



## St. Mary's Parish Religious Education Office

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020**

April 05, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Families,

These past several weeks have been difficult for so many families and parishioners due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Depending on God's grace and protection during these days provides us with hope and encouragement. Lifting our hearts in prayer is necessary each day and thanking God for the blessings He has so generously gifted is essential. Although we are praying that this virus can be contained by following the health guidelines with social distance between people, our prayers are with those who have fallen very ill or who have lost their lives from this dreadful virus. We pray for the protection of health care workers, doctors, nurses, researchers, and all essential workers who deliver goods to fill the store shelves with food to provide for our needs. It seems like an inconvenience not being able to go out and be with friends or to just go wherever we want to go, but somehow this time provides us with the opportunity to be more intimate with God and with our families. Call a relative or friend and hear their voice and ask how they are doing.

It saddens our hearts and souls that we are unable to attend Holy Mass and receive the living Christ, our spiritual food. Hopefully when this crisis is over we will joyfully rush like children to attend Mass once again and receive the Bread of Life which gives life to our spirits and souls. As we move our hearts toward the Easter Triduum and Good Friday, let us remember the magnificent treasure Christ has given to us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection – His Holy Church, His Bride, overflowing with God's grace in the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the sake of our salvation.

Thus, as Christ has called us in mission, St. Mary's is honored to provide religious education and faith formation to assist you with your children and youth as they mature in their faith and form a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Your home is the domestic church where God is present in your daily life. If children are to be true disciples for Christ they need to witness your love for God and living in His will.

**REGISTRATIONS 2020-2021:** Registration for Religious Education is upon us once again. Due to many changes in family Email addresses, cell phones and change of addresses we are asking you to complete the enclosed 2020-2021 Registration Form along with the "Family Covenant." Please make sure that the front side of the Registration Form includes your **child's full name**, the Grade entering in 2020, along with the class Session / Day (A, B, C, D or F) and time.

**IMPORTANT:** Late registrations will be assessed a late fee of \$50.00 per family and there will be no guarantee that your child can be placed in the session of your choice. If you are unable to send in the total registration fees at this time please send in a deposit of \$50.00 and a request for a "Payment Plan".

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020:** Having a smooth transition on opening day for the children and youth for religious education classes is essential. Timely registrations allows our staff and Grade Coordinators to assign children to classes and recruit and train the teachers needed.

**FINANCIAL NEEDS:** For families needing tuition assistance make sure that you check off the box on the registration for either a "Scholarship" or "Payment Plan". One of these forms will be sent to you upon request. All information is kept confidential. Please know that no child will ever be denied enrollment due to financial needs.

**CONFIRMATION NOTICES:** The Confirmation date for those returning in September in Grade 11 is **Saturday, September 26, 2020...** There will be two Masses offered for Confirmation, 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. **\*\*ALSO:** Families registering their teens for **Grades 9 and 10 for 2020** must attend weekend Masses, either with their parents or at the 11:30 AM Sunday Mass for teens. Letters will be sent out by the youth minister regarding Confirmation requirements for those receiving the Sacrament and those entering Grades 9 and 10 in September.

**OPENING DAY:** Opening days are the week of Sunday, September 13. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for times.

**EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS.** Please update your Email address or telephone numbers if there have been changes. Please print clearly on the Registration Form any change. Our office and Grade Coordinators will be using both mail and Email to communicate with you during the year.

**CONSENT FORM SECTION:** Make sure this section is signed to give the parish permission for your child to be photographed during church events for the Sunday Bulletin and parish Newsletter.

**PRE-K PROGRAM:** Our Pre-K Program is open to three and four year old children. Parents are required to stay during classes which begin in October.

**GRADE 1 AND 2 SACRAMENTAL YEARS:** The completion of Grade 1 is required before a child enters Grade 2. Please note that parents with Grade 2 children are **REQUIRED** to attend the parent meetings offered during class time and participate with their children in the Inscription Mass in October and the Grade 2 Family Retreat in the spring.

**SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM:** If your child has learning challenges and needs, please let us know on the registration form. We have two special needs teachers trained to assist students in the classroom. These teachers will be glad to meet with you and discuss ways we can meet your child's needs.

**FAMILY BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR GRADES 3, 4 AND 5 ONLY:** Parents who choose this option teach their children at home and are provided lesson plans and text books by our grade level Coordinators. Parents and Guardians are **required to sign an agreement promising to attend the two teacher meetings held during the year.** Students are expected to submit completed work throughout the year to the Grade Coordinator. Families have the right to educate and teach their children at home in matters of the Catholic Faith and Traditions.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR FAMILY BASED HOME SCHOOLING:** If you are registered as a St. Mary's Parishioner and decide to teach other children in your home other than your own child, be advised that ***"St. Mary's Parish will not be liable for any injuries or accidents incurred outside of the church property."***

**ATTENDANCE:** In order for children to benefit from their faith formation sessions it is essential that they attend all scheduled classes. Classes meet on alternate weeks except for Grade 6 which meets weekly. Missing two classes on an alternate week places a burden on a child to catch up with class material at home. We realize that family circumstances and illness can prevent attendance; however, parents are required to assist their child at home with missed lessons.

**CLASS PLACEMENT REQUESTS:** **We do not accept requests** for a child to be placed with a specific teacher except for pastoral reasons such as a child having learning challenges. A request for a child to attend class with a friend or for carpooling purposes will not be honored.

**SAFETY MONITORS NEEDED:** Every year we ask for people to offer their time as a Monitor during scheduled class time to collect attendance, record absences, make calls to families regarding absences and occasionally assist with office needs such as folding letters and mailings. Monitors are essential in order for classes to be held. please see the Monitor tasks on page 4 of this letter to see if you see if you can help with this important task.

**GREEN VOLUNTEER FORM:** Please prayerfully consider giving your time to volunteer for the Religious Education Program for Grades Pre-K through 10, our Youth Ministry, our Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), our EPIC High School Trips and more. Return the volunteer form with your Registration Form if you can volunteer in any capacity.

**CLASS SCHEDULE- YELLOW SHEET:** There is a **bright yellow 2020-2021 Class Schedule** enclosed to make your choices for Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grades 1– 10. Make sure that you enter the class Session on the line provided: “A” is for Sunday, “B” for Monday, “C” for Tuesday, “D” for Wednesday, “E” for Thursday and “F” for Family Based at home.

Our staff wishes you God’s blessings and a summer filled with refreshing rest.

Yours in Christ’s service,

The Religious Education Staff



JESUS AS TEACHER

**VOLUNTEER TEACHERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL  
GRADE LEVELS ~ GR-K - GRADE 10  
WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TEACHING A CLASS?**

1. Three teacher Meetings with the Grade level Coordinators during the year.
2. Attending **Teacher Training** and faith formation classes when offered.
3. A **DESIRE** to share their faith with the children and bring them closer to Christ.
4. **COMPLETE A CORI FORM, A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM, A CATECHIST COVENANT AND A PGC WORKSHOP (*Protecting God’s Children*)**. Please watch the bulletin for listings in August.

**PRE-K:** For children ages 3 and 4 years old. Meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30 AM on six Sundays from October to April, except for January, in the Lower Church Hall. One parent must be present during the sessions.

**GRADE - Kindergarten:** Kindergarten introduces the children to God the Father and Who Jesus is with prayer, song and activities. Kindergarten gathers in an open format with round tables in Fr. Haley Hal. There are two teachers for each group of children. kindergarten meets once a month for ten sessions on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30 AM.

**GRADE 1- First Communion Preparation Year I:** Using the Christ Our Life series by Loyola Press the children learn about God’s love for them, formal prayers, Who Jesus is and engage in classroom activities to reinforce the lessons. Children experience and a live Baptism in the church as part of their curriculum. Each Grade 1 class is assigned two teachers and meets on alternate Sundays only from 8:10 AM to 10:30 AM for twelve sessions.

**GRADE 2 – First Communion Preparation Year II:** The first Part of the year the children learn about God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession (Penance) using the Sadlier Publisher Books. There are twelve lessons and three special lessons with the DRE, one on safety, how to go to Confession and how to receive the Holy Eucharist. There are two teachers assigned to each classroom. Classes are on alternate Sundays at 8:10 AM and 10:45 AM. There is a Wednesday class at 4:15 PM on alternate weeks.

**GRADE 3:** Students learn about the Church, review of the Sacraments, Mary and the Rosary, God’s faith community using the Sadlier Publisher Series. There is a special session on the ministries in the Church, how to pray the Rosary, making Rosary beads, and taking part in the May Devotion in May. There is one teacher per class. Classes meet on alternate Sundays at 7:55 AM or 10:45 AM and during the week at 2:30 PM or 4:15 PM on Mondays and Wednesday’s at 4:15 PM for ninety minutes.

**GRADE 4:** Students focus on the Ten Commandments using the Sadlier series. They will learn how, as Christians, we are to obey and live by God’s Law of Love given to Moses. There is a Grade 4 Tour of the Church, a Christmas Happening with service projects, and opportunity to join the Choir and be trained as an Altar Server. There is one teacher per class that meets on alternate Sundays at 10:45 AM or alternate Mondays from 2:30 to 4:00 or 4:15 to 5:45 PM and Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:45 PM for ninety minutes.

**GRADE 5:** Students focus on the Seven Sacraments using the Sadlier Publishing Series. Classes make Baptism Cards for babies and children initiated into the Church to be baptized. They take part in the Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, have a special session on Holy Orders, and participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and the May Devotion. Classes meet on alternate Sundays at 10:45 AM, on Mondays at 2:30 PM and 4:15 PM and on Tuesdays from 4 -5:30 PM for ninety minutes.

**GRADE 6:** Students are provided a new Bible for their study in the Old Testament Scriptures that unveil God's revelation in Salvation history up to the birth of Christ. The students visit a Jewish Temple during the year as a field trip and engage in creating the Jesse Tree during the Advent season. Classes meet on Sunday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, on Monday from 5:00 to 6:30 PM and on alternate weeks and on Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:30 PM weekly.

**GRADE 7:** Students have a hybrid classroom experience where they meet with their teacher for 50 minutes and then come together as a group for their practicum which includes activities to reinforce what they have learned in the classroom. There are speakers on Chastity, Vocations and safety. The purpose for the Grade 7 curriculum is to prepare the students to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of His teachings so that they can live their faith actively as a disciple in mission. Classes meet on alternate Sundays from 5:00 to 6:30 PM and on alternate Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

**NOTE:** Grades 1 through 7 have a Safety Session as part of their curriculum. Parents may have their child Opt-out of the Safety class by completing and signing an Opt-out form. Parents will also have the opportunity to view the Grade level programs in the fall. The safety lessons are conducted by the DRE. Grades K – 5 also participate in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross and May Devotion.

**GRADE 8:** Students study the History of the Church and Morality along with various activities to reinforce their understanding of the lessons. Classes meet on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 PM. This grade level is under the youth minister. Texts are from St. Mary's press.

**GRADES 9 and 10 – CONFIRMATION I and II:** These grade levels prepare the high school students for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in a two year format that engages the students to understand their role as practicing Catholics - that is to give testimony and witness to their faith through prayer, service and mission - and to become witnesses for Christ and build their love and relationship with Him throughout their lives.

**MSYG – MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Grades 6, 7 and 8 engage in fun activities once a month on a Sunday with Fr. Mark – There are many exciting trips as well as service projects. Adult volunteers are always in demand. Come along and join the fun.

**EPIC - Grades 9 through 12:** Mission trip, service, community, prayer, and lots of fun with Jake Thiringer, our youth minister. Again, volunteers are always needed to help with all these wonderful group activities that foster growth and a mature understanding of our mission to serve and make Christ known to others. EPIC meets on Sunday nights once or twice a month during the year. Volunteers are always needed to help with the meetings.

### **SAFETY MONITORS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR PROGRAM**



- **WHO:** Anyone (college students, adults, mothers, fathers or grandparents) who can give their time assisting staff, parents, teachers and students outside the classroom.
- **WHEN:** During class times with a commitment of two 90 minutes to two hours on alternate weeks. **TASKS:** Responsibilities include greeting and assisting parents, students, teachers and visit classrooms as needed; answering the phone, taking messages; being a presence in the Lobby and hallways before, during and after classes. Occasionally supervising a student who needs some quiet time; providing a set of helping hands by assisting with attendance records, recording absences, making calls to parents and helping with small office tasks such as folding letters and stuffing envelopes for mailings on occasion. **TRAINING:** Provided at your convenience prior to or on the day of your first monitoring schedule. Please see the Sunday bulletin for PGC workshop dates offered in September and October of 2020.