

# Saint Simon Parish



Preschool of Religion  
Parent Handbook  
2011-2012

# Saint Simon Children's Ministries Contacts

## Director of Children's Ministries

Sister Kathleen Hanley [Khanley@stsimon.org](mailto:Khanley@stsimon.org)

## Co-Directors of PSR

Angela Johnson [psr@stsimon.org](mailto:psr@stsimon.org)

Melissa Powell [psr@stsimon.org](mailto:psr@stsimon.org)

## PSR representative for Children's Ministries Events Committee

Your name here ☺

## Catechists

3's

Christine Carey

Elliott Wilde

4's

Paul Carey

Mairead Delumpa

Benny Delupma

5's

Nancy Fazioli

Your name here ☺

John Bucks

Matt White

## PSR Calendar 2011-2012

Date	Theme	Date	Theme
Sept 11	God Loves Me	Jan 22	Feelings
Sept 18	Creation	Jan 29	<b>No class-St Simon School open House</b>
Sept 25	Growing	Feb 5	<b>No class</b>
Oct 2	<b>No class</b>	Feb 12	<b>I love Jesus-meet in Parish Center</b>
Oct 9	Baptism	Feb 19	<b>No class-winter break</b>
Oct 16	Friends	Feb 26	Family
Oct 23	<b>No class- St. Simon 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>	Mar 4	<b>No class</b>
Oct 30	Saints	Mar 11	Our Father
Nov 6	<b>No Class</b>	Mar 18	Lost Sheep
Nov 13	Church	Mar 25	<b>Palm Sunday/Easter-meet in Parish Cen.</b>
Nov 20	<b>Thanksgiving-meet in the Parish Center</b>	Apr 1	<b>No class</b>
Nov 27	<b>No class-Happy Thanksgiving</b>	Apr 8	<b>No class- Easter Sunday</b>
Dec 4	<b>No class</b>	Apr 15	Moses
Dec 11	Advent/Candy Cane Sunday	Apr 22	Bible
Dec 18	Christmas	Apr 29	<b>Noah-meet in Parish Center</b>
Dec 25	<b>No Class- Merry Christmas</b>	May 6	<b>No class</b>
Jan 1	<b>No Class- Happy New Year</b>	May 13	<b>No class- Happy Mother's Day</b>
Jan 8	Epiphany	May 20	Mary <b>Last class 3's/4's</b>
Jan 15	<b>No class-Martin Luther King</b>	June	<b>Graduation for 5's</b>

## **Our Philosophy:**

"The small child is all together innocent and lacking in experience. He has a deep sense of wonder. The most ordinary thing to us, is to him extraordinary. He has a real sense of the supernatural, a real intuition. Everything in his soul carries him to God. It is at this age that he receives his first ideas about God—a terrific responsibility for parents. The child will make his own ideas of God according to the way that God has been presented to him On this idea of God, which we have given to him, depends his whole future spiritual life, his relationships with God for the whole rest of his life, and perhaps his eternity."

--Maria Montessori

The Child In the Church

## **Our Purpose and Goal:**

The Preschool of Religion (PSR) introduces the small child into our faith and community; it provides the child with liturgical experiences appropriate to their ability; it gives the child an opportunity to share God with children of their own age; it assists parents with materials to guide the child's daily Christ-like living; it gathers families of small children into Christian social gatherings and it provides parent with quiet time at Mass while their child is learning about God's love.

It began as a parent/parish co-op, and even today all of the people who work in the program do so on a voluntary basis; therefore, parents are encouraged to support the program to the fullest, so that it may continue to function on the highest level possible.

Some of the teachers are not even parents of preschoolers, but alumni, parents of alumni, and long time parishioners who are sharing their faith with you "little ones."

# Administrative Policies

## Required Parental Assistance:

**All parents** are asked to help in the classroom on a rotating basis. Please check the parent assistance schedule for your turn to help. Each family will be required to assist in the classroom 3-5 Sundays a year. **If you are unable to assist on the date assigned, you are responsible for switching with another parent and notifying the catechist.** Those parents who are teaching in the program are exempt from helping in classroom for obvious reasons.

Aside from that, there are other volunteer positions available. If you are interested in any of the positions listed below, please contact Angela or Melissa directly.

- ❖ Catechist
- ❖ Substitute Teacher
- ❖ Room Parent
- ❖ Special Events coordinator

## Class time:

Classes meet for the duration of Mass. If Mass runs long, your child will be kept in PSR. All classes meet in the lower building of the school.

## Insurance:

All the children are covered by CCM insurance. Please report any injuries at the time of the occurrence to the Director.

## Sibling and Other Children:

Our insurance policy does not allow us to have any children who are not enrolled in PSR to attend the class (this includes siblings on parent helper days).

Attendance:

Regular attendance is required so that each child may gain the maximum benefit from the program. If your child is unable to attend, please notify the teacher by Wednesday of that week. If you instruct someone else to pick up your child, you must notify the teacher beforehand or send the person with a note. Notify the teacher before class if your child will need an early dismissal.

Arrival and Departure Procedures:

Before Mass, walk your child into his/her classroom. **Children may not be dropped off in front of the school or in the breezeway.** After mass, you must come into your child's classroom and pick him or her up once the teacher has dismissed them. Please do not allow an older brother/sister to bring or pick up your child.

## Program Objectives:

Our program is a *God-readiness* program for the 3, 4, and 5 year old child. In our program, the young child is initiated into the faith community and into liturgical experiences that are distinctly his/her own.

Our program uses the Winston Early Childhood Series as follows:

A level (3s) "Happy Together"

B level (4s) "Something Special"

C level (5s) "The Jesus Story"

While the textbooks have been discontinued for sometime, we continue to rely on these materials as our primary source of curriculum ,due to the fact that we have not been able to find an adequate replacement which is reasonably priced.

We also use the *Catholic ABC's: A Hands-on Preschool Curriculum* from Catholic Icing and a few other textbooks that we have as resources.

Occasionally we may send home age appropriate materials from these sources.

Our purpose is three fold:

1. To provide the children with the means for learning to know, love, and serve *God* at a level each child can appreciate and understand through meaningful personal experiences upon which deeper religious concepts will be built later in life.
2. To assist parents by providing the organized materials which they can use to guide their child in his/her daily religious experiences
3. To provide preschool families with the opportunity to meet in Christian fellowship activities, and initiate the preschoolers more actively into the greater community of the church.

## Classroom Procedures:

Our classes revolve around a theme each week, and are developed as follows:

1. **Gathering time:** Coloring pages, puzzles, and quiet activities occur while children are arriving.
2. **Circle time:** The spiritual development of the day's theme. Each circle time begins with a prayer and a welcome to each child. Prayer begins with a Sign of the Cross. A simple child's prayer is used each week to help the children make it their own. Children also sing songs about Our Lord and praises. The children will hear a story, and discuss the topic of the day. Sometimes they will come to a central gathering place to see a puppet show at this time.
3. **Creative Activity:** Each theme is reinforced by a simple craft or activity, most often to be taken home.
4. **Closing Prayer:** During this time the children review the topic of the day and say a closing prayer.

**Paraliturgies:** Special occasions when the teachers bring the children to participate in a part of the Mass or other religious ceremony so they can express their love of God and share with the parish community. It is also a time where they can see their parents and other adults in prayer.

## Outreach Projects

PSR is involved in service projects throughout the year to help form good attitudes of sharing and caring for others at a very young age. For years we have been happy to serve other young children in the Bay Area. During Advent we bring candy canes to complete the parish Christmas baskets that go to many local families that are less fortunate than we are. During the epiphany, we collect winter clothing items for the homeless. During Lent, we help our Edge and LifeTeen assemble kits for the homeless. We will once again participate in these projects, and perhaps more throughout the year.