Parish Goals and Objectives

This year the RE program has been blessed with the involvement of the DeStefano family. While each member of this family has had a great impact on this community, one particular member has played a key role in the Eighth Grade class. This has been a huge year for Oliver as he has made his First Communion and Confirmation. In addition, Oliver has been the unifying member of the Eighth Grade class. Most recently, Oliver’s family informed the College Church community about the Best Buddies Friendship Walk that was scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 26th. The organization, Best Buddies, celebrates the lives and achievements of those with intellectual and development disabilities and works to promote inclusion and friendship between those with and without disabilities. To support Oliver, the class decided to do this walk with him. It was a fun morning and a wonderful way to thank Oliver for being such an important part of our community.

Seroka, who served as our RE Assistant/Youth Minister for four years, Carrie Shaughnessy for her help with the Safe Touch program and Kelli Fuller for supporting our Sandwich Sundays. We then viewed a Slide Show put together by Youth Group teen, Andrew Johnson, which highlighted all of our RE programs. The morning ended with lots of fellowship and Krispy Kreme donuts!!

Eighth Graders Walk in Best Buddies Event

This year’s RE Closing Mass and Slide Show was the culmination of a great year!!! Students from all grade levels participated in the Mass as lectors, musicians and ushers; leading our songs, presenting the Offertory Gifts and ending with our Seventh Graders crowning Mary. Juliane Pautrot, an Eighth Grade student gave a touching reflection on Mary and what her presence means to us today. After Mass, Angie recognized three long time catechists/assistants: Katelyn Seroka, who served as our RE Assistant/Youth Minister for four years, Carrie Shaughnessy for her help with the Safe Touch program and Kelli Fuller for supporting our Sandwich Sundays. We then viewed a Slide Show put together by Youth Group teen, Andrew Johnson, which highlighted all of our RE programs. The morning ended with lots of fellowship and Krispy Kreme donuts!!

Welcome to our new edition of ECHO. Thanks to Kathy Fulton Coppel, parent of Will, grade 5 and Grace, grade 3, we have a new look and logo! This new look feels appropriate as we have much to celebrate after this incredible year!! Throughout this issue you will see evidence of our children’s growing faith and participation. We know that this doesn’t happen by itself, but is the result of many faithful parents, teachers, catechists, youth leaders and volunteers who made this possible. All of the time, energy and love they shared made a huge difference to all of us. We can’t thank them enough!! Wishing you a relaxing and restful summer!!

Angie

DeStefano family.
Last summer we were fortunate to have many of our RE parents participate in the planning weekends that were part of developing the new Strategic Plan. This plan was approved by the Pastoral Council last January and will guide the parish for many years to come. There are seven goals, with goal #3 specific to our Religious Education programs: “Foster lifelong faith formation rooted in Gospel values and Ignatian Spirituality.” To that end we are in the process of working on new ways to strengthen our RE programs. One new initiative is to have better informational materials that explain our programs and can be used to recruit new children and families. We are blessed to have a high level of parent satisfaction in our programs and we want to reach out to new families. A second objective is strengthening our Youth Ministry program. We are in the process of hiring a new Youth Minister. Along with filling this position we will set up a parent advisory board so we can partner with parents on this important endeavor. If you are interested in helping in either one of these initiatives or have any other suggestions that would improve our RE programs, please let us know. We want to provide the best for our children and families.
Student Reflections on Service Saturdays

“My favorite part was putting smiles on people’s faces, “...doing glitter crafts with the kids,” ....seeing how grateful they were.” These are some of the reflections of our students after participating in their Service Saturdays. This year students served at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen, Gateway 180 Family Shelter, St. Patrick’s Center and Ronald McDonald Houses. Service Saturdays are part of RE’s initiative of *Magis*, where students are committed to reach out and serve others. In each grade level, fourth and up, students with their parents have an opportunity to provide direct service to those in need in local soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Prayer and reflection both before and after are an important part of the experience. Most students comment, “they would like to go back” and “wished they could have stayed longer.”

Day of Prayer for RE Parents and Parishioners

This past November RE Parents and Parishioners had an opportunity to attend a Day of Prayer with Fr. Joseph Tetlow, SJ. The day focused on the Meditation on the Kingdom from the Spiritual Exercises. It was a day of reflections, sharing and prayer. Seventy-five people attended. It was an enriching day for all!
May Crowning Reflection on Mary

Each year we ask one of our Eighth Grade students to give a reflection on what Mary, the Mother of God, means to them. The reflection is given at the RE Closing Mass before Mary is crowned. Below is this year’s reflection given by Juliane Pautrot.

For most of my life, I only viewed Mary as the mother of Jesus. She is, but she is also much more than that. Not only is she the mother of the Son of God, but she is the mother of the Church. The reason I really look up to Mary if because of her courage, bravery, loyalty, and persistence. She took on the responsibility of mothering Jesus at an age no older than me. She had to raise him and watch as he grew up to be the most hated and loved man of the time. And she had to watch him die. Through all of this, Mary was brave. She didn’t back down for anything. She persisted through all the hardships that were thrown at her, and most importantly, she was loyal to God. I strive to be like Mary because I want to have the courage to stand up for myself and what I believe in. I want to be able to persist through hard times at school and in life. Most of all, I want to build a relationship with God and learn to be loyal no matter what is demanded of me. Mary was a great mother, role model, and overall, believer.

Juliane Pautrot attends Parkway West Middle School where her favorite subject is English. She enjoys reading and drama and hopes someday to be a famous writer.

Christian Initiation Program

This year on the Feast of Our Lord’s Baptism, we welcomed two new RE students into the Church. Congratulations to our new baptized members: Ciaran and Josiah Santiago, sons of Dr. Paul and Lucinda Santiago. They prepared to receive Baptism by attending Christian Initiation classes, RE classes and children’s Liturgy of the Word. In April both boys received First Communion along with two other RE students: Jack Werremeyer, son of Robert and Susan Werremeyer and and Oliver DeStefano, son of Devin and Beeni DeStefano. Oliver was confirmed in May with the rest of his RE Eighth Grade class. Congratulations to all!!

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy of the Word had a great year!! Most Sundays we averaged 45 children in attendance. Special thanks to our leaders: Zayna Abusada, Samantha Beauchaine, Laura Berry, Meredith Boe, Alexa Bonefas, Lindsey Cross, Ashlyn Flores, Tikko George, Colin Hoock, Henry Hummert, Megan John, Dennis Lane, Jean Manianglung, Jennifer Mathews, Moira McDermott, Taylor Morano, Ian O’Hagen, Hazel Owen, Linda Paradis, Sarah Reinhold, Tima Tito, Gretchen Vandercar and Katie Wilicznki.
First Communion Celebration 2015

“Lord, I am not worthy to receive you…”

On Sunday, April 26th, twenty-six of our Religious Education students were welcomed to the table of our Lord for the first time. Twenty-two of the students were part of the Second Grade RE class and Level II atrium, and the other four were older children who were part of our Catholic initiation program this year. Congratulations to Juan Manual Callis, Grace Coppel, Anne de Foy, Finnian DeStefano, Oliver DeStefano, Bobby Dunn, Charlie Hajek, Brandon House, Luke Jarboe, Samuel Leonard, Madeline Littleton, Ava Martin, Anna Otto, Quinn Piskorowski, Quinn Reynolds, Mary Romer, Lauren Ruth, Ciaran Santiago, Josiah Santiago, Jack Schwalb, David Stevick, Jack Taylor, Grace Volz, Jack Welsby, Jack Werremeyer and Robbie Winter. A special thank you to their catechists, Kathryn Raliski, Julie Kilian, Rachel Patterson, Julie Mikus, Donna Branca and Brother James-Peter Trares who so lovingly prepared them. It was a joy filled day for all our children, families and parish!!

Mom’s Reflection of her Son’s First Communion

“Lukey, it is your First Communion!” Our two-year-old daughter whispered this to her older brother in a thrilled voice during Mass. Her sweet words reflected the joy, enthusiasm, and blessings that our entire family felt when our son, Luke, celebrated his First Holy Communion at the College Church this year. We watched with love and gratitude as Luke’s faith and relationship with God deepened and blossomed as he prepared to celebrate this sacrament. I asked Luke to tell me what it means to him to now receive the Eucharist during Mass. He said, “I feel different because I feel more like I am with God and that I am now a part of the Church!” We are blessed to walk with Luke in his faith journey and to experience the love of God through the kindness and grace of the College Church community. Aimee Wittman Jarboe is the mother of Luke, 8. Elizabeth, 2 and Katherine 6 months. She serves on the Youth Faith Commission.
Teen’s Reflection on his Confirmation

I believe I’m one of the lucky ones. I have this relationship with God that a lot of my friends do not have. Also, this idea of faith came to me with ease. I understood what faith was and how it affected me in my everyday life. I believe God created this amazing world that I live in, all the people, and plants, and animals. I believe the Son Jesus came down from heaven to watch over and show us the way of God. I also believe that I am an important part of God’s Kingdom and his plan. With my faith, I believe I can accomplish great things…. I get the chance to follow God in his plan. I have many people to thank for guiding me on this path. I would like to thank my parents for helping me on the path of faith. I would also like to thank my brother, for being my sponsor and helping me understand. Thank you to all my friends from Atrium, through RE. You guys rock! To all the teachers I have had, thank you…. I am so happy that I get the chance to follow Christ in my own special way…. By receiving Confirmation, I have agreed to follow God for the rest of my life. I will happily take this agreement and follow God, and stay lucky.

Matt Johnson attends North Kirkwood Middle School where his favorite subject is English. When he’s at home he enjoys playing video games but also enjoys music and theatre.
**RE Student Surveys**

Our RE program had a great year! Besides meeting for classes on Sunday, our students also had an opportunity to pray together at Class Masses, serve together at a local shelter on Service Saturdays and play together at potluck meals. At our last class, we gave a survey to each student in RE grades K-8, asking them to tell us what was the highlight of their year. Their answers are below.

### Kindergarten/ First Grade

*Natalie Otto, Rita DeRuntz, Paula Kilcoyne-Ball and Kristen Ranft*

**My Favorite part of RE**….We grew closer to God through singing songs, doing works, praying in a circle, drawing the Holy Spirit, coloring, tracing, setting up the altar and through the field trip to the Church. We had a great year!!!

### Second Grade

*Kathryn Raliski, Rachel Patterson and Julie Mikus*

**My First Communion** was…..awesome, the best, receiving Jesus for the first time, having a party after and receiving gifts, a lot of pictures and fun.

**My Favorite part of RE**….doing crafts, making the banners, great snacks, artwork, the retreats, nice teachers and receiving First Communion.

**Favorite Activities outside of School**….reading, traveling, biking, playing tag, playing video games, playing with pets and playing with friends.

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<th>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS A GLANCE</th>
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<td><strong>Total Number of Religious Education Programs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Number of RE Students in Christian Initiation Class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Number of RE Volunteers</strong></td>
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RE Student Surveys

Third Grade

Sister Veronica and Sister Emeline

I will follow Jesus by...praying every day, helping my mom, being nice to others, being nice to people, helping and praying more.

My favorite part of RE...learning about Jesus and God, Class Mass, Sandwich Sunday, Holy Week, learning about Easter, coloring angels, end of year party and my birthday.

Suggestions for next year’s class...we learned more about Jesus and God like when he was born and how old he is, learning about different Church seasons, make our own peace candles, getting snacks, to have homework.

Fourth Grade

Carlie Lavin, Chelsea Atkins and Kristina Roselle

One important thing I learned this year…the saints, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, how to become a priest.

My favorite part of RE…the kind teachers, watching the video about the Ten Commandments, asking questions and learning answers, Sandwich Sunday, Service Day at Soup Kitchen, Class Mass, games, Jeopardy, videos, treats.

Suggestions for next year’s class...nothing, leave it the same, more important activities, more games,

Favorite activities outside of school…God’s creation, video games, baseball, soccer, drawing, games, sports, chess, golf, band.

Fifth Grade

Michelle Forgash, Amy Venturella and Andrew Sullivan

I would describe the Kingdom of God as…the Church and the people of the Church, a good place, a happy place, a holy place, amazing but slow to get to, where dreams come true.

My favorite part of RE...learning about Purgatory, everything, going to Gateway Shelter, Class Mass, Prince of Egypt, games and videos.

Suggestions for next year’s class...keep everything the same and adding more movies.

Favorite activities outside of school…playing soccer, sports, band, baseball, art, biking and video games.
RE Student Surveys

Sixth Grade
Stephen Grote and Molly Keeven

My favorite Old Testament person is...Abraham, because he was one of the first people to talk to God, and I admire his relationship with God; Noah, because he was picked out of regular life for something big; Noah, because he followed God’s law; Moses because he lead Egypt.

My favorite part of RE...going to Ronald McDonald House and making people breakfast, Sandwich Sunday, acting out David and Goliath, going to St. Patrick’s Center, Class Mass and playing religious games.

Suggestions for next year’s class...nothing, it was awesome, more service days and an activity day at the end of the year.

Favorite activities outside of school...dance, figure skating, reading, drawing, playing in the Jazz Band, acting, video games and sports.

Seventh Grade
Richard Baugh and Sara Lee McGinnis

After studying morality this year, one way I will better follow Jesus is...to think about God in my day-to-day decisions, trying not to pick who I hang out with by how they look, and I will use virtue to make my decisions.

My favorite part of RE...going to the Ronald McDonald House, the service projects and meeting new classmates.

Suggestions for next year’s class...I don’t have any, more field trips, more interactive activities. Favorite activities outside of school...helping at the homeless summer camp, Ronald McDonald House, swimming, basketball, soccer, sailing and music.

Eighth Grade
Hope Johnson, Teresa Carson, Sean Hagerty, SJ and Katelyn Seroka

The Holy Spirit is to me...is the fire that motivates us to love God, others and the world around us, powerful and protecting me, a portion of Heaven and God, the most constant thing in my life and the best part of me that inspires all the others and part of me that stays after Confirmation.

My favorite part of RE...going on the retreat in November, going to the homeless shelter, meeting new people and activities such as making a prayer blanket, the retreat in January and the Best Buddies walk.

Suggestions for next year’s class...more retreats and group-building activities, more walks, learn more stories.

Favorite activities outside of school...playing guitar, dancing, writing ghost stories, theatre, eating, reading, watching TV, playing lacrosse, swimming, basketball and musical theatre.
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Surveys

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd had a wonderful year! The children worked hard in their atria and grew in their knowledge and love of God. One of the highlights was the annual Liturgy of the Light celebration which was held on Saturday, April 11, 2015. Below is the result of the students’ surveys.

Level I Atrium
Janet Reinert, Mary Tychonievich and Mary Nagel

My Favorite part of Atrium….The Level I atrium children had a peaceful year learning about Jesus as the “light of the world” and as the Good Shepherd. At Easter we talked about sharing the light we received at Baptism. We have enjoyed our time together listening to God, working, singing, and praying.

My favorite part of Atrium …reading from the Bible, sandwich Sunday, praying with my Rosary, prepare prayer time, Liturgy of the Light celebration, drawing and tracing.

Suggestions for next year’s class…we could do crafts every two weeks, treasure chest, more Sandwich Sundays, better yarn.

Favorite activities outside of school…play dates, racquetball and basketball, reading, hockey, working in my mom’s class, going to the Pasta House.

Level II Atrium
Julie Kilian, Donna Branca and Brother James-Peter Trares

My Favorite part of Atrium …. The Level II atrium children had a full year learning about ancient cultures, the Creation study, the ancient world work, the Advent calendar, making a book about Adam and Eve, doing the prayer service, learning about the synagogue, learning the history of the Jews.

My favorite part of Atrium…books about ancient cultures, the Creation study, the ancient world work, the Advent calendar, making a book about Adam and Eve, doing the prayer service, learning about the synagogue, learning the history of the Jews.

Suggestions for next year’s class… nothing, it went very well, to be outside, more space in the room, get some games, use paints and pastels.

Favorite activities outside of school… horseback riding, swim team, hockey, karate, reading and playing French horn.

Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen

Level III Atrium
Susan Stuhlsatz-Reese and Karen de Foy

My favorite part of Atrium…books about ancient cultures, the Creation study, the ancient world work, the Advent calendar, making a book about Adam and Eve, doing the prayer service, learning about the synagogue, learning the history of the Jews.

Suggestions for next year’s class… nothing, it went very well, to be outside, more space in the room, get some games, use paints and pastels.

Favorite activities outside of school… horseback riding, swim team, hockey, karate, reading and playing French horn.
Youth Group Update

This year the Xavier Youth Group had an awesome year!! We took faith and fellowship to the extreme from our amazing retreat in January to our amazing Masses and service throughout the year. Special thanks to all the teens who participated and to the great team: Katelyn Seroka, Connor Lough, Austin Reaker, Maggie Fleming, Kathryn Raliski, Anne Nora, Sean Haggerty, SJ, Grace Daly and Fr. Glen Mueller, S.J.

Christmas and Easter Celebrations 2014-15
ECHO

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ECHO is published by St. Francis Xavier College Church to provide information about our Religious Education programs and activities for children and families.

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Or visit our website at
www.collegechurch.slu.edu

Please Brag about Us!!!

Please consider referring our Religious Education program to your family, friends and neighbors. Parent referrals are our best evangelization tool!!!

RE Calendar Important Dates for 2015-16

Sunday, August 30th   Come and See Sunday, Orientation and Parent Meetings for all RE Grades —9:30—10:30 a.m.
Sunday, September 13th  First Day of RE Classes and CGS Atria
Sunday, October 4th   Opening Day for Youth Group Program
                      9:30—10:15 a.m.   Parents’ Meeting
                      10:30—11:30 a.m.  Youth Group Mass
                      11:30—12:15 p.m.  Youth Group Lunch and Meeting
Sunday, November 15th  RE Pancake Breakfast in Ballroom after Masses
Sunday, May 24th      First Communion Celebration 10:30 a.m. Liturgy
Sunday, May 1st       Closing RE Mass in Ballroom 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 15th      Confirmation Celebration 10:30 a.m. Liturgy with Bishop Edward M. Rice

Great Things are Happening at College Church!!!