## Parish School of Religion (PSR) Policy: Religious Formation for School-aged Children

St. Jerome's religious formation efforts, at root, aim to communicate the fullness of life in Jesus, in light of the life-giving riches of our Catholic tradition.

We offer PSR for parishioners in Pre-School, Elementary and Middle School.

All Elementary (grades K through 5), and Middle School aged students (grades 6 through 8), who do not attend a parochial school, are expected to participate in PSR or Home Study. High School students as well have the Home Study opportunity.

Registration is held over the summer, with a fee charged to cover materials. Parents enter into a covenant with the catechists to partner for the flourishing in faith of our children.

# **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

PSR for Elementary School children is held on Wednesday evenings, with a choice of 4:15-5:30 p.m. or 6:15-7:30 p.m.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

PSR for Middle School youth, designed as faith-sharing in a small Christian community, is offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Youth Group participation is also highly encouraged (Sunday afternoons) plus special activities for prayer, community-building and service. Regular participation in Youth Group fulfills the Religious Formation aims.

# **HIGH SCHOOL**

St. Jerome Youth Ministry includes a catechetical component on Sundays. Additionally, a Home Study format is available for those students whose schedules cannot accommodate the Sunday-scheduled Youth Ministry Program (see below).

# HOME STUDY OPTION (Elementary, Middle & High School)

Parents may choose to catechize their children at home in lieu of PSR. The Home Study materials are the same as PSR, and the process follows the schedule of PSR. Parents gather initially and periodically with the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation to share insights, struggles, affirmations, and best practices.

The Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation is responsible for all faith formation processes. He may be reached at the Parish Office, 667-6571 Ext. 13, or through email at <u>rknapp@stjeromeparish.org</u>.