

**Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Home Schooling Policy and Contract
2021-2022**

The following is an agreement between Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish Religious Education Program and parents/guardians of children participating in the Home Based Catechesis component for Religious Education at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish. To qualify for this component option, families must meet the following requirements:

- Attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis, attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation
- Be registered members of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish
- Complete all registration forms and submit all required paperwork and fees at the time of registration, including a signed copy of this contract.
- Internet connection is required to participate.

TO BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL STUDENT

Student: _____ **Parent Email:** _____

Home School Grade: _____

Reason for Home Schooling: _____

Recent studies on religion point to the importance of parents in the spiritual formation of their children. Parental involvement in a child's faith formation increases not only a child's identification with their faith as they grow, but their commitment to the faith, and their practice of that faith as they reach adulthood. The Church has always recognized and acknowledged the role of parents as the primary formers of faith in their children. Working together, we will assist parents in building upon what they are already doing and help them to expand their knowledge and practice of their faith as a family.

1. I have read and agree to the "Guidelines for Home Based Catechesis of Children" as set forth by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. http://phillyocf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Home-Based_Catechesis_Guidelines_for_PREP.pdf.
2. I agree to complete my child's appropriate grade level (as determined by the Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Religious Education Office).
3. I understand that I will receive the appropriate curriculum materials needed to effectively home school my child(ren). The provided texts and supporting documents are the same materials used by the traditional in person weekly class component and will be grade specific for each student.
4. I agree to have my child complete a chapter a week and once the Unit is completed to take the Unit Review. Unit Reviews will be sent out electronically by the program director and should be completed and submitted within one week of receipt. All additional activities posted by either the program director and/or catechist will be completed on a timely basis. Online Unit Reviews and activities are time-stamped when program director and/or catechist receive them.
5. Home Schooling is not permitted for 2nd grade year because of the intensity of preparation for the two sacraments of First Penance and Eucharist. Home Schooling is also not permitted in 7th grade Confirmation year. Class participation is vital to the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.
6. I understand that my child will be evaluated (in person written test or oral review) with a mid-year assessment and final assessment (grades 3-6, 1st grade final assessment only). Mid-year assessments will be on the First Semester Study Guide for your child's grade and will be scheduled no later than mid January. Final assessment will be based on the Final Assessment Study Guide and will be scheduled no later than the end of April.
7. I understand that if, after careful and thoughtful reflection, it is determined that a student has not successfully attained a reasonable level of understanding regarding the curriculum that he/she is studying, the Director of Religious Education may recommend that the religious educational needs of

the student may be better served in the traditional Parish Religious Education program at the grade level specified by the Director of Religious Education.

8. As the Home Based Catechesis model does not offer an opportunity for children to receive the sacrament of Penance in a formal way as the traditional PREP classes do, parents with children in grades 3-7 are expected to take their child to receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once during the year.
9. As part of the Archdiocesan requirement for all Religious Education students, catechists or parents are required to teach the Child Abuse Prevention lessons "Kid Talk" as found on the Archdiocesan website. <https://childyouthprotection.org/docs/Kid-Talk-complete-binder-11-22-19.pdf>.
10. In Home Based Catechesis, the parent is the Religion Teacher. Please plan on approximately 60 minutes per week. Parents are to instruct and not sit child down alone with book. As part of the Archdiocesan policy on Religious Education a child is required to have 30 hours of instruction on a yearly basis. Parents are required to keep a log of hours and hand in a copy at the end of the year.
11. I agree to have my child(ren) attend two *spiritual activities* within the parish. These activities include any of the events and liturgies listed below. The list below is not inclusive, as other activities or events may be added to the list below prior to or during the program year as additional options for families. Check weekly Church bulletin for additional options.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Fridays from Labor Day through Memorial Day)

40 Hours Devotion (First weekend in October)

Rosary Devotion

Live Nativity (Week before Christmas)

Ash Wednesday

Stations of the Cross (Fridays during Lent)

Living Stations (during Holy Week)

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday Service

Easter Vigil

May Procession (First Sunday in May)

12. I agree to have my child engage in two *Acts of Mercy* per year offered by the parish. These activities include any of the events listed below. The list below is not inclusive, as other activities or events may be added to the list below prior to or during the program year as additional options for families. Check weekly Church bulletin for additional options.

Mass of Anointing

Advent Giving Tree

Making meals for Aid for Friends

Food Drives

Baby Bottle Drive

Diaper Drive

Casseroles for St. John's Hospice

13. I understand that student tuition for home schooling is the same fee as noted on the Registration form. The tuition amount covers the text and administrative costs (Unit review preparations, secretarial costs, copying costs, office overhead, Director of Religious Education monitoring student's progress and record keeping).

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____