

SAINT THEODORE | NOVEMBER 2021

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION



Upcoming Dates:

11/3 - PSR Class

11/10 - PSR Class

11/15 - Forming the Family Night, 6:30pm

11/17 - PSR Class

11/24 - No PSR (Thanksgiving Break)

12/1 - PSR Class (Grades 3-8 to Confession)

12/4 - First Reconciliation, 10:30am (2nd Grade)

12/8 - PSR Mass, 6:30pm

What's Happening in PSR

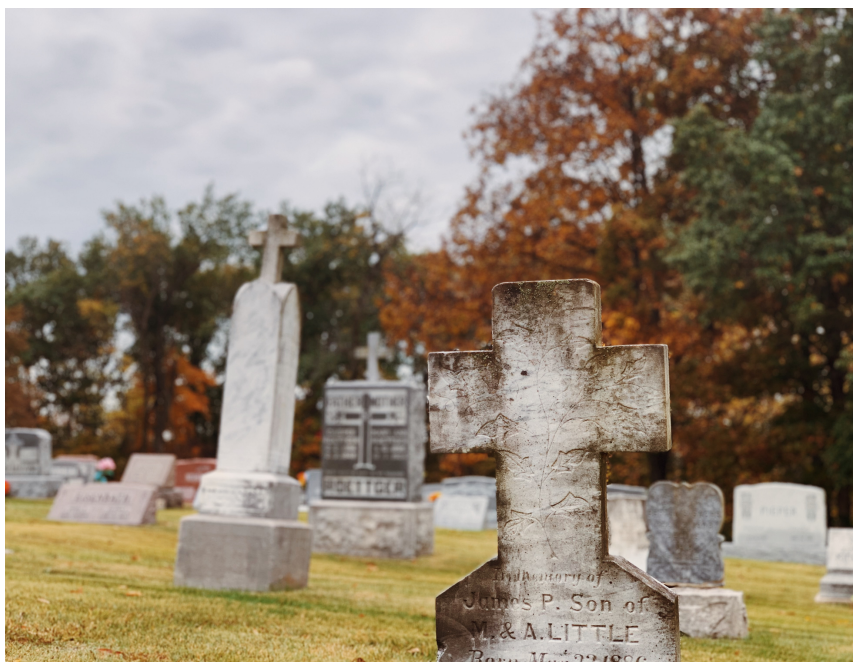
In our last few weeks of ordinary time before we enter into Advent, many of our classes are focusing on God's mercy and forgiveness, specifically through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On December 1st, grades 3-8 will attend Reconciliation in the church during PSR class. Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they prepare to make their First Reconciliation the following weekend on December 4th. Eighth graders are also continuing their sacramental preparation through learning about the saints as we celebrate the feast of All Saints and they work toward choosing a Confirmation saint.

Below you will see a glimpse of what your children are learning in their PSR classes, broken down by grade level. Since all faith formation begins and culminates in the family, you will find some short, simple suggestions for bringing these lessons to life in your home in practical ways.

Our dismissal prayer for the month of November offers prayer specifically for those who have died and are waiting to enter heaven. I hope you will join the Church in praying for these souls during the month of November. See below for more info on praying for the dead as a family, and joining our parish family in honoring those who have died through the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Mrs. Katie Maxwell
Director of Family Catechesis





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*Let us not hesitate to
help those who have
died and to offer our
prayers for them"*

St. John Chrysostom

Forming the Family: Praying for the Deceased

The celebrations of All Saints Day and All Souls Day in November are a naturally great time to re-focus our families on what matters most: getting to Heaven. We celebrate the saints who are already enjoying the eternal reward of heaven and we commemorate all the faithful departed who have gone before us. Beyond these two days of celebration and commemoration, the Church calls us to dedicate this month to praying for the dead. Matters pertaining to death are things we tend to try to keep away from children as it can be painful or confusing for them. But it doesn't have to be. Talking to kids about death so that we can pray for the deceased begins with reminding them that all life begins here on earth but is fulfilled in life eternal in the Kingdom of Heaven. When understood with the mind of the Church, death becomes something to look forward to, not something to fear.

This doesn't mean the grief or the sadness are any less real, but that they are not the end. In our families we gather to grieve the loss of loved ones, but we also celebrate the hope that their soul is now at rest in Heaven, or, is on their way there - which is where our prayer for them comes into play.

The Catechism tells us that purgatory exists as a final stage of purification before entering heaven experienced by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030).

These souls are referred to as "poor souls" for they are not able to pray for themselves any longer, but, we can. Is there not a more beautiful way to love those we have lost than by offering prayer to help them enter the joy of heaven?

Praying for the dead is an incredible act of charity and work of mercy, for the souls of those we know (and those we don't). When doing so as a family it takes that grief which would otherwise remain stagnant and turns it into something hopeful and more importantly, efficacious.

Praying for those we know who have passed is a great starting point. Have their names or photos somewhere visible in your home where you and your children will see them every day as a reminder. Incorporate it into your daily routine, either praying for them by name before meals or at bedtime. Consider ways, especially during November, to expand this prayer for souls in purgatory who have no one else to pray for them. Take your children to the cemetery and have them read the names on graves as you offer prayer. You may not know them, but we want to help release as many souls from purgatory as possible.

Modeling for our children this dedicated prayer for these souls is a profound witness that we really believe the teachings of Christ. It keeps our eyes fixed on our final goal of heaven, where we will all be reunited in the glory of God.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT SAINT THEODORE

What our PSR classes are up to lately....

1st Grade

First grade is excited to "finally" be talking about Jesus and his life growing up starting with the Nativity. **Family follow up:** take them to see the Joseph and Mary statues in the church after Mass and show them Jesus' parents and say a prayer for all mothers and fathers.

2nd Grade

2nd Grade is one month away from their First Reconciliation and is learning how to make a good confession.

Family follow up: pray the Act of Contrition together at bedtime every night this month.

3rd Grade

In the next few weeks third grade will focus on the first three commandments, especially to keep the Lord's Day holy. **Family follow up:** On Sunday, plan a special meal after Mass. Let your child help you with meal planning and preparations and consider inviting over a friend or loved one to join you.

4th Grade

4th Grade continues their salvation-history family tree leading up to the birth of Jesus. **Family follow up:** create your own family tree with your child and use it to pray for a different family member every day.



5th Grade

Fifth grade is continuing through salvation history and focusing on Mary being chosen to bring Jesus into the world. **Family follow up:** As a family, pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

6th Grade

Sixth grade is learning the practice of penance and self-denial to overcome our tendency to sin. The greatest example of this is Christ, who freely chose to submit to God's will and sacrifice his life for us on the Cross. **Family follow up:** place a crucifix or image of Christ on the cross somewhere prominently in your home as a reminder of Jesus's sacrifice that we should strive to imitate.

7th Grade

Seventh grade continues through Salvation history with Moses, through whom God gave us the 10 commandments as a guideline of how to follow Him. **Family follow up:** ask your child to name the 10 commandments and explain what they mean.



8th Grade

Eighth grade is studying the saints beginning with the Communion of Saints, which includes all the faithful who are united in Christ: those of us on earth, those suffering in purgatory, and those triumphantly in heaven. **Family Follow up:** stop by the church and light a candle for deceased loved ones.

Commemorating the Faithful Departed at St. Theodore

Join us for our **Mass of Remembrance** on **November 18**. You may call the parish office at 636-332-9269 to inform us of anyone who has died in the past year so they may be remembered at this Mass. You may also stop by the church to write down the names of any loved ones who have died in our book of the dead.

Prayer for the Poor Souls in Purgatory

PRAYER AT DISMISSAL FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.