

ST. MARY MAGDALEN



SUMMER RELIGION PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RELIGION PROGRAM

The Second Vatican Council describes the family as a “domestic church”. This is because within the family there should be a special relationship between its members and Jesus Christ. Parents, therefore, have the right and duty to pass the faith on to their children. It is the nature of the Church’s religious education programs to build upon the good work, which was begun in the life of the family. The CCD Summer Religion Program for the Parishes of St. Mary Magdalen utilizes the summer break for religious instruction, which allows a truly continued educational setting for the spiritual growth of the students as well as their volunteer religion instructors.

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Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the CCD Summer Religion Program for St. Mary Magdalen. Since the program began years ago, we have received a lot of positive feedback from parents and students. We are very pleased through the utilization of shared resources to be able to provide an excellent educational program for the students of both parishes.

Parents, we thank you for your continued support of this program and for all that you do for your children and for the Church. Faith is a wonderful blessing that we are given as a gift from God. These two weeks of formal religious education supplement the primary education you provide in your everyday family life. You continue the spiritual journey with your children by reinforcing the teachings of the Catholic faith within your family lives and by fulfilling your obligation to attend weekly Mass. It is our prayer that as parents you will guide your children in their journey into deepening their worship of God through communal and private prayer.

Students, this CCD Summer Program provides an opportunity for each of you to continue your religious education and deepen your commitment to Christ and to His Church. We pray that these two weeks will be a time of spiritual growth and a great blessing for each of you. We also pray that you will form a foundation in your relationship with the Lord and His Church through this program, strengthened through your attendance at weekly Mass, and reinforced by the guidance of your parents at home.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the teachers for their willingness to volunteer their time and talent to teach your children during our summer program. To all the volunteers who help behind the scenes we also say thanks for making this program run so smoothly.

We take this opportunity to remind you that the dates for the summer program will be the 2nd and 3rd weeks of July each year. We appreciate your assistance in making these dates a priority when scheduling summer events. Thank you for your support of this program.

With prayers for a spirit-filled summer, we remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,



(The Rev.) William C. Blanda
Pastor
St. Mary Magdalen Parish

CCD SUMMER RELIGION PROGRAM DATES:

The CCD Summer Religion Program is held during the **second and third weeks of July.**

FACULTY:

The CCD Summer Religion Program has a teaching staff that consists of priests, deacons, seminarians, professional and experienced teachers, and volunteers, many of whom have been involved in the program since its inception.

WHICH GRADE SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE IN?

The grade level of each child for summer religion is based on the grade level that your child has completed in school. For example if your child just finished first grade in school, he/she will take first grade in the religion program.

WHO MUST ATTEND THE CCD SUMMER RELIGION PROGRAM?

Children of parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen who attend public schools and non-Catholic, private schools must attend the CCD Summer Religion Program if they wish to progress to Confirmation. Proof of attendance in CCD Programs of other Catholic Churches must be presented for transferring students.

Children who are participating in an overall academic homeschool program are not required to attend CCD if religion classes are a part of their regular daily curriculum. However, homeschool parents who have children entering 2nd grade must contact their respective parish regarding particular policies for homeschoolers in this sacramental year.

All juniors whether in Catholic school, homeschool or public school are required to attend Confirmation classes through their parish as this is not a part of the curriculum in any schools. In addition, the junior year Confirmation classes provide open discussions and guest speakers allowing all youth of the parish to benefit from these important teachings.

REGISTRATION:

Parents are required to re-register their children by the end of July for the following year’s Summer Program. Each year that you have children enrolled in our CCD Summer Religion Program, you will be required to re-sign a new policy agreement form, acknowledging your continued support and adherence to the requirements and policies of our program.

REGISTRATION COSTS:

The standard expenses and fees for students in the Summer Religion Program are as follows:

\$15 for one child; \$20 for two children; \$30 for three or more children

Additional fees for First Communion and Confirmation Programs may be applicable.

A late fee will be assessed to the standard fee for students if registration is completed and returned after the original due date of July 31 of every year. The late fee assessment schedule is as follows:

Standard Fee:	After July 31	After October 31	After December 31	After April 30
\$15 for one child	Add \$5 = \$20 owed	Add \$10 = \$25 owed	Add \$15 = \$30 owed	Add \$20 = \$35 owed
\$20 for two children	Add \$5 = \$25 owed	Add \$10 = \$30 owed	Add \$15 = \$35 owed	Add \$20 = \$40 owed
\$30 for three or more	Add \$5 = \$35 owed	Add \$10 = \$40 owed	Add \$15 = \$45 owed	Add \$20 = \$50 owed

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

In an effort to reach and accommodate each student so that they can learn and grow to the fullest of their abilities, we ask that parents notify the office in writing of any physical or learning disability that their children have. This will be kept confidential on the student’s individual file. Teachers will be given advanced notice of any specific modifications needed in the class environment. If your child has an IEP in their public or private schools, please indicate in the notice all special needs and suggested accommodations.

TIME & LOCATION OF CLASSES FOR EACH GRADE:

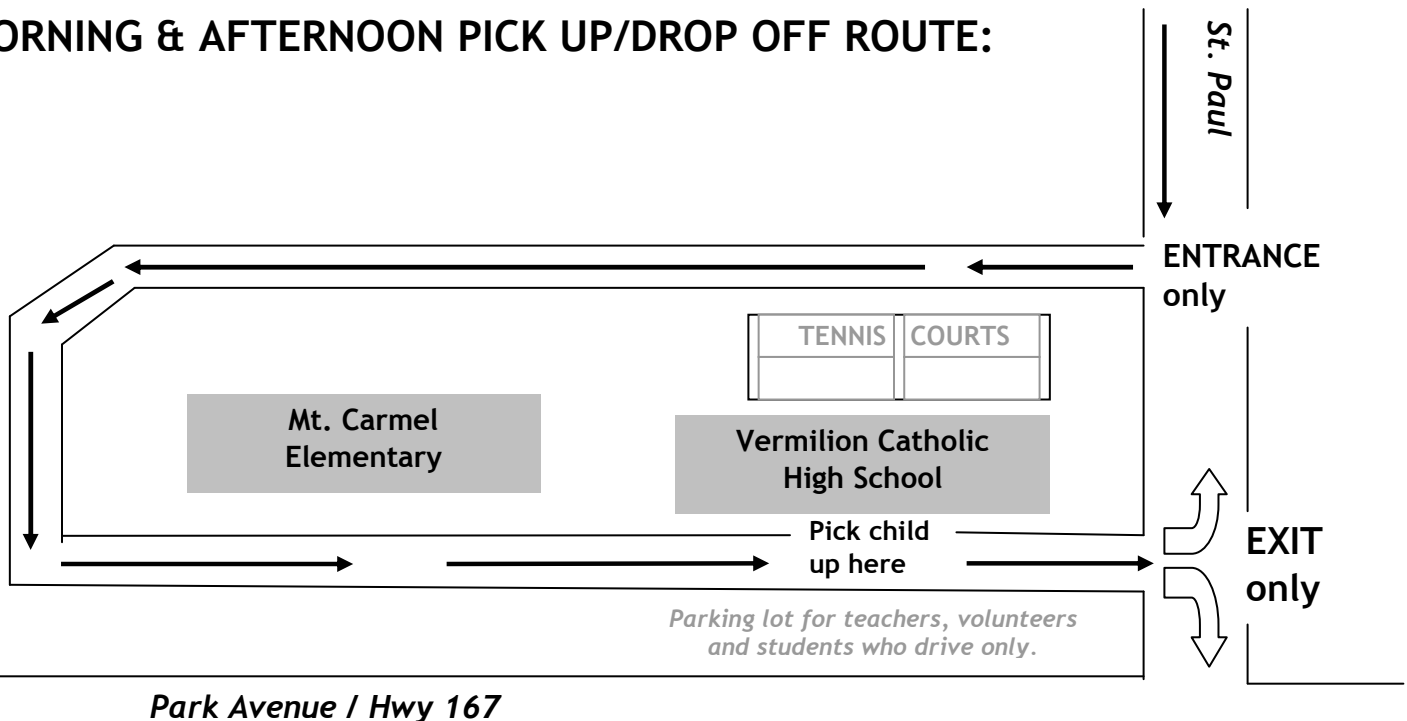
There will be a morning session and an afternoon session which will both be held at Vermilion Catholic High School. Younger students in **grades 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6** will have class from **8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.** and older students in **grades 7, 8, 9 and 10** will have class from **1:30 p.m. till 3:30 p.m.** (All times may be subject to change for the upcoming 2010 Summer program).

DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP CHILDREN AT VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:

For the morning session doors to Vermilion Catholic High School will open at **7:30 a.m.** for parents wishing to drop off their child before work. For the afternoon session doors will open at **1:00 p.m.** (Times may be subject to change for upcoming 2010 program).

When dropping off or picking up your child for religion classes, please use the following route. Students are to be dropped off and picked up by using the drive thru route only. Do not park to drop off or pick up your child. We will have volunteers at the entrance of Vermilion Catholic to greet you and guide students into the building. This route will ensure a smooth flow of traffic with no accidents. Students must be picked up in a timely manner after classes have finished by using the drive up method from St. Paul Street. Note: Students in the afternoon session, who drive, will be permitted to park in front of Vermilion Catholic for classes. See map below.

MORNING & AFTERNOON PICK UP/DROP OFF ROUTE:



DRESS CODE:

Please make sure your child observes the following guidelines of dress for attending the CCD Summer Religion Classes. All children are required to dress modestly. Students will be sent home to change or parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing if children arrive wearing any of the following: shorts shorter than 5 inches above the knee when standing; shirts that are too tight, reveal midriff, have vulgar or obscene language or images, have spaghetti straps or plunging necklines; and sagging pants that reveal undergarments. The cooperation of parents and students is greatly appreciated in this matter.

“Purity requires modesty, an integral part of temperance. Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden. It is ordered to chastity to whose sensitivity it bears witness. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with dignity of persons and their solidarity.” - Catechism of the Catholic Church #2521

MATERIALS FOR CLASS:

For grades 4th through 10th, each child must be prepared for the first day of class by bringing a pen or pencil and something on which to write. Students are NOT to write in textbooks. They may be brought home for studying, but must be returned each day for classroom use. A teacher may give reading or homework assignments where the textbook needs to be brought home; it is the student's responsibility to return the text back each day.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS:

Each year volunteer photographer, Bea Frederick, takes pictures of each classroom of teachers and students. Children receive one free photo of their class.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- Respect teachers and all volunteers.
- Respect the classroom as a place of learning.
- No food or drinks allowed in classrooms.
- No playing with lockers or going in locker area at Vermilion Catholic.
- No running in hallways.
- No heely shoes will be allowed as they mark the floors.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- No cell phones are to be brought into the building at Vermilion Catholic.
- Students will not be allowed to go to vehicles during class or during break.
- No vandalizing of walls, floors, desks or property at either facility – guilty parties will be held responsible for repairs.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

Parents will be called to pick up their child for any of the following:

- Causing a fight
- Vandalizing property at any of the facilities
- Displaying out of control behavior which disrupts the process of learning
- Any other act of a student that is determined to be best handled by calling parents

SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATIONAL SESSION:

The Diocese of Lafayette has mandated that every CCD and religious education program offer an educational session on personal safety at each appropriate grade level. In compliance with this policy, one hour is dedicated toward student participation in the Safe Environment Program. The Safe Environment Educational Program for students focuses on personal safety and education about the types of abuse that a student could encounter. Students are taught how to identify and handle situations of possible abuse and what to do in the event that such an abuse occurs. A trained Safe Environment Coordinator from St. Mary Magdalen along with members of Stuller Place (an abuse prevention and awareness organization) of Lafayette provide these age-appropriate educational sessions to students. There is an Opt-Out form for parents to sign and return only if they **do not** wish their child to participate in the program. The form will be mailed with the reminder letter a few weeks before the beginning of the CCD Summer Religion Program. Parents are also welcome to attend these sessions with their children.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS:

We are always in need of volunteers for various aspects of the CCD Summer Religion Program. If you are interested in volunteering before (by helping set up classrooms), during (by helping where needed) or after (by helping to organize returned textbooks and supplies) please call your parish office as soon as possible to have your name referred to the coordinator. Parents of 1st graders can also volunteer to bake or bring in snacks or drinks one day for all 1st grade students (usually 45-60). All volunteers must participate in Safe Environment training and stay up to date with re-certification each year to remain eligible to participate as a volunteer.

CHAPEL VISITS FOR CLASSES:

Teachers have the opportunity to take their classes to the chapel for visits to the Blessed Sacrament. This aspect of teaching children to actively engage in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is something that we are very fortunate and blessed to be able to offer students during the program.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Priests will be available for students to take advantage of the opportunity to go to confession.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF EACH GRADE:

Each grade level has a specific book or textbook assigned to students of that grade level. Below is a list of each grade, the textbook used and the curriculum to be learned by students in each class before passing to the next grade.

GRADE 1

TEXTBOOK: Our Heavenly Father from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: Introduction to the Holy Trinity through presentations on God the Father, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's plan of salvation and our part in that plan. Acquaints children with Mary, angels, and the saints. Children learn basic prayers.

SEQUENCE:

Ch.1-8: The Old Testament, God our Creator; our home in Heaven lost through original sin; the world prepares for the Savior.

Ch. 9-21: The Incarnation, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Ch. 22-28: The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Mary our mother.

AIM: To introduce first-grade students to the Church's faith regarding the Triune God, the life of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the life of prayer, with a special emphasis on growing to know, love, and trust God.

GRADE 2 – SACRAMENT OF FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST COMMUNION

St. Mary Magdalen conducts a separate program for the preparation of the reception of the Sacrament of First Communion. Specific guidelines and requirements are discussed at that time.

GRADE 3

TEXTBOOK: Our Life with Jesus from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: God's plan of salvation, from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion and the Mass.

SEQUENCE:

Ch. 1-7: The Old Testament covenant with God.

Ch. 8-14: Obedience through love of God and his laws. In Confession we meet Jesus in his mercy.

Ch. 15-25: The life of Jesus and Jesus in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Ch. 26-30: Our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit; our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints.

AIM: To show third-grade students that they belong to God's chosen people and that the child's family is an important part of God's family, the Church. Also, to encourage prayer and love for God's law.

GRADE 4

TEXTBOOK: Jesus Our Guide from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

SEQUENCE:

B.C.: Before Christ - Ch. 1-14: The fall and the first murder. The sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his people and their leaders.

A.D. In the Year of Our Lord - Ch. 15-30: History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially in the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good.

AIM: To help fourth-grade students understand their purpose and goal in life, and to see God's plan in history and society to lead us all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

GRADE 5

TEXTBOOK: Credo: I Believe from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic belief of our Catholic faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, and the prophets, and the prayers of the Church.

SEQUENCE:

Unit 1: God the Father of All. The Old Testament and mankind's participation in and loss of God's life.

Unit 2: God the Son, the Redeemer. The fulfillment of God's plan in Christ, God and Man.

Unit 3: God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. Our call to holiness and witness in the Church.

AIM: To help fifth-grade students acquire a solid knowledge of God and his Church through the understanding of the Creed we profess, and the distinguished truths of our faith from errors that lead away from the love of God.

GRADE 6

TEXTBOOK: Following Christ from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: The blueprint for a life of love: the law of God, especially in the Ten Commandments, and the presence of Jesus in the Holy Mass. The interaction of the challenges of God's law and his gifts of grace that help us fulfill his law.

SEQUENCE:

Part 1: The Ten Commandments. Forming the conscience and increasing closeness to God.

Part 2: The Holy Mass. An emphasis on the Real Presence and Christ's sacrifice and explanation of the parts of the Mass.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death and God's judgment of us, with an emphasis on the great happiness of Heaven.

AIM: To help sixth-grade students learn to love the moral law as Christ did and to cherish and love the Mass as our best prayer to God, and especially to revere and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

GRADE 7

TEXTBOOK: The Life of Grace from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: Grace as our link with God, his gift to us to bring us to Himself and his eternal life, with an emphasis on transmission of grace through the seven sacraments and on God's loving gifts of revelation, of himself through the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church. The role of grace in developing the virtues.

SEQUENCE:

Part 1: God Reveals Himself. The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the chosen people.

Part 2: God becomes Man. Jesus, true God and true Man, Priest and Sacrifice.

Part 3: God Shares His Life. The operation of grace in our lives, in developing the virtues especially through each sacrament.

AIM: To help seventh-grade students treasure the sacraments as indispensable to a full Christian life of love and truth. To understand how grace works and its relation to practicing the virtues, and to appreciate our gifts of reason and faith

Grade 8
TEXTBOOK: Our Life in the Church from the FAITH AND LIFE series from Ignatius Press

THEME: The history of the Church--its founding by Christ, its birth in the Holy Spirit, the marks of the one, true Church, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, the saints and the role of the religious and laity up to the present. The structure of the Church Jesus planned, the role of the Magisterium, the clergy, the religious and the laity and our own vocations.

SEQUENCE:

Part 1: The Church. Christ's plan for the Church's structure and its necessary attributes; the Church's teaching authority. The early Church: Martyrs, Fathers, Saints and Mary.

Part 2: The Christian in the World. Religious and laity, Holy Orders, Marriage, and family life; call to holiness.

Part 3: The Last Things. Death, Judgment, the end of the world.

AIM: To help eighth-grade students know and love the Church as Christ's Body, and respond to the teaching of the Magisterium as the sure voice of Jesus, so that young people may be strengthened through their lives in the Church to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.

GRADE 9

TEXTBOOK: Unabridged Christianity by Fr. Mario Romero of the Diocese of Lafayette

THEME: Catholic Apologetics

SEQUENCE: The book is arranged in a question and answer format. Related questions are grouped into the main chapters. Topics include the following: Catholic Bibles vs. Protestant Bibles, Historical Roots of Catholic Church, Faith Alone Needed to Get into Heaven?, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, Intercession of Saints, Hail Mary: A Scriptural Prayer, Biblical Reality of Purgatory, Does One Need to be Saved?, Importance of Sacred Scripture and Apostolic Tradition, Authority of the Pope, Infallibility of the Pope, Did Mary have Other Children?, Mary's Role in the Salvation of the World, Confession, Priestly Celibacy, Seven Biblical Sacraments, Catholic Creeds: a Biblical Explanation, Indulgences, and Annulments.

AIM: To help ninth-grade students understand and identify various tenants of the Catholic faith which are most commonly challenged and misunderstood among other Christian and Non-Christian religions.

GRADE 10

TEXTBOOK: St. Joseph's Bible, Catechism of the Catholic Church along with prepared handouts

THEME: Moral Theology

SEQUENCE: The course concentrates on entering the mystery of the love God has for us. We learn to imitate that love by understanding the dignity of the human person along with living the call to love God's neighbor. Since this course deals with Christian ethics, sensitive topics will be taught in light of the Gospel of Jesus and the Roman Catholic Church.

AIM: To help students connect theology to life. To foster a greater response to Christian discipleship.

*** Note: This course includes a section on Catechesis in Human Sexuality. According to the diocesan policy, Catechesis in Human Sexuality is considered to be a normal part of religious education. The registration of your child in our CCD program assumes your willingness to have your child participate in all aspects of our integral program of religious instruction, including Catechesis in Human Sexuality. However, you may choose to have your child opt out of this aspect of the instruction program. Students who opt out of this instruction will have to attend classes with the ninth graders. If it is your will to have your child opt out of the Catechesis in Human Sexuality portion of the program, please inform your pastor in writing no later than the first day of classes.

GRADE 11 – CONFIRMATION

St. Mary Magdalen conducts a separate program for the preparation of candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Specific guidelines and requirements are imposed. See next section for specifics regarding St. Mary Magdalen's Confirmation policy.

HOMESCHOOLING POLICY FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION YEARS
FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST -2ND GRADE AND
CONFIRMATION – 10TH AND 11TH GRADES

Children of parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen who are homeschooled must comply with the following requirements in the sacramental preparation years (2nd, 10th and 11th grades) in order to receive the sacraments at St. Mary Magdalen Church:

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist – 2nd Grade

1. **Use of a Catholic-based homeschool program.**
 - a. The Pastor or a delegate of the Pastor must review and approve the text being used in the homeschool curriculum.
 - b. Copies of any testing in the religious education portion of the program pertaining to First Reconciliation and First Eucharist must be presented for review to the Pastor or delegate of the pastor.
 - c. An interview will be scheduled with the child and the Pastor or delegate of the Pastor to determine the child's readiness for reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The interview will consist of oral questions as to the child's understanding of what Confession is, when one should attend confession, what types of sins should be confessed, what is Holy Communion, and other such questions deemed appropriate by the Pastor.
2. **Use of a Non-Catholic-based homeschool program using a Catholic-based religious component on a daily basis.**
 - a. The components as listed in the **Use of a Catholic-based homeschool program will apply if** religion is taught on a **daily** basis. If religion is not taught on a daily basis, please refer to the requirements listed for a non-Catholic-based homeschool program.
3. **Use of a Non-Catholic-based homeschool program.**
 - a. If the homeschool curriculum does not teach religion on a **daily** basis, then this situation is treated as a public school type situation and this homeschooled student will be required to attend St. Mary Magdalen's CCD sacramental preparation program in the 2nd grade.

Confirmation – 10th and 11th Grades

The Confirmation process begins at the Catholic school level and CCD in the 10th grade with a concentration in Morality. It is intended that a priest do the instruction in the 10th grade CCD program. Because of the priest's instruction, homeschool students are required to attend St. Mary Magdalen's CCD program.

During the 11th grade Confirmation year, Catholic school students and public school students attend the preparatory program. Because of this requirement, homeschooled students are required to attend the preparatory program at St. Mary Magdalen Church.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Diocesan policy allows for a child to miss no more than 2 days of CCD before they must repeat the course. The reasons for missing a day are irrelevant. If a child misses more than 2 days of CCD instruction for ANY reason, that child has automatically failed that CCD grade. It is the responsibility of the parents and students to take the commitment of participating in the CCD Summer Religion Program seriously. It is also the responsibility of the parent and the student to make arrangements with the teacher to make up any assignments, quizzes, or tests that the student misses due to his/her absence. No work may be made up after the last day of CCD classes.

A child, who fails a religion course, must either repeat it the following summer or enroll in the CCD make-up course. Any other course of action or special circumstance will be left to the decision of the CCD Coordinator in consultation with the pastor of the parish to which the child in question belongs.

TESTING

Actual tests, quizzes and homework assignments will be administered at the discretion of the teachers in grades 4-10 to determine if students are learning what is being taught. A grading scale will be used and letter grades will be assigned to each student along with any comments from the teacher. Students who miss classes for any reason are responsible for getting the missed material and making up any assignments or tests. No work can be done or turned in after the last day of the CCD Summer Program.

GRADES

In all classes, grades are recorded. A failing grade or excessive absences will require that a student repeat the course the following year. A letter indicating the child's final grade will be mailed to parents by the end of July. Students who fail a grade due to low marks or excessive absences have the option of enrolling in the CCD make-up course or retaking the course next summer.

CCD MAKE-UP COURSE

The CCD make-up course is **only open** to those students who have failed a course during the CCD Summer Program. This is not a substitute for the 2 week CCD Summer Program. Parent and child are given the textbook and workbook and it is the parent's responsibility to teach the child and make sure they completed the assigned make up work. If a student still fails this program, they will have to repeat the grade next summer. The cost of the CCD make-up course is \$25 per student.

CLOSING MASS

St. Mary Magdalen will celebrate Mass together in the Vermilion Catholic Auditorium at the end of the morning and afternoon session. The morning session Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the afternoon session Mass will begin at 2:30 p.m. A rosary will begin a half hour before each Mass. After the Mass, the children will be dismissed for the summer. As always, parents are invited to attend these Masses. **(Times are subject to change for the upcoming 2010 Summer program).**