



Saint Mary's Religious Education

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June 22, 2025
Feast of Corpus Christi

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.

- 1) This year's registrations are due by **Monday, August 18, 2025.**
Registration will open on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

- 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: This coming school year's 8th, 9th and 10th Graders will all be Confirmed in the Fall of 2026. This coming year's 7th Graders will begin the two-year Confirmation Program leading to Confirmation in the Fall of 2027.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: We are excited to offer this new program at St. Mary's for children who are 3 years old by September 1, 2025, or are in Pre-K or Kindergarten. Learn more at:
<https://www.cgsusa.org/>.

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 2025
**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION.**

Registration deadline
is Monday, August 18.



St. Mary's Parish ~ Holliston, MA

2025 - 2026 Religious Education Class Session Schedule

SUNDAY CLASSES	
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Meets twice a month from 8:00 to 9:15 AM .	
GR-1:	Alternate weeks from 8:10 to 9:25 AM . Grades 1, 4 and 5 meet on the same Sundays.
GR-2:	Alternate weeks from 8:10 to 9:25 AM and from 10:45 AM to NOON .
GR-3:	Same alternate weeks as GR-2 from 7:55 to 9:25 AM and from 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM .
GR-4, 5:	Alternate weeks from 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM . Meets opposite weeks from Grades 2 and 3.
GR-6:	Alternate weeks from 4:00 to 5:30 PM .
MONDAY CLASSES	
GR-8:	Confirmation Year 2 (New Program) on alternate weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM .
TUESDAY CLASSES	
GR-3, 4, 5, 6: Alternate weeks from 4:00 to 5:30 PM .	
GR-7:	Confirmation Year 1 (New Program) on alternate weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM .
GR-9/10*:	Confirmation Year 2 (Current Program) on alternate weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM .
WEDNESDAY CLASSES	
GR-2:	Alternate weeks from 4:15 to 5:30 PM . Meets on the same day as Grades 3, 4 and 5 below.
GR-4, 5:	Alternate weeks from 4:00 to 5:30 PM .
GR-7:	Confirmation Year 1 (New Program) on alternate weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM .
GR-9/10*:	Confirmation Year 2 (Current Program) on alternate weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM .
THURSDAY CLASSES	
GR-8:	Confirmation Year 2 (New Program) on alternate weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM .

*Grades 9/10 will form one Confirmation class this year.

Teacher and Monitor Needs

GRADE	DAY	TEACHER NEEDS	MONITOR	CLASS TIME	COMMITMENT
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Pre-K and K)	Sundays	10 Teens / 5 adults	2	8:00 to 9:15 AM	15 Sundays
GR-1	Alt. Sundays	8 Adults, 2 each class	2	8:10 to 9:25 AM	12 Sundays
GR-2	Alt. Sundays	8 Adults, 2 each class	2	8:10 to 9:25 AM	14 Sundays
GR-3	Alt. Sundays	6 Adults, 2 each class		7:55 to 9:25 AM	14 Sundays
GR-2	Alt. Sundays	4 Adults, 2 each class	2	10:45 to Noon	14 Sundays
GR-3	Alt. Sundays	6 Adults, 2 each class		10:45 to 12:15 PM	14 Sundays
GR-4, 5	Alt. Sundays	4 Adults, 2 each class	2	10:45 to 12:15 PM	14 Sundays
GR-6	Alt. Sundays	4 Adults, 2 each class	2	4:00 to 5:30 PM	14 Sundays
GR-8 Confirmation 2	Alt. Mondays	6 Adults	2	7:00 to 8:30 PM	12 Mondays
GR-3, 4, 5, 6	Alt. Tuesdays	8 Adults, 2 each class	2	4:00 to 5:30 PM	14 Tuesdays
GR-7 Confirmation 1	Alt. Tuesdays	6 Adults	2	7:00 to 8:30 PM	12 Tuesdays
GR-9/10 Confirmation 2	Alt. Tuesdays	6 Adults	2	7:00 to 8:30 PM	12 Tuesdays
GR-2 Same day as GR-3, 4, 5	Alt. Wed.	4 Adults, 2 each class	2	4:15 to 5:30 PM	14 Wednesdays
GR-3, 4, 5	Alt. Wed.	4 Adults, 2 each class		4:00 to 5:30 PM	14 Wednesdays
GR-9/10 Confirmation 2	Alt. Wed	6 Adults	2	7:00 to 8:30 PM	12 Wednesdays
GR-7 Confirmation 1	Alt. Wed.	6 Adults	2	7:00 to 8:30 PM	12 Wednesdays
GR-8 Confirmation 2	Alt. Thurs.	6 Adults each class	2	7:00 to 8:30 PM	12 Thursdays

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



Additional Helpful Information

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT: Online registration includes space to describe any learning challenges your child may face. There are teachers to assist students in the classroom and will meet with parents to discuss the best practices for successful learning and understanding for their spiritual growth. We always welcome conversations that will help us understand your children's needs 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 and missing a class in this format makes catching up with lessons at home challenging for your family. Contacting the appropriate Grade Coordinator is the best way to arrange for catchup work.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: For families needing tuition assistance an online request is now available within the online registration form. Please indicate your need for a **"Scholarship"** and/or **"Payment Plan"**. We ask for a \$50.00 deposit for all payment plans and a monthly minimum of \$50.00 each month until your family obligation is complete. 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.

HOME BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR GRADES 3, 4 AND 5: Parents who choose this option teach their children at home and are provided with lesson plans and textbooks by our Grade Coordinators. **Parents and Guardians must attend 2 teacher meetings a year and their student is expected to attend grade specific general sessions with the other students.** Students are also expected to submit completed work throughout the year to the Grade Coordinator. The option for Home Based lessons in Grades 1 and 6 is available upon request and requires a meeting with the DRE.

REGISTRATION TIPS

Please do not delay registration for any reason! Early registration avoids late fees and offers the best class availability.

REGISTERING AND SELECTING CLASSES: We suggest you start by looking at the Schedule of Classes we've enclosed. For each child you are registering, select the session (day and time). The schedule indicates which grades have classes on the same day and time to help families schedule more efficiently. In the online form, Home Based Registration is shown as an option where offered. You will be asked to provide information regarding special needs or allergies for each child.

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 or physical challenges.

TUITION FEES: The tuition fees remain unchanged this year from prior years. After the August deadline, late registrations will be assessed a fee of \$50.00 per family and there will be no guarantee that your child will be placed in the session of your choice. See the Tuition and Fees Example guide below illustrating the tuition fees which varies by grade. Various forms of electronic payments are accepted. If you prefer, cash or check payments can be processed through the Religious Education Office.

TUITION AND FEES EXAMPLE: A sample representing a particular family scenario is illustrated on the next page. It is repeated in the Payment section of the online form as well. If you are **requiring financial assistance**, you can use the Online registration form today and make your request right in the form itself.

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

DESCRIPTION OF GRADE CURRICULUM:

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: If your child has missed several years of religious education, it is never too late to prepare them for a lifelong relationship with God. Our Catholic faith, founded by Jesus Christ, provides a good moral foundation based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Continue with the online registration process and please contact us if your child needs to be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism or First Communion at st.marys1870@gmail.com.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ~ NEW THIS FALL! Children aged 3-years old by September 1, 2025 along with those in Pre-K or Kindergarten will be eligible to register. We will be using a new curriculum called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). This Montessori-based curriculum helps children and their teachers develop a personal relationship with Jesus. In a sacred space called the Atrium, children work with concrete materials that help them learn about the life and teachings of Jesus with particular emphasis on the parable of the Good Shepherd. Sessions will meet **twice a month for about 90 minutes a session**. Good people are needed to be trained as CGS Catechists. If you are interested in participating in this new program, please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076 or st.marysre1870@gmail.com. Go to <https://www.cgsusa.org/course> to learn more about the program and specialized training for a **Level I** program such as ours.

GRADE 1 ~ First Communion Preparation Year 1: The children learn about God's love for them, formal prayers, and Who Jesus is with 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. Completion of Grade 1 is required before a child enters the Grade 2 program along with a Certificate of Baptism. Classes meet twice a month on Sunday mornings.

GRADE 2 ~ First Communion Preparation Year 2: In this Sacramental year, the children learn first about God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession (Penance) and second about the Holy Eucharist. Please note that parents with Grade 2 children are required to attend the parent meetings and participate with their children in the Inscription Mass and the Grade 2 Family Retreat in the spring. Classes meet on alternate Sundays or Wednesdays for seventy-five minutes.

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 ministries in the Church, making Rosary beads, participating in the Stations of the Cross, and May Devotion. Grade 3 is the first opportunity for students to join the Children's Choir. Classes meet on alternate Sundays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays for ninety minutes.

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. Classes meet on alternate Sundays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays for ninety minutes.

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, and participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and the May Devotion. Classes meet on alternate Sundays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays 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. Classes meet on alternate Sundays or Tuesdays for ninety minutes.

GRADE 7 CONFIRMATION 1 ~ NEW PROGRAM: Students focus on forming a personal relationship with 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 the habits of Catholic Christian prayer. Students refine their understanding of the Seven Sacraments and, building on the foundation of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, learn how to live the Catholic Christian Moral Life. Classes meet on Tuesday or Wednesday on alternating weeks from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADES 8 CONFIRMATION 2 ~ NEW 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 anointed 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 as Christians proclaiming Christ to the world as Priest, Prophet and King. Classes meet on Monday or Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

GRADES 9 / 10 CONFIRMATION 2 ~ CURRENT PROGRAM: As with Grade 8 above, there is 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. Classes meet on Tuesday or Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

CONFIRMATION STUDENT REQUIREMENTS: Confirmation students seek to encounter Christ in the Eucharist by faithful attendance at Mass. They complete Mass Reflection sheets, as required, including Parish Service events to deepen their connection to their parish while serving others and building up the Church – the Living Body of Christ. Students must also pass an end of year examination.

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND SAFETY MONITORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS ~ CGS AND GRADES 1 - 10

VOLUNTEERING: 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 **volunteer form** on the Parish website at: www.st.marysholliston.com.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TEACHING A CLASS?

- A commitment to teach 12 to 14 classes during the year, attending two teacher meetings with the Grade level Coordinators during the year, and faith formation classes when offered.
- A desire to share your faith with our young people, to bring them closer to Christ. A willingness to prepare ahead to present the lesson before a scheduled class, and knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and Traditions. Teacher training is available and new teachers are expected to attend one training session with the Director.
- Teacher Aides to assist the teacher in the classroom.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BEING A MONITOR?

- During class times monitors are stationed in the lobby with a commitment of two 90-minute sessions on alternate weeks. Any adult can help - you don't need to be a parent.
- Responsibilities include greeting and assisting parents, students, teachers and visiting classrooms as needed; collecting class attendance folders and calling parents regarding absences. Occasionally monitors are asked to supervise a student who needs some quiet time and on occasion provide a set of helping hands with small office tasks. 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 the following requirements below:

- 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 virtusonline.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.** You may have done these for school or work, however, a separate 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 form 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) are also asked to 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 a Grade, or CLOW for the first time.

These forms are available in the Religious Education Office and at our website stmarysholliston.com and **must be completed before you are scheduled to volunteer.**