

St. Henry Grammar School Parish School of Religion (PSR)

The purpose of the Saint Henry Parish School of Religion (PSR) is to hand on the faith to our children. We strive to provide children with a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church, its beliefs, doctrines, and traditions. We also seek to foster growth of Catholic moral principles, and to inspire a fuller prayer life to build a deeper relationship with God. In addition, we want to provide students with examples of true Christian discipleship. In order for the children to have the best experience, it is necessary for parents to be actively involved in the Religious Education of their children by talking about matters of faith and sharing in the experiences of the children.

Our PSR students and teachers are like a family. We currently have twenty-six students from K-4 through the eighth grade enrolled in the program. We have five classes, with two teachers in each class. Three students are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion this spring. One eighth grader is preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Although our program is small, it is active and strong with many activities throughout the year.

- Last year, under the direction of Mary Ann Baldwin, the PSR students participated in a Lip Sync Battle. The price of admission was a bag of toiletries and other practical items to be donated to The Firehouse Shelter in Birmingham. The program was a success as evidenced by the multitude of bags collected as well as the fun had by participants and audience alike. A similar event is planned for this spring, so stay tuned!
- Each year the PSR students perform a Nativity play at the Parish Christmas Party. This year, all twenty-six students participated! Thanks to the combined efforts of the PSR teachers, students, and parents, as well as our choir, the play was a huge success. Following the play was our annual Parish Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa Claus! On Christmas Eve, the children wrote a special letter to Baby Jesus, wrapped their special gift, and laid it at the nativity as they processed into the church. These children were learning the true meaning of Christmas!
- Each month, the PSR students participate in Youth Mass. All students sit together in the front pews. The older students take turns being lectors. This gives them experience in public speaking and allows them to actively participate in the mass. The younger students have the opportunity to take up the gifts. In this way we are preparing our children to be the future leaders of our Parish.

As our program continues to expand, we would like to have more volunteers. If you would be interested in teaching a PSR class, or have a great idea for an activity or service project, please let me know!

With love,

Tami Bamberry