

“Come and See”

Passing on the Catholic faith is so much more than giving information. It is about inviting others into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. It is much more like an apprenticeship than “classes.” The Church exists to make saints—our goal is to introduce children to the beauty, truth and goodness of the faith so that they can become citizens of heaven.

Religious Education at St. Mary Catholic Church strives to welcome, introduce, and encourage young Catholics to grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Young Catholics are not just the future of the Church, they belong *right now* to the Church—and we need them active, engaged, and eager to share their talents. We hope your family will “Come and See.”



“The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2226



Religious Education strives to form young Catholic disciples who will live the Gospel, strengthen their faith, and celebrate the Sacraments—enriching their families and our Parish family.

St. Mary Catholic Church

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St. Mary Catholic Church, 2019-20

Grades 1-5 Religious Education



“All Christ’s faithful all called to hand on the Good News from generation to generation by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #3



Religious Education

The Catholic Church recognizes that parents are the first and foremost religious educators of their children (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2223). Parish programs supplement and support parents in passing on the Catholic faith. As partners in your child's religious education, our goal is to provide age appropriate, clear, engaging, and orthodox catechesis (education in the faith).

We strive to be a place where questions can be asked, faith can be practiced, and confidence can grow. As our young people are equipped to know and love their faith, they can go out to their homes, schools, and activities and be witnesses to Jesus Christ. Supporting our parents and families is critical to the success of any religious education effort. We will work hard to provide tools and support to all our parish families.

"The home is the first school of Christian life." (CCC #1657)

Who can Attend?

All children in grades 1-5 are invited to attend. We encourage children to attend our full year of meetings, but kids can start at any time. Some children may need to be picked up early or dropped off later—make arrangements with our DRE when needed. Special needs children are welcome—please speak with our DRE regarding how we can support your child.

What is included in Religious Education?

Our year has 25 Wednesday night meetings which include a 1/2 hour RE Assembly and one hour of class-level instruction. We also have 5 scheduled Religious Education Masses: on these evenings we will have a 1/2 hour class-level meeting then celebrate Mass together at 6:30pm. Parents and families are welcome to these Masses. We also offer Family Faith Nights (FFN) for our entire parish family to come together in the Parish Hall for games, activities, crafts, and prayer on a central theme. We'll start each FFN with a potluck dinner. FFN happens after the 5:30pm Mass on Saturday evenings (except Oct 30).

What Textbook is Used in RE Meetings?

St. Mary uses Our Sunday Visitor's Alive in Christ. The publisher provides wonderful materials for families to use at home through: www.aliveinchrist.osv.com.

What about Sacramental Preparation?

Sacramental Preparation is separate from Religious Education. Our RE program provides a solid and broad foundation in the Catholic faith. Our Sacramental Preparation program prepares children for specific Sacraments. Any child being prepared for the Sacraments should also attend our Religious Education meetings, or be attending St. Mary Parish School.

Schedule of Meetings

We meet on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:30. We gather as a community for an opening RE Assembly, then split into grade-level meetings.

September 18, Kick Off
September 25
October 2
October 9
October 16
October 23: Rel Ed Mass
Oct 30: Family Faith Night: Saints Alive
November 6
November 13
November 20
No meeting Nov 27
Nov 30: FFN: Advent Adventures
December 4
December 11
December 18: Rel Ed Mass
No Meetings Dec 25, Jan 1
January 8
January 11: FFN: MASS-terpiece of God
January 15
January 22
January 29: Rel Ed Mass
Feb 1: FFN: Biblepalooza
February 5
February 12
February 19
Feb 22 FFN: Lent Well Spent
No Meeting Feb 26 (Ash Wednesday)
March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25: Rel Ed Mass
April 1
April 4: FFN: How About Holy Week
No Meeting April 8 (Holy Week)
April 15
April 22
April 29
May 6
May 13
May 16: FFN: Mother of All Faith Nights
May 20: Rel Ed Mass and Closing Celebration

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