

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH

2019-2020 REGISTRATION FOR Religious Ed/Faith Formation Programs for GRADES K-5  
*Classes begin September 22nd and 23rd*

Dear Parents,

Happy Summer! It's official! I had a week of relaxing in New Hampshire two weeks ago, and it was great! I hope you also have a chance for some summer fun and refreshment. Some news for you! As of July 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have a new priest. He likes to be called Fr. Kevin. And as of Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, we will also have a new Pastoral Associate – Nick Frega. While he will serve primarily at Sacred Heart, he will also have some involvement in ministries here at Our Lady's. So even as the workload temporarily eases, ministry and planning continue. Ginny (our on site coordinator) and I miss seeing everyone already!

Just as you are winding down to enjoy your summer, it is time to register/re-register for our faith formation programs for Grades K-5. Registration forms for returning students are enclosed. If you have a new child starting, please download a blank form from our website ([www.sholnewton.org](http://www.sholnewton.org)). Because of the size and number of classes, the limited Monday afternoon classes for grades 1-5, and one or two Monday night classes for Grade 5, it will be **necessary to adhere to the following deadlines!**

For those of you considering Monday classes, our after-school program for grades 1-5 has limited space and depends on having enough catechists available to teach. Therefore, please register for an alternate Sunday session if you are considering Monday. There will also be one or two Grade 5 classes available on Monday nights from 7:00-8:00 only. They meet at Mount Alvernia High School on Center Street. We will notify you of your placement as soon as possible. Priority will be given to those who attended Monday classes last year **AND** who return their form **by August 19th**. Otherwise, **you will be put on a waiting list BY DATE RECEIVED!** Classes are from 3:30-4:30 and are in various places on the property. All begin by meeting in the lower church.

Advice: REGISTER EARLY, even if you need to pay later! I would also like to discourage Grade 1 Monday registrations. It is a VERY long day for the children, and many do not handle it well.

It is important to realize that weekend Mass attendance is required for both Sunday and Monday students. We have really come to understand that children who do not go to church on a regular basis are very confused about what they are learning.

***There is a \$25.00 PER FAMILY LATE FEE IN EFFECT (FOR RETURNING FAMILIES), FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>!***

1. All Sunday registrations received **prior to September 10th** are guaranteed their preferred session/special requests to be with certain friends, etc. **Please do not ask for special allowances after September 10th.**
2. **Registration forms must be received no later than Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for your child to begin class on September 22nd or 23rd. If you are not returning for any reason, kindly notify Rosemary.** If your child was not baptized at Our Lady's, a photocopy of their baptismal certificate is needed just one time.
3. **If you are new to the parish, please register as members of the parish before registering your child for classes. You can do this online ([www.sholnewton.org](http://www.sholnewton.org)).** Please do not put two children on one form. Also, **if they are in Grade 2 and did not attend classes last year, you must speak with Rosemary before registering.**

4. Sunday morning classes are held in the high school building or attached Parish Center (all enter on Washington Street) from 8:45-9:45 OR 11:15-12:15. Children in Grades K through 5 report to the auditorium. For safety reasons, parents are REQUIRED to walk their children in AND pick them up INSIDE.

5. Parents of **First Communion students from Catholic Schools** are asked to call Rosemary and MUST register BY October 1<sup>st</sup> if they expect their children to receive First Penance in January and First Communion in the Spring. There is a required parent meeting in the Fall. There is a place to check off “Catholic School” on the registration form.

6. We would appreciate payment with registration, if possible. **The cost is \$100.00 per child.** Because our programs run at a deficit every year, please consider assisting other families in need with an additional donation, if you are able. Any amount is welcome. Children are always welcome without payment if there is a serious need. It is. However, it is necessary to speak to Rosemary if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are acceptable. **No child is ever refused because they cannot pay. Parents who volunteer EVERY WEEK in the classroom or as a hall monitor, do not pay for their children.**

7. If you know of someone who may be new to our parish or programs, please encourage them to register as soon as possible. We want them to know they are more than welcome!

Finally, please help me to begin the year with all of our volunteer needs met by September 10<sup>th</sup>. It is so much easier for everyone if volunteers don't wait until the last minute. As you know, we do not open without two catechists in each class. This makes it easier for everyone, provides a sub if the lead catechist is sick or out of town, and provides an aide at the same time. Catechists (teachers), assistant catechists and hall monitors are all needed. Please let me know if you will help! It is only 19 weeks of the year! So many people tell me how much they learn by teaching their children. Please ask yourself if the Lord is calling you to spread his love and Good News by teaching our children. There is a place for volunteers to check off their availability on the registration form. There will be catechist trainings here at Our Lady's available for new catechists before classes begin.

I hope you have a wonderful, refreshing, relaxing, safe summer, and look forward to seeing you on September 22nd or 23rd, if not before. **The parish picnic will begin at 12:15 on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.** We hope you will plan to stay for a hot dog or burger and ice cream and ponies! There is no charge! Please call me with ANY questions (617-527-7560 ext 213). Or, if new to the program, stop by the office and say “hello.” I expect to be here EXCEPT for 08/4-08/11. Have a great rest of the summer! God Bless You!

### **Summer Blessings**

Long days, slowed pace, gentle breezes, time to play.

Ice cream cones on hot days, family fun, the sun's warm rays.

Beaches and mountains, water parks and pools, amusement parks,

Summer camps, and lakes to stay cool.

Time with family, time with friends – special memories...may they never end.

Thank you, Lord for so many gifts, especially your beautiful world and your wondrous love. Amen!

Sincerely,

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