

Religion Philosophy and Program Goals

We believe that religion instruction at St. Mary's focuses on children's relationship with God and learning every aspect of the Catholic faith. The teaching staff collaborates with parents who are the primary faith educators of their children.

- Students will participate in the sacraments meaningfully and freely.
- Students will articulate basic beliefs of the Catholic faith.
- Students will engage in service projects on a regular basis.
- Students will know the history of the Catholic Church.
- Students will understand and live the communal nature of the Church.

We believe that students' lives and relationships will be meaningful because they are rooted in the Catholic tradition.

- Students will respect others.
- Students will act responsibly in all situations.
- Students will foster right relationships within our school community and beyond it.
- Students' love of God, self, and others will be nurtured.

We believe that students need to understand and participate in the rituals, prayers, and other practices within the liturgical cycle.

- Students will recognize and celebrate the differences in liturgical seasons.
- Students will experience a full variety of prayer forms.

We believe that students' consciences must be formed well so that they make moral decisions.

- Students will be taught to consider Catholic teaching when making choices.
- Students will resist negative peer pressure.
- Students will assume positive leadership roles.
- Students will communicate in a peaceful and helpful manner.

We believe that students must act justly and work for justice.

- Students will study Catholic social teaching.
- Students will prepare for and enter into service experiences.
- Students will engage in theological reflection on their service activities.
- Students will develop an appreciation of for the diversity of humankind.
- Students will grow in compassion for all of God's people.