



Our Lady of the Magnificat Religious Education
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July, 2020

Dear Religious Education Parents,

As we start to get back to living more in the world, I hope and pray that the effects of the last couple of months haven't devastated your family. If your church family at OLM can be of assistance to you in any way, please reach out to me or to Fr. Steve, frsteve@olmchurch.org. As we move back to a more normal way of life, I hope we can take with us some lessons. Some of my lessons: to slow down and appreciate all that is around me. The lesson of family; the definition has changed for me a bit and has certainly deepened, because of not being able to see and touch all of my loved ones. The lesson of how important it is for me to nurture my faith and to receive weekly Eucharist. Doing without, on many levels has helped me to appreciate all the more what I yearn for and hold sacred.

There appears to be much fluidity in planning these days. Rules, regulations and Executive Orders change constantly. We have a few different plans to proceed with Religious Education in order to accommodate that fluidity. As of now we will proceed with the traditional plan of Religious Education taking place in-person in the school building, as has been the way in previous years.

As you may know, OLM has brought the Sacrament of Confirmation down to the 7 & 8 grade rather than the 9 & 10. We are in the middle of a two-year transition period. As with any change, there is a learning curve and adjustments continue to take place. Effective for the 2020-2021 school year and moving forward, the 6th grade students will now be attending classes on Sundays at 10:15-11:30 or Mondays from 4:30-5:45. This change in time was needed to accommodate classroom space and scheduling. The registration form will have the change in times listed.

The registration tuition for the Religious Education program is \$235 for the first student, \$75 for the second student and an additional \$25 for the third child. A fourth child is free. Registration tuition is due at the time that registration takes place. We will also apply a \$500 cap on tuition for any family that has students in both the Religious Education and Confirmation programs. Please note there is an additional late fee of **\$50** for any registration received after **July 30th**. Our policy continues to hold – finances will never be a deterrent for a student to attend Religious Education. As always, if any family has financial difficulties, and needs help with tuition, please send in the registration with a note so stating and we'll work with each family on a case-by-case basis.

Registration will be accepted on a first come basis via mail **ONLY**. When all grades are full, registration for a particular session will be closed. If you are a catechist/teacher in our program you will get first preference in session choices. We will do our best to accommodate each family. All enclosed registration forms should be **mailed in with a tuition check by July 30, 2020 to avoid a \$50 late fee.**

We are “green”, by way of communicating with you via email and Facebook. Please fill in the email address on the registration form in a clear manner so you receive all communications from our office.

The Confirmation registration is separate from grades 1-6 and will be mailed separately and has separate tuitions. If you have students in both programs, please pay the tuitions on separate checks.

If you are registering a child for the **first time**, please do not use the enclosed "Return Registration Form." New registrations must be completed on the form (**salmon color**) that is marked "**Registration Form (New Student)**." For new registrations, be sure to include a copy of your child's **Baptismal Certificate**. New registration forms are available on the OLMChurch.org website or by calling the Religious Education Office. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

We are in need of catechists (teachers) and aides in order for this program to exist. We plan on having our class size at 10 students in order to maintain good healthy practices. **We need you as a catechist in order to accomplish this.** You will learn so much more than you imagine. It is a wonderful way to share your faith with the children of our parish and to grow in your faith. Please take time to read the enclosed letter (blue) and complete the attached volunteer form. Those children whose parents volunteer to teach in the program will be given priority and do not pay the registration tuition.

You can expect the calendar for the entire program sometime in August.

Together let us continue to improve our program and make it the best for our students! Your suggestions and involvement are always welcome. I am looking forward to continuing on this journey with you and your family. As I am sure you will agree, the yearly, continuous faith formation of your child is most important to keep that “faith muscle” active and engaged. I ask you to please make Religious Education and attending weekly Mass a priority in your child’s calendar. Their faith will serve them well after all the extra-curricular activities have faded away.

Reminder – clearly indicate your email address for all correspondence.

- We need you as a catechist or co-catechist. Join our team, we’re a great community. Please fill out the blue form and return to us

Peace and joy,



Mary Ramsden, DRE