



Saint Mary's Religious Education

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746

Phone: 508 429-6076 ~ Email: religiousedsec@stmarysholliston.org

June 12, 2026
Sacred Heart of Jesus

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. The enclosed packet contains other helpful information, including a tuition calculation worksheet and opportunities to volunteer.

- 1) This year's registrations are due by **Monday, August 17, 2026.** **Registration will open on Wednesday, July 1, 2026.**
- 2) We have made both registration and payment of tuition **wholly electronic.** When registration opens on July 1, you will see this image on the St. Mary's website homepage: <https://stmarysholliston.com/>.

Click [HERE](#)
to register
for Fall 2026
**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION.**

Registration deadline
is Monday, August 17.



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 which is the essential foundation for all classroom religious instruction.

CONFIRMATION AGE: A reminder that we now begin Confirmation classes in Grade 7. This coming year's 7th Graders will begin the two-year Confirmation Program leading to Confirmation in the Fall of 2028.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS): Children who are 3 to 6 years old by September 1, 2026, can be registered. Two CGS Sessions will be offered in the fall; 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM. Learn more at: <https://www.cgsusa.org/>.









CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND SACRAMENTS: Because they are blessed with regular theology classes, Catholic School students are only required to attend their parish program for the sacramental years of Grade 2 (First Confession and First Communion), and Grade 8 (Confirmation). Archdiocesan policy is that students are to receive these sacraments in their home parish, rather than through their school. Sacraments of Initiation celebrated outside of one's home parish without the home pastor's permission are illicit under Canon Law.

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

Yours in Christ's Service,

The St. Mary's Religious Education Staff

St. Mary's Parish Holliston 2026-2027 Religious Education Schedule

| Classes meet on alternate weeks except for CGS which meets weekly. Symbols and Colors indicate "same week" sessions. | <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Catechesis of the Good Shephard ("CGS") (PRE-K / Kindergarten - Ages 3-6) Weekly Sunday Sessions | Group A: 8:00 - 9:15 AM Group B: 10:45 AM - Noon 2 Trained CGS Catechists & 3 Trained Assistants per Group | | | | |
|  GRADE 1: First Communion 1 15 Class Sessions | 8:10 - 9:25 AM ONLY 10 Teachers needed | | | | |
|  GRADE 2: First Communion 2 15 Class Sessions | 8:10 - 9:25 AM 10 teachers 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM 4 Teachers needed | | | 4:15 - 5:30 PM 6 Teachers needed | |
|  GRADE 3: 15 Class Sessions | 7:55 - 9:25 AM 10 teachers 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM 6 Teachers needed | | | 4:00 - 5:30 PM 3 Teachers needed | |
|  GRADE 4: 15 Class Sessions | 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM 8 Teachers needed | | 4:00 - 5:30 PM 4 Teachers needed | | |
|  GRADE 5: 15 Class Sessions | 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM 8 Teachers needed | | 4:00 - 5:30 PM 4 Teachers needed | | |
|  GRADE 6: 15 Class Sessions | 4:00 - 5:30 PM 6 Teachers needed | | 4:00 - 5:30 PM 4 Teachers needed | | |
|  GRADE 7: Confirmation 1 12 Class Sessions | – Weekly Mass attendance – Mass Reflection Sheets | | 7:00 - 8:30 PM 5 Teachers needed | 7:00 - 8:30 PM 5 Teachers needed | |
|  GRADE 8: Confirmation 2 12 Class Sessions | | 7:00 - 8:30 PM 5 Teachers needed | | | 7:00 - 8:30 PM 5 Teachers needed |

- **Holidays and Holy Days may interrupt the alternate week schedule.**
- Monitors are needed when classes are in session to ensure the safety of the students.
- Teach a class! Ask a friend to buddy with you. Note the number of teachers needed for each grade.
- Confirmed High School students are encouraged to teach alongside an adult teacher.
- The Confirmation Program uses large group instruction led by a trained Catechist Leader. Volunteer teachers moderate small group discussions.
- Learn more about volunteer teaching at <https://stmarysholliston.com/religious-education/religious-education-volunteer-registration/>.



Additional Helpful Information

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT: Online registration includes space to describe any learning challenges your child may face. There are teachers who aid 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 receive spiritual benefit from their faith formation classes, it is essential that they attend all scheduled sessions. 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 proper Grade Coordinator is the best way to arrange catch-up work.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: For families needing tuition aid, an online request is now available within the 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's 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 select this choice instruct their children at home and are provided with lesson plans and textbooks by our Grade Coordinators. **Parents and Guardians must attend two teacher meetings a year and their student is to attend grade specific general sessions with the other students.** Students are expected to send completed work throughout the year to the Grade Coordinator. The choice of Home Based lessons in Grades 1 and 6 is available upon request and requires a meeting with the DRE. Please consider carefully if you are truly able to integrate this commitment into your family schedule before signing up. Contact the DRE with any questions.

DRESS CODE: To ensure an environment that is safe and appropriate for learning about our Faith, we ask that students avoid wearing any clothing with violent or inappropriate graphics/language. All students are required to be covered from shoulder to mid-thigh and undergarments should not be visible. Students that are not in compliance with this code will be asked to call their parents to remediate the situation immediately before they may join their class.

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 Religious Education Schedule we have enclosed. For each child you are registering, select the session (day and time). The schedule shows 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 directed to provide information about 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 vary by grade. Various forms of electronic payments are acceptable. If you prefer, cash or check payments are acceptable and processed through the Religious Education Office.

TUITION AND FEES EXAMPLE: A sample payment illustration of a particular family is provided. This is shown in the Payment section of the online form as well. If you require **financial aid**, you can use the [online registration form](#) today and make your request right in the form itself.

| Family Religious Education Payment Worksheet | | | | Family Calculation Example | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Tuition | | | | Tuition | | <i>Calculation</i> |
| 1 | How many Pre K / K Students? | x \$50 each | = \$ | Grades: | 1 | \$50 |
| 2 | How many Grade 1-8 students? | x \$125 each | = \$ | K, 2, 4 and 7 | 3 | \$375 |
| | | Max \$350: | \$ | | Max \$350 | \$350 |
| 3 Sacramental Year Fees | | | | Sacramental Year | | |
| | How many 2nd graders ? | x \$50 each | = \$ | Grade 2 Student | 1 | \$50 |
| | How many 7th and 8th graders? | x \$75 each | = \$ | Grade 7 Student | 1 | \$75 |
| 4 Late Fee | | | | Late Fee | | |
| | Is it after the August Deadline | No | = \$0 | After August | | |
| | | Yes | = \$50 | Deadline? Sept 10 | Yes | \$50 |
| Total Payment: | | | | Total Payment: | | |
| = | | | | = \$525 | | |

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 parish@stmarysholliston.org. As a reminder, we need a Baptismal Certificate on file for all our students and evidence of First Communion if complete.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: Children 3 to 6 years old (Pre-K and K) by September 1, can be enrolled in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). This Montessori-based curriculum helps children and their Catechist Leader 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. Two CGS sessions will be offered on Sunday mornings, conveniently scheduled so families can attend the 9:30 AM Mass, either after the 8:00 AM session or before the 10:45 AM session. Each CGS session is one hour and fifteen minutes. Adults and High School teens are needed to be trained as CGS Catechists and Assistants for the program to be sustained. If you are interested in becoming a CGS Assistant, please contact the Religious Education Office at 508-429-6076 or religiousedsec@stmarysholliston.org. Go to <https://www.cgsusa.org/course> to learn more about the CGS program and Level I Catechist training or Assistant training.

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 will experience a live Baptism in the church as part of their curriculum. Each Grade 1 class is assigned to two teachers. Completion of Grade 1 is needed before a child enters the Grade 2 program, along with a Certificate of Baptism. Classes meet twice a month on Sunday mornings from 8:10 to 9:25 AM.

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 and Guardians with Grade 2 children must attend meetings and take part 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, the Blessed Virgin Mary, how to pray the Rosary, and God's faith community. There is a special session on ministries in the Church, making Rosary beads, taking part 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 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 May Devotion. Grade 4 is the first opportunity for students to be trained as Altar Servers. Classes meet on alternate Sundays or Tuesdays for ninety minutes.

GRADE 5: Students focus actively on the Seven Sacraments, making Baptism Cards for children initiated into the Church to be baptized, sponsoring the Healing Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, a special session on Holy Orders, and participate in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, and May Devotion. Classes meet on alternate Sundays or Tuesdays for ninety minutes.

GRADE 6: Students are provided new Bibles 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 PROGRAM YEAR 1: 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, Redemption, the Holy Trinity, the Four Marks of the Church, and Her Precepts. Using both individual and communal prayer, students develop the habits of Catholic Christian prayer. Students refine their understanding of the Seven Sacraments and build on the foundation of the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. Students learn how to live the Catholic Christian Moral Life. Classes meet on Tuesdays or Wednesdays on alternating weeks, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in Fr. Haley Hall.

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

CONFIRMATION STUDENT REQUIREMENTS: Confirmation students look to encounter Christ in the Eucharist by faithful attendance at Holy Mass. They complete Mass Reflection Sheets and 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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH FORMATION BEYOND CONFIRMATION: High School students are invited to join TGIF, our Teens Gather in Faith program. See the High School Youth Ministry page at stmarysholliston.com for opportunities to gather, learn, grow, and serve. Contact our youth minister at tgif@stmarysholliston.org with any questions.

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS: All students who have completed their Confirmation training are invited to volunteer in Religious Education. Parents, please ask your teens to consider filling their spare time serving the community of faith with their gifts and talents, teaching a class with an adult. We have a special need for Assistants working with our youngest children in the new Montessori-based, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program. Go to cgusa.org to learn more about CGS.

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND SAFETY MONITORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

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**. You can complete the **Volunteer Form** on the parish website at: www.stmarysholliston.com.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TEACHING A CLASS?

- A commitment to teach 12 to 14 classes during the year, attend two teacher meetings with the Grade Coordinators during the year, and faith formation classes when offered. Please consider teaching with a friend, as many of our teachers enjoy sharing this experience.
- 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 must attend one training session with the Director.
- Special needs students are integrated in our classrooms and Teacher Aides are assigned if needed.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN BEING A MONITOR?

- During class times, monitors are present in the lobby, with a commitment of two 90-minute sessions on alternate weeks. Any adult can help - you do not need to be a parent.
- Responsibilities include greeting and aiding parents, students, teachers, and visiting classrooms as needed, collecting class attendance folders and calling parents about absences. Occasionally monitors are asked to supervise a student who needs quiet time. The monitor may provide a set of helping hands with small office tasks. The DRE provides training.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Before you are scheduled to volunteer, for the safety of our children and vulnerable adults, and to meet Diocesan requirements, all volunteers over the age of 18 must complete the following requirements:

- **Protecting God's Children (PGC):** A one-time, 3-hour program that teaches 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.
- **CORI Form:** An annual background check, to be renewed every fiscal year. You may have completed one for school or work; however, a separate form must be on file with St. Mary's for submission to the Diocese. These forms are available online on our website www.stmarysholliston.com, and must be submitted to the Religious Education Office.
- **Code of Conduct for Volunteers:** Annually review and acknowledge receipt of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Code of Conduct. We present you with the latest version while you are renewing your CORI.

In addition, Catechists including teachers, teen teachers, CLOW leaders, and substitutes, are also asked to complete the following:

- **Catechist Covenant:** A one-time covenant and currently part of the online Volunteer Form, if you choose that you are volunteering to teach or substitute teach a class, or CLOW for the first time.