

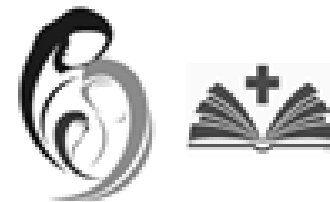
FAMILY COMMITMENT PRAYER



Loving and merciful Father, who instituted the family as an instrument of your fruitful love and raised it to be a sacrament of the love of your Son for his Church: send forth your Holy Spirit to forgive us for our sinful failures; to heal the personal and social wounds that afflict us; to bring consolation to the vulnerable among us; and to enable us to reach out in compassionate care to all those families in need. Make possible within us and for us what only you can do.
Through Christ our Lord
Amen.

Holy Family Catholic Church

Mitchellville, Maryland



“Say the word and my soul will be healed”

Religious Education Handbook 2021-2022

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Welcome!

It will be somewhat exciting to begin this program year in a hybrid model. We would have been glad to see you each week, but understand the reasons for caution.

The mission of our program is to teach the Word of God and to promote the faith. We strive in our parish to help all explore their Catholic faith and to develop morally correct attitudes towards God, self and others. We further appreciate that if we are to foster formation in religious understanding and practice then we must be faithful in our own witness as disciples. As catechists, we take seriously our role in assisting parents in their role as the primary educators of their children.

Classes for this year will be both in-person and virtual for students in kindergarten through high school. More information contained within this handbook.

The Faith Knowledge Standards developed by the Archdiocese of Washington are at the core of our teaching and are based on the 6 pillars of catechesis (pray, learn, celebrate, share choose and live).

Although we use the term “grade” to represent each level of our program, they are actually stages and our intent is to provide a complete catechesis. Not standing alone, one level builds up to the next. Therefore, each child is placed in what is deemed an appropriate level/grade with the expectation that he/she will participate from the beginning to the end. It has happened in the past that a child might attend for a year or two and drop out, only returning at “sacrament time.” Given missed material, the child will be placed at the level where he/she left the program.

Parents, we need your support in our mission. Please review this handbook for program policies. Discuss with your child what is being taught in the classroom. More importantly, attend Sunday Mass together. Let us all pray for a fruitful year filled with learning and love for the Lord.

Holy Family Catechists

Archdiocese of Washington: www.ADW.org
Parish Website: www.holyfamilywoodmore.org
Christ In Us (grades K-6): www.christinus.com
Sadlier Connect (grades 7&8): www.sadlierconnect.com
Flock Note: www.flocknote.com

Email Addresses

Pastor: father_joe1986@msn.com
DRE: rozanskip@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Kindergarten Catechist: murrayt@holyfamilwoodmore.org
Grade 1 Catechist: roxasd@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 2 Catechist: roxastharp@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 3 Catechist: afihenel@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 4 Catechist: stevenst@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 5 Catechist: lagranam@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 6 Catechist: abongwam@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 7 Catechist: oyalowomt@holyfamilywoodmore.org
Grade 8 Catechist: pangam@holyfamilywoodmore.org
HSPREP Catechist: bryanl@holyfamilywoodmore.org

Fax Machine: 301-249-2524
PREP Office Number: 301-249-1167
Rectory: 301-249-2266

Weekly Reminders/Updates

Each week, on Thursday, you will receive an email/text via Flock Note. You must select PREP Families as one of your groups to get these messages. For those that have yet to register for Flock Note, a link on the front page of our website will help you to register for this application. The sending of Flock Notes is a courtesy and not meant to replace the printed calendar.

Side Note: The parish has a webpage www.holyfamilywoodmore.org and a page link for Religious Education. On this page you can find the calendar, syllabus, handbook, Summer Packet and other related program information.

Collaboration with Parents

We are a team. We cannot and should not replace you as the primary catechist of your child.

It is our role to support you in your efforts and we respectfully ask that you reciprocate.

We believe that with prayer, faithful Mass attendance (again even online or TV), reception of the sacraments, service to others and study of our faith; we can all be the people that God has called us to be.

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Face Masks Are Required

All students and adults are to wear a face mask while inside any of our buildings as well as during class. The mask should be in place prior to entering a building. Masks should fully cover the wearer's mouth and nose.

While in-person sessions are only 70 minutes, students may wish to have a spare mask (sealed in a bag). This spare can be kept in their supply case (kept on-site) or brought each time they attend class.

A Note about the Restrooms

It has been recommended, by the Archdiocese, that designated bathrooms be assigned for students and adults. As we do not have this capability, the stalls will be marked with signs for students and adult use. We will also encourage all to only enter one-at-a-time. This may require the use of a hall monitor. Please be mindful and patient and encourage your children to attend before class begins or to wait until class is over.

Program Times

Our hybrid program will be reviewed in an ongoing basis and changes communicated to you in a timely fashion.

We will be using Google Meet for the virtual classroom and Sadlier Connect/Google Classroom for assignments.

A new Virtual Classroom Release/Waiver form will be required for each child that participates in our program. No exceptions.

PREP (Grades K-6) will meet in-person on the 2nd Sunday and remain virtual 1st and 3rd Sundays.

MSPREP (Grades 7-8) will meet in-person on the 3rd Sunday and remain virtual 1st and 2nd Sundays.

HSPREP (Grades 9-12) will meet in-person on the 1st Sunday and remain virtual 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

This curriculum looks at the six tasks of catechesis as six key elements of lived Catholic life so as to help young disciples in formation to realize the intimate connection between our Catholic faith and life. These six key elements of Catholic life “constitute a unified whole by which catechesis seeks to achieve its objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ.” (GDC nos. 85-86; NDC no. 20)

Knowledge based assessments will be administered annually to students in grades 3 to 8. Our students will take this assessment in the spring. **Please make sure your child is in attendance for the Assessment.** Any missed FKA will be scored as a 0 (zero) on the progress report. (See calendar for associated dates)

Home Schooling/Study

Parents are the primary teachers of their child. If the preference is to teach Religious Education at home, we have materials that can be purchased. This excludes those students preparing to receive Sacraments. These children should be part of our Preparation Program per the Liturgical Norms—Archdiocese of Washington (2010), para.17.1. An annual interview/test may be administered to make sure the student has attained proficiency in their level of faith learning.

Service Projects

Over the years, we have offered several opportunities for the children to participate in service projects. Given the pandemic, some of these types of projects may not be possible. While the projects may vary from year to year, some traditional ones include:

Cemetery Clean-up	Christmas Giving Program
Lit For Little Ones	Shepherd's Cove
So Others Might Eat (SOME)	Various Charitable Collections
Warm Nights/Bridges of Hope	March For Life Hosting

While these projects are not mandatory, we hope that you would encourage your children's participation to give them a sense of stewardship of God's creation and towards each other.

Child Protection and Safe Environment Education

The Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) has implemented policies and procedures in an effort to protect our children. All of our adult volunteers, who work with children are required to be in full compliance with the ADW's policy. Volunteers undergo a background check, fingerprinting and Child Abuse awareness training.

Students are educated, in an age appropriate manner, about ways to maintain their safety. Upon request, parents will be given a guidebook and an overview of the lesson material given to their child. They are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

Our program offers Safe Environment education for all students in grades PreK to 12. The curriculum to be used is *The Circle of Grace*. These sessions are held in the fall and your child's participation in all of the sessions is required as we must meet 90% or greater participation. You may find the curriculum on the links page of our website.

Knowledge Based Standards For Religious Education

In 2011 the Archdiocese of Washington, implemented the new Faith Knowledge Standards. Recently all of the standards underwent revision. Parents should be familiar with these standards so we have provided a link on our webpage. The guidelines are called:

Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization
Archdiocesan Religion
Curriculum Guide
Grades Pre-K to 8

Class times: In-Person will be held from 10:40 to 11:50 AM (70 minutes) and Virtual from 11:00 to 11:50 AM (50 minutes).

Our program year runs from September through May to meet the Archdiocesan requirement of 30+ hours of instruction.

Habitual tardiness will not be accommodated. Our efforts are to provide good and safe catechesis. Being on time helps with this effort.

Cancellations or Delays

Please look to our parish website's Religious Education Page for any announcements related to closings or delays. We will also send out messages through Flock Note.

During inclement weather we will follow Prince George's County schools for any in-person sessions.

Arrival and Dismissal

In keeping with mandates from the Archdiocese and recommendations from the CDC we will need to maintain social distancing both inside and outside. To avoid crowding please follow the direction of the outside parking lot monitors. Young children (grades K-2) will still need to be accompanied by an adult to class and should be met by an adult at dismissal.

All students should be picked up no later than 12:15 PM. Please keep in mind that catechists also have families and activities at home. If late pick up becomes chronic fines may be instituted.

Attendance Policy (Updated in 2015)

If a student should miss 9 or more classes, during the program year, the parent(s) will be required to meet with the pastor to discuss the reason for such high absenteeism. Students are still accountable for making up any missed classwork/homework.

Attendance is taken and tardy arrivals are noted. Arriving 5-15 minutes late for a class is considered tardy. Arriving 16+ minutes after the class start time, will be considered a Tardy Absence (which is considered an absence). If chronic tardiness becomes an issue, it may necessitate that student not be permitted to enter the classroom.

Virtual Classroom Information

Two of the three monthly classes will be virtual. Students will be provided with a Google Meet link to participate. This link will be used for the entire program year. Sessions are held from 11:00 AM to 11:50 AM (50 minutes). Virtual classrooms will be opened to the students 5 minutes prior (10:55 AM) to the start.

It is hoped that this timeframe will allow for families with multiple students to participate more easily.

During the virtual classroom all students should begin class with any requested supplies, their digital textbook opened. All student cameras should be on and their microphones muted. High school students are not using a textbook, but may have digital pages assigned for the virtual lesson.

The “Chat” feature is not to be used unless the catechist has given the students permission to use it.

Every virtual class will have two adults in attendance that are in compliance with the ADW’s child protection policies. Parents are always welcome to attend with their child and may need to assist their younger children during class time.

Our program has 6 Components:

1. Faithful attendance at Sunday Mass
3. Faithful attendance of Confirmation Classes & weekend retreat
4. Participation in a parish ministry
5. Written essay regarding desire for the sacrament
6. Interview with the pastor to determine readiness

Confirmation is a Rite not a Right. Readiness of the candidate determines its reception. It is also not a graduation nor should it be considered the end of religious instruction.

Classes for Confirmation are held once-a-month on Wednesday evenings (Please see the calendar). Missing 3 or more sessions may delay reception of the sacrament.

The Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for late April. The ability to have the retreat may be affected by health, state, county and ADW guidelines We will keep you posted.

Children Out of Sequence

These are children who did not receive sacraments at the prescribed age. This program aims at helping them become fully initiated Catholics.

Any new student:

- in grade 2 (of their regular school) that has had no prior religious instruction will be enrolled in grade 1 and will meet during PREP with those students.
- in grades 3-12 will meet during the regular PREP or HSPREP class time and given additional assignments for home preparation.

- All parents of children preparing for sacraments are required to attend parent preparation meetings.
- Catholic School children will need to attend classes, as scheduled (see calendar). These classes will focus on knowledge of the sacraments, exploration and investigation of the specific sacrament and foster a sense of community.
-

Reconciliation Preparation

A parish pre-requisite is that the child has completed the first grade catechesis class. Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation & Penance typically begins in Grade 2 as the student must reach the age of reason (7 years old) to receive this sacrament. Students will be offered to receive the sacrament with their classmates on a first Saturday in the Spring. This celebration also includes Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Parents are expected to attend one preparation meeting and attend the rehearsal with their child.

First Eucharist Preparation

A parish pre-requisite is that the child has completed the first grade catechesis class. Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist begins in the spring of the 2nd Grade year. The participant must have reached the age of reason (7 years old) to receive this sacrament. Students will be offered to receive the sacrament with their classmates on a Saturday in May. Parents are expected to attend one preparation meeting and attend the rehearsal with their child.

Confirmation Preparation

In the Archdiocese of Washington, it is recommended that confirmation be celebrated during the 7th-8th grade year. Here at Holy Family, we begin our preparation in January of the student's 7th grade year. Preparation concludes in June of the 8th grade year.

Textbooks

Students in grades K-8 will have access to a printed textbook while in-person along with a digital textbook. *Christ In Us* will be used for grades K-6, *We Live Our Faith—Vols. I&II* will be used for grades 7&8. Our High School students will use *The Adventure—Living Out Your Relationship with God*.

Online Access to Materials

For students in grades K-8 the digital textbook requires them to log into the publisher's site. Every student will be given a User ID and password to access the site. Below is an example of a student ID

User ID: smithj

Parent accounts will also be created. One account per family.
Example:studentlastnameehf0315 (hf 0315 is our parish designation)

Both accounts have a default password of 123456 which you may change. Should you forget it, please contact the office to have it reset.

Given that their printed books will remain at the parish, it is imperative that students log into their accounts. It is online that they will find homework, messages from their teacher, and be able to take the online Unit Tests.

Classroom Expectations

Students should participate in both the in-person and virtual classes with a ready to learn attitude. This is not a time to eat/drink, or engage in non-classroom related behavior. Respectful behavior is mandatory.

Homework & Tests

Students will be given homework. These assignments may be given via email, the teacher in the classroom or assigned digitally through the online portal. The teacher will determine the due dates.

Students in grades 1-8 will take four (4) Unit Tests. These tests will be given through the online portal. Please see the syllabus for dates and times. Online assignments have an open and close day/time. Please mark your calendars accordingly so that your child does not miss taking the test. Only the DRE may reassign tests.

Progress Reports

Two progress reports will be given to students in grades 1-8. The first report will come mid-program year and the final report will be emailed home in in late May/early June. Reports will indicate scores from any Unit Assessments, Faith Knowledge Assessment (if applicable), Summer Packet Score (see below), and Family Event attendance. It will also reflect attendance records. **An overall proficiency of at least 60% must be obtained to progress to the next grade level.**

Summer Packets

Students in grades K-8 are expected to complete a Summer Packet which was instituted to help the continuity of learning over the summer when the program does not meet. It is a requirement for re-registration. Students complete the packet for the grade completed not the grade anticipated. Summer Packet information can be found on the parish website.

<https://holyfamilywoodmore.org/religious-education>

Family Event

This year's annual event is planned as a virtual gathering. It is scheduled for Saturday, January 29th from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Parents and children are expected to participate and it will count as 3 absences if missed.

REAL FAITH

(Religious Education for Atypical Learners)

Formerly called SPRED people of all abilities have a right to know the "mystery of faith." However, we recognize that each person develops at differing rates. Some may also have special education needs. These needs may include learning related or developmental related issues.

We ask that you work with us, to help identify what needs there are so that we can do our best in bringing your child to God. Our catechists will utilize the individual's learning style so he/she can be a more integral part of our parish community of faith. Any information provided will be treated with respect and confidentiality.

Given the hybrid nature of our program, this may present challenges, but by working together, we can bring faith to everyone.

Sacrament Preparation

It is Archdiocesan Policy that students receive Sacraments at their home parish. Preparation (catechesis) for the reception of these sacraments is also received at their home parish. Students attending a Catholic School should contact the pastor to obtain his permission for catechesis to occur outside of the parish program. Otherwise the child will be expected to participate with the parish program for their preparation. Primarily this affects those students in grades 2, 7 & 8. Please be aware of the following: