

Mission and Catholic Identity Standard 3

An excellent Catholic School adhering to mission provides opportunities outside the classroom for student faith formation, participation in liturgical and communal prayer, and action in service of social justice.

Narrative Summary:

St. George Catholic School offers a host of opportunities for students to live their faith outside of the religious education classroom. Under the guidance of St. George Catholic School administration and a full time Coordinator of Religious Education, faith is explored by means of retreats, theatrical presentations, liturgical dance, Holy Liturgy and acts of service. Opportunities are age appropriate and meaningfully interwoven throughout the religious education program.

Commendations:

St. George Catholic School students attend Mass each week as well as Holy Days of Obligation. Students participate fully by giving of their time as altar servers, lectors, gift bearers, musicians, liturgical dancers, cantors and members of the choir. Students are also able to partake in both the body and blood of Christ at Communion. In addition to these masses, Pastor Michael Schatzle avails himself for grade level Masses or celebrations twice a year per grade. These celebrations are special and meaningful because students can sit with family members and the mass is customized for the students. The music, liturgy and content is directly related what the students are learning about in class and is going on in their lives.

Other opportunities to reflect and focus on spiritual formation are planned and offered to students. All grade levels participate in a yearly retreat led by their grade specific catechist. In addition to grade level mass and retreats students lead and or participate in the Living Rosary, Living Stations of the Cross, Litany of the Saints, Epiphany play, liturgical dance, St. Joseph altar and Jessie Tree activities. Students in grades three through eight are also given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation yearly in order to deepen their spiritual relationship with God and restore the grace that was lost through sin.

Service is a cornerstone of St. George Catholic School. According to the AdvancEd Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness survey of April, 2013 approximately 89% of St. George Catholic School's faculty, families, and students recognize the opportunities St. George Catholic School provides for students to participate in monthly service projects. Projects range from providing acts of service, collecting items for those in need, and collecting money to assist the needy of our diocese as well as around the world.

St. George Catholic School students truly live out the Catholic Faith through words, deeds and actions and this is evident within many activities St. George Catholic School participates in. One of the reasons this is so evident is because the administrators, faculty, staff and clergy of St. George Catholic School and Church serve as Catholic, Christian role models and servant leaders. Pastor, Michael Schatzle leads the example by being visible and accessible to students and faculty. All faculty attend Mass, participate in service projects and model prayer and Catholic Christian character. Over 92% of faculty, parents and

students confirm that this is an area of strength for St. George Catholic School and is noted in the April 2013 AdvancEd Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness Survey.

Recommendations:

According to April 2013 AdvancEd Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness survey 84% of parents agreed that students had opportunities for service. This was slightly lower than the faculty and students who averaged 91%. Discussions with Home and School board members indicate that they desire students to be more active participants within the service projects. St. George Catholic School will work to engage students actively in service projects.

Rating of Standard:

Based upon the evidence and recommendations for Mission and Catholic Identity, Standard 3 St. George Catholic School awards ourselves a score 4.