

8/24/11

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion Class – Mr. Walt Tabory

Seventh and eighth graders are beginning their year with a study of their respective levels of Circle of Grace which is a program designed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The learning goal for students in grades K-12 across the country to actively join their efforts with those of mostly in class and provide life skills that can be part of a child's toolbox throughout their lives. They are ways to enhance the Diocesan religion curriculum and good teaching resources that give students practical experience in improving their own protection against abuse or violence. The activities are research based and connect well with adolescent development as well as with the curriculum of each grade.

Seventh grade religion focuses on the New Testament so that students can develop themselves as disciples of Christ. ***We Live Our Faith As Disciples of Jesus*** is the textbook for the class and will be used as a resource with the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the websites: [www.weliveourfaith.com](http://www.weliveourfaith.com) and [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

Eighth grade religion class focuses on morality so that students can continue practicing their role as disciples, with a special eye towards how their words, beliefs and actions affect the people around them. Their textbook is ***We Live Our Faith As Members Of The Church*** and will be used with the resources listed above.

As soon as we get the students registered on [www.classjump.com](http://www.classjump.com) , we will notify you how both you and your student can access homework assignments and other religion class information. Students in both grades will experience Meditation Mondays and Q & A Fridays each week so ask yours for details until the website is updated. Weekend homework assignments in each grade will include a faith related current event article summary and the attendance at a weekend worship service of the student's choice. Most chapter or unit tests will be given on Mondays with most other assignments completed in class. There will be one assignment due at the end of each quarter.

Details and requirements will be posted on the website but if you have questions, please let me know via [wtabory@stpeterskc.org](mailto:wtabory@stpeterskc.org) or (816) 523-4899. Having taught most of your children in sixth grade, I am looking forward to helping them be successful on their faith journeys. Thanks for all that you do towards that same end and for all of your sacrifices.

finishing Chapter 24, The Church Begins and learning about the successes and difficulties associated with the earliest Christians. The challenge of spreading the Good News (gospel) of Jesus Christ came from the Roman government, who felt threatened in their power. One of the main persecutors was a man named Saul whose hatred for Christians was legendary.

Students are encouraged to study Saul's story in scripture and to appreciate the literary skill which the author shows, as well as the high drama that surrounds Saul's conversion. He changes his ways and begins to use his Roman name of Paul to emphasize his repentance and desire to help further the cause of Jesus in Syria, Turkey, and Greece. We learn from Paul and the scriptures that the church continues to grow in membership through the guidance of the holy spirit. The Chapter 24 test is set for Monday 5/16/11.

We will finish the school year with chapters 25 (The Bible and the Church Today) and chapter 26 (The Church in the World). Students will read samples of the different types of writings in the New Testament like gospels, general letters, Paul's letters to churches, Paul's letters to friends, and the apocalyptic literature of the book of Revelation. Our last exam will be a combined test for Chapters 25 and 26, and is tentatively set for Wednesday 5/25/11.

