

# ✧ Religious Development ✧

In addition to their core religion curriculum, students at Epiphany of Our Lord School have many opportunities for spiritual and religious growth and development. These activities enable our students to deepen their relationship with the Lord, positively impact their family life, and make a difference in their community. The following is a list of some of these opportunities:

## **Weekly Mass**

The students in grades 1 through 8 attend mass every Friday morning. (Kindergarten students join them later in the school year.) Each week, one of the classes is responsible for preparing and leading the mass. They select the music, do the readings, psalms and petitions, bring up the gifts, and if age appropriate, serve as altar servers. In addition, our Children's Choir sings at our weekly masses under the direction of our Parish Music Director. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to become actively involved in the celebration of the mass!

## **Community Service Projects**

Several times throughout the year, the school participates in service projects. Some of these projects are the Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive, Operation Santa Claus, Candy for Troops, Pennies for Patients, Alex's Lemonade Stand, toiletries for St. Mary's Orphanage, Pasta for Pennies for Leukemia, financial collections for Autism Awareness, childhood cancer, diabetes and more.

## **Respect Life Youth Group**

This student organization is open to students in grades 4 through 8. Their activities include a classroom door decorating contest, prayer card contest, pro-life essay contest, service projects and more. Student members in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are able to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. every year. The parish adult Respect Life Committee is involved with this group.

## **Prayer Partners**

Each pre-k 3 student is thoughtfully matched with a fifth grader as a Prayer Partner. The Prayer Partners work together on projects regularly throughout the year. This is a relationship that is enjoyed by both the younger and the older students, and it continues with them through first and eighth grade. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students sit with their Prayer Partners in church at weekly Friday mass and the kindergarten students do likewise once they begin attending our weekly masses after Easter.

## **Additional Opportunities:**

- Class retreats for sacramental candidates and for the eighth grade
- Class projects, such as first grade patron saint presentations
- Confession several times throughout the year, including Advent and Lent
- Weekly Stations of the Cross in Lent
- Optional daily mass in Lent at noon for upper grade students with parents' permission
- Prayer services for special holidays
- May Procession
- Lighting of the Advent Wreath
- Receive ashes on Ash Wednesday

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