



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

all are welcome

Religious Education 2020-2021 Information and Registration Instructions – please read thoroughly!

July 2020

Dear Families,

We hope and pray that this letter finds you well and healthy during these unusual times. You have been in our prayers during all this time that we've been apart, and we miss you all!

Some Updates and Introductions

As many of you know, Rosemary Seibold, who coordinated our programs for Grades K-5, retired at the end of May after sixteen years of devoted ministry here. Following her good work, we are happy to introduce our Religious Education Team.

Kristina Preman: Kristina just finished her tenth year at the parish, serving as Religious Education Director for Grades 6-10 as well as Youth Minister. She is excited to get to know our K-5 families! Kristina will be on maternity leave beginning in late October.

Kate Neal: Kate joined our staff in 2018 and has been involved in many ministries in the collaborative, including young families, grief support, and social justice ministries. She formerly worked as a Youth Minister in Lexington so she's a great addition to our Religious Education team! Contact Kate with questions about Grades 6-10.

Ginny Arpino: Ginny joined the staff in 2018 as the Assistant to the Religious Education Team, but her connection to the parish goes back decades; she was married here and raised her children here, with the youngest celebrating Confirmation in 2016. Contact Ginny with questions about Grades K-5.

Planning for the Year Ahead

We want to thank you for your patience with us as we have figured out what our program will look like this coming school year. Underlying all our planning conversations has been your family's wellbeing - physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

This priority has led us to choose an at-home model of Religious Education for the year ahead. This is a one-year trial for these unprecedented times; this is new to us all, but we are very excited for the potential and promise of something new. Our Church tells us that primary education in the faith happens at home, and we are excited and ready to support you in this new way. To that end, there are parent meetings in September; see the included calendar page for specific dates.

Program Components for All Grades, K-10

Daily: we will be providing each family with a daily faith journal, which will contain ideas for prayer at home - and we ask you to make a family commitment to it.

Weekly: all students will receive and use the Pflaum Gospel Weekly curriculum, which is a program we have piloted in Grades 3 and 5 for the past few years. The Weeklies are based on the Sunday Gospel reading for the week and contain age-appropriate teachings and activities. We ask that these lessons be completed weekly with parent involvement. We also very strongly encourage weekly worship, whether that's in person at church or via our online Mass on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/SHOLVideos>)

Monthly: as a family, we ask you to choose one of five monthly online gatherings (all five will be the same content for the month). The five options will be at various days and times with the hope of accommodating families' busy schedules. Modules will be led by a staff person or catechist and will be appropriate for all ages and grades - and for adults as well! *Please see the included/attached Calendar page for dates.*

For Those Preparing for First Penance and First Communion

In addition to the expectations listed above, those preparing for the Sacraments of First Penance and First Communion will have additional preparation. See the included/attached calendar page for all dates.

To prepare for First Penance, there will be three required online classes (for children and parents) in the fall, with two class options. First Penance will be celebrated either Friday, December 4, or Sunday, December 6.

To prepare for First Communion in the spring, there will be six required online classes (for children and parents) beginning in January, with two class options. There will also be a required First Communion retreat in March. We hope to be able to gather in person, but we will move online if necessary. Choose one option: Sunday, March 21, 2:00-4:00pm OR Friday, March 26, 6:30-8:30pm.

First Communion Masses and Rehearsals - date choice forms will be distributed in the fall!

Saturday, May 1, 4:00pm Mass - Rehearsal Friday, April 30, 4:30-5:45pm

Saturday, May 2, 10:00am Mass - Rehearsal Friday, April 30, 6:00-7:15pm

Saturday, May 8, 4:00pm Mass - Rehearsal Friday, May 7, 5:00-6:15pm

For Those Preparing for Confirmation

Grade 9: *In addition to the expectations listed above*, those in Grade 9 Confirmation preparation will need to answer two or three questions each month, following the monthly gathering. Questions will be provided to you and will be due in written form about a week later.

Grade 10: *In addition to the expectations listed above*, those in Grade 10 Confirmation preparation will have six Sunday night online classes beginning in late February, leading towards Confirmation in the spring. Those dates are Sundays, 7:00-8:00pm: February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, and April 11.

How to Register

We are asking everyone to register online, if possible, by filling out the form online through Microsoft 365 at https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=VlesrEjc9U2Mq6rhx8-l_hjA3mTlvEtNuU2Bo4fC7OxUMzhKNjc3VkJLMTBPT0IKRzIZUDJKR0RVVi4u. If you do not have reliable access to a computer or the Internet, please call us and we will mail a paper form (or forms) to you. Please register by Sunday, September 13.

If you are new to our parish and our Religious Education program, welcome! Before registering for class, please register with our parish at <https://boston.parihssoftfamilysuite.com/> For all returning families, we ask you to spread the word to any new families and invite them to join our parish and our program.

For new students, please mail Baptism (and Eucharist, if applicable) certificates for any newly enrolling child who was not baptized at Our Lady's.

Once registered, we will be in communication about when and where to pick up your curriculum materials.

Tuition

If possible, we appreciate you paying at the time of registration. This year, the fee is \$75.00 per child with a \$150 family cap. Children are always welcome without payment if there is a significant family need; please do notify us if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are also welcome. This year, you can pay online at <https://sholnewton.org/tuition-payment>; you can still mail a check to the parish office if you prefer (address below).

Volunteer Needs

As you know, any successful program (even one that's mostly online!) cannot exist without lots of help, why we ask each of you to consider volunteering your time and talent. We are seeking catechists for sacramental prep years and families willing to take part in brief sharing during the monthly gatherings. As always, you'll have our support and guidance. Please let me know us know if you are interested and would like to learn more. Thank you!

We wish you all a most relaxing, blessed, and healthy summer, and we are looking forward to a great year together. Please call or email with any questions.

Peace,

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