



# Saint Mary's Religious Education

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746  
Phone: 508 429-6076 ~ Email: [st.marysre1870@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysre1870@gmail.com)

June 21, 2024  
Feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Dear St. Mary's Families,

Thank you for trusting St. Mary's Parish Religious Education Program to assist you in teaching and sharing our Catholic Faith and Traditions with your children. There is nothing more important in your child's life than the gift of faith. It is the gift that will sustain and guide them on their journey home to God.

The reverse side of this letter includes a schedule detailing the days and times for each grade. It is an important resource for your planning before you begin the registration process. The enclosed packet contains other helpful information, including a tuition calculation sample and opportunities to volunteer.

## IN RESPONSE TO PARENT REQUESTS, WE HAVE MADE TWO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO REGISTRATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2024-2025.

- 1) We have moved our registration deadline from mid-June to mid-August. This year's registrations are due by **Monday, August 19, 2024**. **Registration will open on Monday, July 1, 2024**.
- 2) We have made both registration and payment of tuition **wholly electronic**. When registration opens on July 1, you will see this image (right) on the St. Mary's website homepage:  
<https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

Just click it to begin the registration process. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Burgett using the phone or email provided in the letterhead above.

A few things to remember:

**MASS AND FAMILY PRAYER:** As Catholics, the Sunday Mass each week is the center of our faith and the anchor of our family life. Our Religious Education Program builds upon the student's personal experience of Sunday worship and family prayer. That experience is the essential foundation for all religious instruction offered in the classroom.

**CONFIRMATION AGE CHANGE:** Parents with students in Grades 7 – 10 this coming Fall, have received a letter from the pastor explaining how this change will affect Religious Education for their young people. The letter is available also on page four of the St. Mary's June 2024 Newsletter:  
<https://stmarysholliston.com/monthly-newsletters-2/>.

We wish all our families a safe and blessed summer of rest!

Yours in Christ's Service,

**The St. Mary's Religious Education Staff**

Click [HERE](#) to register for Fall 2024 **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**.

Registration deadline is Monday, August 19.

## 2024 – 2025 Religious Education Class Session Schedule

SUNDAY CLASSES	
<b>PRE-K:</b>	Meets the first Sunday of the month from <b>9:15 to 10:30 AM.</b>
<b>GR-K:</b>	Meets once a month on Sundays from <b>9:15 to 10:30 AM.</b>
<b>GR-1:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>8:10 to 9:20 AM</b> <b>Grades 1, 4, and 5 meet on the same Sundays.</b>
<b>GR-2:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>8:10 to 9:25 AM</b> and from <b>10:45 AM to 12:00 PM.</b>
<b>GR-3:</b>	Same alternate weeks as GR-2 from <b>7:55 to 9:20 AM</b> and from <b>10:45 AM to 12:15 PM.</b>
<b>GR-4, 5:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>10:45 AM to 12:15 PM.</b>
<b>GR-6:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>4:00 to 5:30 PM.</b>
MONDAY CLASSES	
<b>GR-7:</b>	Confirmation Year 1 (New Program) on alternate weeks from <b>7:00 to 8:30 PM.</b>
TUESDAY CLASSES	
<b>GR-3, 4, 5, 6:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>4:00 to 5:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-6:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>5:00 to 6:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-8, 9:</b>	Confirmation Year 1 (Current Program) on alternate weeks from <b>7:00 to 8:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-10:</b>	Confirmation Year 2 (Current Program) on alternate weeks from <b>7:00 to 8:30 PM.</b>
WEDNESDAY CLASSES	
<b>GR-2:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>4:15 to 5:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-3, 4, 5:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>4:00 to 5:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-7:</b>	Confirmation Year 1 (New Program) on alternate weeks from <b>7:00 to 8:30 PM.</b>
THURSDAY CLASSES	
<b>GR-3, 4, 5:</b>	Alternate weeks from <b>4:00 to 5:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-8, 9:</b>	Confirmation Year 1 (Current Program) on alternate weeks from <b>7:00 to 8:30 PM.</b>
<b>GR-10:</b>	Confirmation Year 2 (Current Program) on alternate weeks from <b>7:00 to 8:30 PM.</b>

### TEACHER AND MONITOR NEEDS FOR 2024-2025

GRADE	DAY	TIME	TEACHER NEEDS	MONITOR	COMMITMENT
<b>PRE-K</b>	Sundays	9:15 to 10:30 AM	<b>3</b> Teens	<b>1</b>	6 Sundays
<b>GR-K</b>	Sundays	9:15 to 10:30 AM	<b>4</b> Adults + <b>4</b> Teens	<b>1</b>	8 Sundays
<b>GR-1</b>	Alt. Sundays	8:10 to 9:20 AM	<b>8</b> Adults, 2 each class	<b>1</b>	12 Sundays
<b>GR-2</b>	Alt. Sundays	8:10 to 9:25 AM	<b>8</b> Adults, 2 each class	<b>1</b>	14 Sundays
<b>GR-3</b>	Alt. Sundays	7:55 to 9:25 AM	<b>3</b> Adults		14 Sundays
<b>GR-2</b>	Alt. Sundays	10:45 to Noon	<b>2</b> Adults, 2 each class	<b>1</b>	14 Sundays
<b>GR-3</b>	Alt. Sundays	10:45 to 12:15 PM	<b>3</b> Adults		14 Sundays
<b>GR-4, 5</b>	Alt. Sundays	10:45 to 12:15 PM	<b>3</b> Adults each grade	<b>1</b>	14 Sundays
<b>GR-6</b>	Alt. Sundays	4:00 to 5:30 PM	<b>3</b> Adults	<b>1</b>	14 Sundays
<b>GR-7 Conf. 1 (New)</b>	Alt. Mondays	7:00 to 8:30 PM	<b>5</b> Adults	<b>1</b>	12 Mondays
<b>GR-3, 4, 5, 6</b>	Alt. Tuesdays	4:00 to 5:30 PM	<b>2</b> Adults each grade	<b>1</b>	14 Tuesdays
<b>GR-6 (same day as above)</b>	Alt. Tuesdays	5:00 to 6:30 PM	<b>3</b> Adults	<b>1</b>	14 Tuesdays
<b>GR-8, 9 Conf. 1 (Current)</b>	Alt. Tuesdays	7:00 to 8:30 PM	<b>4</b> Adults each grade	<b>1</b>	12 Tuesdays
<b>GR-10 Conf. 2 (Current)</b>	Alt. Tuesdays	7:00 to 8:30 PM	<b>5</b> Adults	<b>1</b>	12 Tuesdays
<b>GR-2</b>	Alt. Wed.	4:15 to 5:30 PM	<b>4</b> Adults, 2 each class	<b>1</b>	14 Wednesdays
<b>GR-3, 4, 5</b>	Alt. Wed.	4:00 to 5:30 PM	<b>2</b> Adults each grade	<b>1</b>	14 Wednesdays
<b>GR-7 Conf. 1 (New)</b>	Alt. Wed.	7:00 to 8:30 PM	<b>5</b> Adults	<b>1</b>	12 Wednesdays
<b>GR-3, 4, 5</b>	Alt. Thurs.	4:00 to 5:30 PM	<b>2</b> Adults each grade	<b>1</b>	14 Thursdays
<b>GR-8, 9 Conf. 1 (Current)</b>	Alt. Thurs.	7:00 to 8:30 PM	<b>4</b> Adults each grade	<b>1</b>	12 Thursdays
<b>GR-10 Conf. 2 (Current)</b>	Alt. Thurs.	7:00 to 8:30 PM	<b>5</b> Adults	<b>1</b>	12 Thursdays

**\* We need over 100 Volunteers this year to have a successful program. Please be one of them!**

*The Registration Deadline is*  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 19.**

*After that, a \$50 late fee is  
required to register, and we  
cannot guarantee session requests.  
So please be on time.*

**ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025**

**OPENS JULY 1, 2024:** To simplify the registration process, all registrations will be online, via our website at [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com).

**OPENING DAY:** Classes begin the week of **October 1, 2024**. Please check the Sunday bulletin and parish website for specific days and times that grade levels start.

**SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM:** If your child has learning challenges and/or special needs, please indicate this in the online registration form. We have

two special needs teachers to assist students in the classroom and will meet with parents to discuss the best practices for successful learning and understanding for spiritual growth. We always welcome conversations with our staff that help us understand your children and make their experience successful.

**ATTENDANCE:** In order for children to benefit from their faith formation sessions, it is essential that they attend all scheduled classes. All classes meet on alternate weeks. A child in Grades 1 through 10 who is sick and unable to attend a class may keep up to date by contacting the Grade Coordinator for catchup work. Missing two or more classes in an alternate week format places a burden on a student to catch up with class lessons at home and should be avoided.

**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 textbooks by our Grade Coordinators. Parents and Guardians are **required to acknowledge in the registration form that they know they must attend 2 teacher meetings a year as well as grade specific general sessions.** Students are expected to submit completed work throughout the year to the Grade Coordinator.

**NOTICE:** When you register your child for Religious Education and choose the Family Base option, please be advised that, if you teach any registered Family Based children in your home that you will be asked to acknowledge that *“St. Mary’s Parish will not be liable for any injuries or accidents incurred outside of the church property.”*

**REGISTRATION TIPS**

**FAMILY REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** Due to the importance of having a current family email address, a primary phone number and home address, we ask that you provide this information in the online registration form, along with the emergency contact information. If you are registering for the first time, we’ll ask you for detailed contact information for each parent and your sacramental history. Families already in the program can indicate “no change” and move on.

**REGISTERING AND SELECTING CLASSES:** We suggest you start by looking at the Schedule of Classes we’ve enclosed. For each child you are registering, you’ll select the session (day and time); Family Based options are also shown when offered. The schedule indicates which grades have classes on the same day and time to help families schedule more efficiently. You will be asked to provide information regarding special needs or allergies for each child before “adding another student” to your registration. We also ask for your permission to allow the parish to photograph your child during church events for the Sunday weekly bulletin and parish monthly newsletter. As in prior years, **we cannot accept specific requests for teachers or friend groups** except for pastoral purposes such as learning or physical challenges.

## **DESCRIPTION OF GRADE CURRICULA:**

**PRE-K PROGRAM:** Our Pre-K Program is open to three and four-year-old children. Parents are required to stay during classes. Pre-K meets from 9:15 to 10:30 AM for six sessions on the first Sunday of the month except for January.

**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 Hall. 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 1:** 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.

**GRADE 2 ~ First Communion Preparation Year 2:** The first part of the year the children learn about God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession (Penance) and The Holy Eucharist. Classes meet on alternate Sundays and Wednesdays for seventy five minutes. **Completion of Grade 1 is required before a child enters the Grade 2 program.** 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 and the Grade 2 Family Retreat in the spring.

**GRADE 3:** Students learn about the Catholic Church, review the Seven Sacraments, Mary and the Rosary, and God's faith community. There is a special session on the ministries in the Church, making Rosary beads, participating in the Stations of the Cross, and the May Devotion. Grade 3 is the first opportunity for students to join the Children's Choir.

**GRADE 4:** Students focus on the Ten Commandments. 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, participation in the Stations of the Cross, and the May Devotion. Grade 4 is the first opportunity for students to be trained as Altar Servers.

**GRADE 5:** Students focus on the Seven Sacraments. Students make Baptism Cards for children initiated into the Church to be baptized, sponsor the Healing 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.

**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. Classes meet on alternate Sundays and alternate weekdays for ninety minutes.

**GRADE 7 CONFIRMATION 1 ~ NEW PROGRAM:** Students focus on forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and commitment in faith to His Gospel teachings. Students further their understanding of the Incarnation of Christ, the call to holiness, the call to mission, the Paschal Mystery, Salvation and Redemption, the Holy Trinity, the Four Marks of the Church and her Precepts. Using both individual and communal prayer, students work on developing their spiritual life. Students refine their understanding of the Seven Sacraments and, building on the foundation of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, learn how to live a Catholic Christian moral life.

**GRADES 8 AND 9 CONFIRMATION 1 ~ CURRENT PROGRAM:** Uses the current CHOSEN Program including all the above Teachings and Traditions of our Catholic Faith and Moral Life in the Confirmation 1 program.

**GRADE 10 CONFIRMATION 2 ~ CURRENT PROGRAM:** Immediate Preparation for Reception of Confirmation with review and deeper study on the Holy Spirit, the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit; the role of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church. Understanding the Rite of Confirmation; the renewal of Baptismal Promises; the seal of the Holy Spirit and anointing with Chrism oil; the role of the Sponsor; living as a follower of Jesus; the moral life, participating in the life of the Church and accepting the role of a Christian proclaiming Christ in the world today.

**All Confirmation students** seek to encounter Christ in the Eucharist by faithful attendance at Mass. They complete Mass Reflection sheets to enter more deeply into the worship experience. They also perform service hours, to strengthen their hearts in love of God and neighbor.

# TUITION AND FEES EXAMPLE:

**TUITION & FEES EXAMPLE:** A family of 4 students with 2 children in sacramental years, and they are late with their registration.

Religious Ed Payment Example				
<b>Family Scenario: 4 Students, 2 are in Sacramental Years. Today's Date is September 1</b>				
<b>Religious Ed Deadline: Monday, August 19, 2024</b>				
Base Tuition	Each	Number of		Sub Totals
		Students		
Pre K and Kindergarten Tuition	\$ 50.00	1	\$	50.00
Grades 1 - 10	\$ 125.00	3	\$	375.00
			<b>Calculated Tuition Subtotal: \$</b>	<b>425.00</b>
Pay the LOWER of Calculated				
Tuition Subtotal or Max Tuition	Max Tuition = \$ 350.00			\$350 is lower than \$425
This Family's Base Tuition:		<b>(A)</b>	\$	<b>350.00</b>
<b>Sacramental Program Fees</b>				
Grade 2	\$ 50.00	1	\$	50.00
Grades 7,8, 9 and 10	\$ 75.00	1	\$	75.00
This Family's Sacramental Program Fees:		<b>(B)</b>	\$	<b>125.00</b>
Is it after August 19? Yes, it's September 1 and this family incurred the late fee.				
Late Fee After August 19	\$ 50.00	<b>(C)</b>	\$	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Total Religious Ed Payment</b>		<b>(A) + (B) + (C)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>525.00</b>

**Your Workspace**

**Tuition:**  
 Students in  
 PreK & K x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Students in  
 Gr 1 – 10 x \$125 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A: Tuition (\$350 max):**\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sacramental Programs  
 Gr 2 x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gr 7-10 x \$75 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**B: Subtotal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee **if** after August 19  
**C: Late Fee = \$50:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A + B + C =** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TUITION & FEES:**

- The base tuition remains unchanged this year from prior years with a max tuition of \$350 for a family (plus any sacramental year fees, and / or a late registration fee if incurred). See the Tuition and Fees Example above and use it as a guide for calculating your cost as the online form does not automate the calculation.
- Sacramental years (Grades 2,7,8,9,10) have an additional fee to support retreats, guest speakers, etc.
- Late registrations are assessed a **late fee of \$50.00 per family after the August 19 deadline** and there will be no guarantee that your child can be placed in the session of your choice.

For the first time, you are able to register and pay for your children’s religious education 100% online. Our Parish Website, [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com), will link you to WeShare for our registration form.

You do not need a WeShare account, although if you already have one your portal is available. Either a credit card or an electronic fund transfer from your bank are possible through the WeShare system. If preferred, you can opt to pay via cash or check at our Religious Ed office.

For families needing tuition assistance, you can still use the online registration form. Please make sure that you check off the box on the online registration form for either a “Scholarship” or “Payment Plan.” These forms are available to be printed from our website and must be submitted physically to the Religious Education Office. Information is kept strictly confidential. Please know that no child will ever be denied enrollment due to financial needs and we encourage you to register without delay.

## **VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND SAFETY MONITORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS ~ PRE-K - GRADE 10**

**VOLUNTEERING CAN ALSO BE DONE ONLINE:** Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to volunteer for the Religious Education Program. We need over **100 volunteers** each year to run a successful program, and there are multiple ways to help besides teaching or monitoring. You can complete the online Volunteer Form on the Parish website at: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com) \ **Register** where you will find a link to volunteer.

### **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TEACHING A CLASS?**

- Teachers commit to teach 12 to 14 classes during the year, attend two teacher meetings with the Grade Coordinators during the year as well as general sessions, and take advantage of faith formation classes when offered. Team teaching with a friend is always welcome and a great way to feel supported.
- Teachers need a willingness to share your faith and to prepare ahead for classes and a commitment to teach our curriculum with knowledge and understanding of our Catholic Faith and Traditions.
- Teacher training is available, prior experience is not necessary, and new teachers attend one training session with the Director of Religious Education.

### **WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BEING A MONITOR?**

- Monitors commit to two 90-minute sessions on alternate weeks and are stationed in the lobby during class times. Any adult can help – and if your child is in class, consider volunteering while they are learning. It's also great for people who don't have a child in class, we suggest it for grandparents, young adults (over 18) and new members of St. Mary's – invite someone you know to help!
- Responsibilities include greeting and assisting parents, students, and teachers, collecting class attendance folders and calling parents regarding absences, and assisting with small office tasks. Occasionally monitors are asked to supervise a student who needs some quiet time. Training is provided at your convenience.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS**

For the safety of our children and vulnerable adults, and to meet diocesan requirements, all volunteers over 18 and fellowship leaders must:

- **Complete Protecting God's Children ("PGC")** - a one-time, approximately 3-hour program that teaches you our best practices for keeping our activities and parishioners safe. Learn more and see a diocesan schedule of classes at [virtus.org](http://virtus.org). Review the back of our bulletin for upcoming classes here at St. Mary's.
- **Complete a CORI form** for background checks and renew it annually after July 1. All CORI forms require a member of staff to see your license or id. You may have done a CORI for school or work; however, a separate CORI form must be on file with us for submission to the Diocese.
- **Acknowledge the receipt of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Volunteer Code of Conduct ("The Code")** and acknowledge the current version annually. **Annual acknowledgements** (after the initial one) are all done in the spring via an email from your Ministry Lead and a dedicated email response account; responses are due in April of each year.

Catechists (Teachers, Teen Teachers, CLOW leaders, and Substitutes) also:

- **Complete the Catechist Covenant**, a one-time covenant, and part of the online volunteer form, if you indicate you are volunteering to teach or substitute teach CCD, or CLOW for the first time.

These forms are available in the Religious Education Office and at our website [stmarysholliston.com](http://stmarysholliston.com) and **must be completed before you are scheduled to volunteer**. The Catechist Covenant is within the online Volunteer form as well.