



Mary, Mother of the Redeemer

— OFFICE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION —

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the homeschool Parish Religious Education Program! We are overjoyed that you have decided to join our catechists in the formal religious instruction of your child (ren). Being a catechist is a gratifying mission and serving as a catechist to your own child is truly a blessing. I sincerely hope that you and your child (ren) enjoy their faith formation journey this year. I speak from experience when I say that it is rewarding to teach one's own child (ren) our faith. I had the blessing of teaching my daughter during her Confirmation preparation, and I treasure the time I had with her as she unfolded her own faith-filled story. I pray that all of you have this same experience.

My role in the process is to support you as you take on the role of catechist for your own child (ren). This letter and packet will outline your support materials and timelines. I encourage you to reach out to me with questions along the journey. As your source of information and support, I will check to make sure things are going as planned. Please plan to meet with me while your child is taking their mid-year and end of year assessment. This will be a wonderful opportunity for me to answer questions and offer support materials. If at any time during the year you feel your child would need to return to the PREP formal classroom, please reach out to me directly and we can discuss options. In addition, if you are interested in receiving your own catechetical certification in the process, I have provided a pamphlet in your packet with an overview. If this interests you, I would be happy to discuss it with you.

The materials being provided to you are as follows:

- A copy of the signed contract that you submitted with registration.
- A scope and sequence chart provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia highlighting the topics of discussion for each week of instruction. Please note that this does not necessarily line up exactly with the textbook but we have selected an approved book that is close to the sequences.
- A copy of the mid-year and end of year study guide. Please keep in mind the students are expected to come for a mid-year (excluding first grade) and end of year assessment. The assessment is from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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- A list of dates for the scheduled in person mid-year and in person end of year assessments. Additionally, the online end of unit book assessments will be on this schedule. Online end of unit assessments will be sent to the parent email on the listed week. Students have one week to complete the assessment.
- Each child is required to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once per year. Enclosed is the list of dates the sacrament is being received per grade level. Parents are also welcome to receive the sacrament at that time if they wish. Please check in with Mrs. Haynos or myself when you arrive.
- Reflection sheets for the first semester and second semester Spiritual and Act of Mercy activities. Each student should complete one Spiritual and one Act of Mercy each semester. Students are to fill in a reflection sheet concerning each activity. The completed reflection sheets should be brought to the scheduled mid-year and end of year assessments. The reflection piece will be recorded with their assessment.
- Student textbook, Family Guide, prayer book, rosary beads and Bible (one per family, if needed).
- Kid Talk lesson and accompanying worksheets if applicable. The Kid Talk lesson is mandatory. It needs to be taught the week of January 16 – 22. Following the Kid Talk, I will need an email stating the date you taught the lesson as our office is required to report it to the Office of Child and Youth Protection.
- Catechist Certification Pamphlet for the parent. This is for your information if you would personally like to pursue certification.

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Please know you are an important part of our Parish Religious Education Program. From time to time we will have events and liturgies that you are welcome to attend with your children in order to enhance your child's faith formation. Although these events are not "required", we strongly encourage you to join in our faith community from time to time for these child-centered events.

- Msgr. Conway will celebrate back to PREP Mass on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:45PM. This event will also be live streamed. Students are asked to attend with their families.
- Msgr. Conway will be blessing Bibles for our sixth grade students on Tuesday, September 28 at 5PM and Wednesday, September 29 at 6:45PM. If your child (ren) are in sixth grade and would like their Bible blessed, they may come at that time with their Bible.
- Parish 40 hours devotion will be held on October 10, 11 and 12. The homilist for the week is Father Louis Monica. Although specific details for the parish event are in the Church Bulletin, our PREP students are welcome to attend on Tuesday, October 12 from 4:30-6PM
- As a PREP family, we will pray together in church the World Mission Rosary on Tuesday, October 19 at 5PM and Wednesday, October 20 at 7PM.
- Ali Holden from the Missionary Childhood Association will be holding a 35-minute presentation on the World Missions in the gym on Tuesday, October 26 at 4:45PM and Wednesday, October 27 at 6:40PM.
- Eucharistic Adoration for PREP students and families will take place on Tuesday, November 9 at 4:50PM and Wednesday, November 10 at 6:40PM.
- We will perform our PREP Christmas pageants on Tuesday, December 21 at 5:00PM and Wednesday, December 22 at 7:00PM. If your child(ren) would like to participate in this event, please contact Mrs. Haselbarth, our music director at musicdirectorprep@mmschool.org

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- Ash Wednesday Mass will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 7PM.
- We will present the Living Stations in church on Tuesday, April 5 at 5PM and Wednesday, April 6 at 7PM. If your child (ren) would like to participate in this event, please contact Mrs. Haselbarth at musicdirectorprep@mmschool.org.
- April 27, 2022 will have our PREP closing Mass at 6:30PM in the church.
- May Procession is on Sunday, May 8 at the 10:30AM Mass.

In conclusion, I would like to quote our newest parish priest, Father Mark Tobin, as he addressed fifth grade students of our parish this week. “Religion is not a class. It is a relationship we build with God.” I urge you to keep these words in the forefront of your mind as you embark on this spiritual journey with your child (ren) to guide them to build their own relationship with Jesus Christ. You are blessed to be assisting them in their faith story.

God is good! All the time!

God bless you and your children,

Mrs. Lisa Bull

Director of Youth Faith Formation

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