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**Grades 1-5 Religious Education 2021-2022 Registration & Instructions – please read thoroughly!**  
***Classes begin September 28***

Dear Elementary School Families,

It has been quite a year (or 16 months) - and we know that is *quite* the understatement. We hope that you and your loved ones have remained healthy and well, and we want you to know that we've been praying for you all during this time of separation. We also very much hope that these summer months allow you to truly rest after such a stressful school year.

We thank you for your patience with us in planning for the 2021-2022 school year. With each week, so much changes with the pandemic situation; it has been difficult to make predictions about next week, let alone next year! Despite all this, we do have faith-filled hopes and plans for Religious Education, and we pray that things will continue to be stable. Of course, if there is another surge in the virus, we will reassess, and we thank you for your flexibility. Before we get to all that, we have some parish and collaborative news for you.

Sadly, Monsignor Dennis Sheehan passed away in November 2020; we miss his wit, warmth, and wisdom, but we trust that he continues to pray for us and that we will enjoy his company again.

And as you know, Michelle Solomon retired from her role as the Director of Religious Education at the end of June, after sixteen faith-filled years. So, as of July 1, Kristina Preman is now the Director of Religious Education for our entire collaborative, both Sacred Heart and Our Lady's. She is just part of our GREAT Religious Education team:

Kristina Preman: Collaborative DRE and direct oversight of Grades K-5 at Our Lady's

Kate Neal: direct oversight of Grades 1-5 at Sacred Heart

Nick Woll: new to our Collaborative Staff, Nick is the Coordinator of Middle School and High School Religious Education (Grades 6-10) for both parishes, including the Confirmation program

Ginny Arpino: Religious Education assistant and on-site coordinator for Grades K-5 at Our Lady's

We also hope to hire a Youth Minister this summer and will share the word if and when we do.

To learn more about who we all are, please see pages 3 and 6 of bulletin from July 18 - linked here:

[https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/14507/documents/2021/7/21\\_Bulletin%20July%2018.pdf](https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/14507/documents/2021/7/21_Bulletin%20July%2018.pdf)

All right - registration and program information time!

**In-person classes for Grades 1-5, in-person:** Grades 1-5 will meet for classes on Tuesdays 4:00-5:00pm in the Lower Church Classrooms here at Sacred Heart.

In terms of pandemic safety, we are awaiting guidelines from the Archdiocese for the upcoming year. We don't know whether masks will be required or if there will be distancing/capacity requirements. We will of course follow all guidance and will communicate with families as it is received. In the meantime, we encourage all those who can safely get vaccinated to do so. And keep those masks handy, just in case!

**Cross-registration:** At Our Lady's Parish, Religious Education classes for Grades 1-5 are on Sundays 8:45-9:45am, and Mondays, 4:00-5:00pm. We are offering families from both parishes the opportunity to "cross register" at the other parish. This option will open up in early September, in order to give parishioners the chance to register at their own parish before spots fill up. Of course, celebration of sacraments can always be at your own parish, even if you attend classes at the other.

**Virtual/Homeschool option:** We know that many of you found the at-home and virtual program last year to be convenient and helpful for your family. We are glad to offer a virtual option again this year for those who want it. This option will consist of the Pflaum Gospel Weekly curriculum and a monthly webinar. Please note that virtual formation is not ordinarily an option for those preparing for First Penance and First Communion; please contact Kristina if you need to discuss.

**Registration instructions and deadlines:** Please register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/zmaxHpV7P0> or by following the link at [www.sholnewton.org](http://www.sholnewton.org). If you need a paper form mailed to you, please give us a call, and we'll gladly send one.

For those interested in Sunday or Monday classes at Our Lady's, please contact us directly; you will be notified in early September if there is space.

In order to begin class on the first day (September 28), registrations must be received by Friday, September 10.

**New families and new students:** Welcome! We're so glad you're here and are honored to partner with you! New families are asked to register in the parish, online at [boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com](http://boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com). If your child was not baptized at Sacred Heart, please send a photocopy of their baptismal certificate when they first enroll. If you are registering a new student who is entering Grade 2 but did not participate in Religious Education last year, please speak with Kristina as you register.

For those families who are returning, if you know someone who is new to our parish, our programs, or your neighborhood, please encourage them to join us and to register as soon as possible. We want them to know they are more than welcome!

**First Communion students from Catholic schools:** Parents are asked to call Kristina and MUST register by October if they expect their children to receive First Penance in December and First Communion next spring.

**Mass attendance:** It is important to realize that weekend Mass attendance is required for all 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.

**Payment:** We would appreciate payment with registration, if possible. **Tuition is \$75 per child with a \$150 family cap for two or more children.** Please mail a check to the parish. Children are always welcome without payment if there is a serious need. However, it is necessary to speak to Kristina if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are welcome. **No one is ever refused because they cannot pay.**

**Volunteers:** Finally, please help us to begin the year with all our volunteer needs met by September 10. It is so much easier for everyone if volunteers don't wait until the last minute. Catechists (teachers), assistants, and hall monitors are all needed. Please let us know if you will help! So many people tell us year after year how much they learn by teaching. Please consider whether the Lord is calling you to spread His love and Good News by teaching our children. Please contact us if you are interested and would like to learn more.

We hope you have a wonderful, refreshing, relaxing, safe summer, and look forward to seeing you on September 28, if not before. **The picnic will be on September 26 at Our Lady's - please join us for this complementary and fun event!** Please call or email with ANY questions. Or, especially if you're new, we'd be happy to have a quick Zoom to say hello.

Wishing you peace, rest, and blessings,

Kristina Preman, Director of Religious Education & Pastoral Associate

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