space. This presentation strikes the heart and imagination. We see the three principal moments in Sacred history on this timeline:

- **Creation** - God creates order out of chaos, he creates the universe, our earth, plants, animals, and us
- **Redemption** - God wants us to have the gift of his own life and light and so he sends us Jesus.
- **Parousia** - There will come a time when God's light and life reaches all people; when God will be all in all. This day has not come yet, but we look forward to it with excited anticipation.

Blue Unity Strip (2nd grade)

The Blue Unity Strip is another way we reflect on what we have learned about La Fettuccia. This long illustrated chart has a mute strip with text which narrates the three moments (Creation, Redemption, and Parousia). We also continue to think about the "Blank Page" on the timeline - which is our time in history. We think about how we collaborate with God and build his Kingdom.

History of Gifts (3rd grade)

We look at this sacred history through a new lens. We remember that humans were created and found that God had prepared so many gifts for us - we look at samplings (gifts) from the mineral world, the plant kingdom, the animal kingdom, and the world of our fellow humans. And we think about how God wanted to give us an even greater gift - Jesus! All of these gifts lead to the Parousia. Through this work, we come to understand that God wants us to receive abundant life and gives us all these gifts to enjoy, use wisely, transform, and share.

4

The Level Three Atrium

4th through 6th Grade

1

2

3

4

5

The Plan of God

A plan for a Cosmic Communion of Love (Covenant)

We begin the year by reviewing *The History of the Kingdom of God/La Fettuccia* material. Then, a new material, **The Plan of God**, will be presented. This new, large timeline begins at the end of the La Fettuccia timeline and expands it. Like the Good Shepherd parable is the heart of Level One and The True Vine parable is the heart of Level Two, the Plan of God timeline is the heart of Level Three.

Included in this work are the origins and movements of different peoples. Through The Plan of God, we learn that from the beginning of time, God has it in mind that covenant would unite all people and all things with God in a cosmic communion of love. There is a horizontal bridge between people through the work of humankind's hands (seeds, building, inventions, even the domestication of animals) that are passed on from age to age and there is a vertical bridge where God reaches down to us through Christ and Redemption. All work of union, peace, and love supports God's plan and prepares for Parousia. We can see on the timeline the moments of discord, division, and war that put little breaks in the timeline. We are united to God through His Word and the Sacraments. This work is a continuation of what was learned in Level Two and lays the groundwork for future works in Level Three.

5

News & Updates!

News & Updates:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Want to learn more about The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd? Watch the info video below to learn more about how your child is learning about their faith:



Parent Meeting: 1st Confession & 1st Communion

October 11, 2022 @ 6:30: All parents with Kindergarten thru 2nd grade children who are interested in their child receive 1st Confession and 1st Communion this year are invited to attend to learn about the preparation process. We will be meeting in the Media Center/Library in the school building.

Mass of Enrollment

Mass of Enrollment for the children preparing for 1st Confession and Communion will be **November 16 at 6:45 pm**. More information to be given at the parent meeting on October 11.



Thank
you

Please contact Hannah Turchi (hturchi@stobertschool.com) or Joan Clarke (resecretary@srbcatholic.com)
if you have any questions.

Visit our webpage at srbcatholic.com for RE calendars, monthly parent newsletters, and more!