



St. Mary's Parish Religious Education Office

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE
FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023**

Dear St. Mary's Families,

Our trust, hope and dependence is in Jesus Christ knowing that His graces will strengthen us in the power of the Mass and the Eucharist. At St. Mary's, we are looking forward to a vibrant beginning and return of many families and children to our faith formation program. Understanding that the seed of faith is given at Baptism and nurtured within the family, we are here to assist and guide your children and youth to know how important their trust and faith in God is during their life.

St. Mary's will resume in-person classes in September and will honor those families who may want to continue to home-school their children in our Home Base program for Grades 3, 4 and 5. Since we have developed virtual lessons over the past two years to do at home, if your child is absent due to illness, he/she will be able to keep up with their class lessons. Interacting with others in a class setting with a teacher allows your children and youth to engage in the sessions and form a small community working together to understand how to live according to God's will and be happy.

True ministry and evangelization takes place when we are face to face with one another. It is important that the children and youth continue their faith formation and develop a personal relationship with God. Faith formation continues in your homes as you model your faith and love for God by your example. By taking your children to worship at Mass each week and praying together as a family, they will know how dependent you are on God's grace. There is nothing more important than to help prepare for your children's life journey on earth that will lead them to heaven.

REGISTRATIONS 2023-2024: Due to many changes in family email addresses, cell phone numbers and home addresses, we are asking you to **complete both sides** of the enclosed 2023-2024 Registration Form. Please make sure that the front side of the Registration Form includes your **child's full name**, the grade entering in the **Fall of 2023**, along with the class Session / Day and time. (A=Sunday, B=Monday, C=Tuesday, D=Wednesday, E=Thursday and F = Family Base (for Grades 3, 4 and 5 only - unless there is a pastoral reason for an upper grade).

IMPORTANT: Late registrations will be assessed a **late fee of \$50.00 per family after the deadline** 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 along with a completed "Payment Plan" form.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023: Having a smooth transition on opening day for the children and youth for religious education classes is essential. Timely registrations allows our office administrative staff and Grade Coordinators to assign children to classes as well as recruit and train the teachers that will be 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"**. **These forms are included in this mailing.** The sheet has a Payment Plan on one side and a Scholarship Plan on the opposite side. Information is kept strictly confidential. Please know that no child will ever be denied enrollment due to financial needs.

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

OPENING DAY: Opening days are the week of **Sunday, September 17.** Please watch the Sunday bulletin for days and times or by going to St. Mary's Website at www.stmarysholliston.com to view the Bulletin.

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 on Sunday, October 1 at 9:15 AM. Pre-K meets for six sessions only on the first Sunday of the month except for January.

CONFIRMATION NOTICES: The **Confirmation date for those returning in Grade 11 is Saturday, October 7.** There will be two Confirmation services offered at 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM.

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 weekly bulletin and parish monthly newsletter.

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 special needs, please let us know on the registration form. We have two special needs teachers 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."***

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

ATTENDANCE: In order for children to benefit from their faith formation sessions, it is essential that they attend all scheduled classes. In-person classes meet on alternate weeks. A schedule of dates will be provided to the families on opening days. A child in Grades 1 through 7 who is sick and unable to attend a class may keep up to date by going to the Grade level LINK and taking the class virtually. Missing two or more classes on an alternate week format places a burden on a child to catch up with class lessons at home. We realize that family circumstances and illness can prevent attendance; however, parents must assist their child with missed lessons.

SAFETY MONITORS NEEDED AND REQUIRED: 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 folding letters for mailings. Monitors are essential in order for classes to be held. Please see the Monitor tasks on the enclosed inserts of this letter.

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, Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), and TGIF High School Trips and more need committed adults to lead and inspire our youth. Just return the volunteer form with your Registration Form if you can volunteer in any capacity.

CLASS SCHEDULE - YELLOW SHEET: There is a **bright yellow 2023-2024 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, and “E” for Thursday and “F” for Family Based at home.

CLASS SIZES AND TEACHER REQUESTS: Please note that if you can volunteer to teach a class other than what the schedule offers we can arrange for the class as long as there is a minimum of five students for the class. If any class does not meet this quota then children may have to be moved to another day.

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. Two 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 Sunday 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. A child’s 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 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, and God’s faith community using the Sadlier Publisher Series. There is a special session on the ministries in the Church, making Rosary beads, participating the Stations of the Cross and the May Devotion. There is one teacher per class. Classes meet on alternate Sundays at 7:55 AM or 10:45 AM and alternate weekdays from 4:00 to 5:30 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, be trained as an Altar Server, and participate in the Stations of the Cross and May Devotion. There is one teacher per class that meets on alternate Sundays at 10:45 AM and during alternate weekdays from 4:00 to 5:30 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, participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and the May Devotion. Classes meet on alternate Sundays at 10:45 AM, and on alternate weekdays from 4:00 to 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 engage in creating the Jesse Tree during the Advent season and other activities. Students have the opportunity to join the choir. Classes meet on alternate Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM and on alternate weekdays from 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

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.

GRADE 8: Students study the History of the Church and Morality along with Bishop Barron's Catholicism series to reinforce their understanding of the Church and Christ's Mission. **Classes meet on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 -7:30 PM.** This grade level is under the youth minister.

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. As bearers for Christ's love and mission, our students will form a lifelong relationship and trust in God's will for their lives. The two year program forms, informs, transforms and prepares the youth to embrace the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and Church Traditions as truth. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the final seal of the Holy Spirit Who will guide and inspire at will, the directions and works to be done to bring about God's kingdom on earth. Each year a Mission Trip is planned for the students to go out and serve a community in need. By working together to bring hope and the Light of Christ to others the students are enlightened and inspired to continue good works of charity during their lives.

Classes meet on alternate Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP – MSYG – GRADES 6, 7 AND 8: The MSYG experience is a wonderful time for friendship and mission work along with trips to the Haunted House, Bowling, Water Rafting and so much more. A student must join MSYG and pay a meeting fee. Sunday meetings are once a month not including fun trips from October through June. MSYG is run by the Youth Minister.

PLEASE NOTE – MSYG does not fulfill Grade 6, 7 and 8 Religious Education formation classes.

TGIF ~ GRADES 9 - 12: A high school program that meets on specific Sunday evenings for 90 minutes with wonderful group activities that foster growth and a mature understanding to serve and make Christ known to others. There are planned mission trips and service projects to serve those in need locally and in other communities. TGIF meets on Sunday nights once a month.