

St Robert Bellarmine Parish School of Religion



**Family Handbook
2010-2011**

Welcome!

We are pleased that you have chosen to send your child to our Parish School of Religion for formal training.

We strive to provide the very best academic environment we can while remembering that faith development involves so much more than what can be found in textbooks.

We meet God in prayer and activity, in story and song, in creation and art.

The family is first and foremost in introducing children to God, teaching them of His abundant goodness, and helping them to learn how to pray.

We will do all we can to support parents as educators, endeavoring to meet the needs of all children entrusted to our care.

Please feel free to contact our pastor, Father Patrick Ryan or our director, Carol Breckle with any concerns or suggestions you may have.

Please become familiar with the members of our Advisory Board, too. They are here as your spokespersons throughout the year.

We are here to serve you and your children while giving praise and honor to our Almighty Father.

PSR ADVISORY BOARD

MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
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FACULTY MEMBERS

| | |
|------------|--|
| Grade 1 | Mrs. Mary Oelklaus |
| Grade 2 | Mrs. Kathy George |
| Grades 3/4 | Mrs. Tere Bowman |
| Grades 5/6 | Mr. David Laboc |
| Grade 7 | Mrs. Jeanne Hampson |
| Grade 8 | Mrs. JoAnne Cronan and Mrs. Carol Breckle |



St Robert Bellarmine was born in 1542. He was a small little man from a very large and very poor family in Italy, so short that he often had to stand on boxes so that people could see him when he spoke. He did not let his size nor his family's poverty stand in his way, though. He entered the Society of Jesus and became an outstanding scholar. He wrote one of the best works against the heretics in his time, defined a form of government which we recognize today as democracy, and helped St. Francis de Sales and St Aloysius Gonzaga in their work.

Even though he was small in size, his love for God and the Catholic Church was huge. As our patron saint, we ask him to help us to learn more about Jesus, to open our hearts so that we can be a more loving and caring people, and to show us how to do the work God wants us to do

The Christian Family

The Christian family is a community of persons created by God in the image of God. It is a community of faith, hope, and love that is a sign of God's work and love among us. In our family we first learn about God and grow in our trust in his love for us. As we grow, our family teaches us many ways to live in our faith. In our families we witness the faith of our parents, grandparents, and other family members who live their normal everyday lives. The family is where we come to know and experience what love is. It is with our family that we discover our talents and gifts and take up our responsibilities to build a community of justice and peace, compassion and forgiveness. The Christian family is a "church in miniature" or "domestic church". The family is a living image of the mystery of the Church.

The Duties of Parents

CCC2221 The fecundity of conjugal love cannot be reduced solely to the procreation of children, but must extend to their moral education and their spiritual formation. "The *role of parents in education* is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.

CCC2222 Parents must regard their children as *children of God* and respect them as *human persons*. Showing themselves obedient to the will of the Father in heaven, they educate their children to fulfill God's law.

CCC2223 Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for *education in the virtues*. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery – the preconditions of all true freedom.

CCC2226 *Education in faith* by the parents should begin with the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith.

Excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

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