

## “Come and See”

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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, 2021-22

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## Grades 1-5 Religious Education

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*“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. We begin at 6pm in the Church and finish at 7:30pm in the classrooms. 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 29 Wednesday night meetings: each include a 1/2 hour RE Assembly and one hour of class-level instruction. Included are 8 Religious Education Masses: on these evenings we will have a 1/2 hour class-level meeting first, then celebrate Mass together at 6:45pm. Parents and families are welcome to these Masses. **New this year: Parent Fellowship Meetings** for parents to gather together for support, prayer and learning—we'll meet 8 times during the year. We also offer 7 Family Faith Nights (FFN) for our entire parish family to come together in the Parish Hall for games, activities, crafts, and prayer after the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday evenings.

## What Textbook is Used in RE Meetings?

St. Mary uses Our Sunday Visitor's [Alive in Christ](http://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com). The publisher provides wonderful materials for families to use at home through: [www.aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://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, starting with Reconciliation at age 7 or later. Any child being prepared for the Sacraments should also attend our Religious Education meetings, or be attending St. Mary Parish School or homeschool RE.

## Schedule of Meetings

*We meet on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:30. We begin together for an opening RE Assembly, then split into grade-level meetings.*

October 6 Kick Off  
October 13  
October 20 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
**October 27: RE Mass**  
November 3  
**November 6: Family Faith Night: Saints Alive**  
November 10  
November 17 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
*No meeting Nov 24*  
December 1  
**December 4: FFN: Advent Adventures**  
**December 8: RE Mass (at 7:00pm)**  
December 15 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
*No Meetings Dec 22 & 29*  
January 5  
**January 12: RE Mass**  
January 19 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
January 26  
**January 29: FFN: Biblepalooza**  
**February 2: RE Mass**  
February 9  
**February 16 + Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
**February 23**  
**February 26: FFN: Lent Well Spent**  
*No Meeting March 2 (Ash Wednesday)*  
March 9  
March 16 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
**March 23: RE Mass**  
**March 26: FFN: Sacraments**  
March 30  
*No Meeting April 6 & 13 (Break & Holy Week)*  
April 20 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
**April 27: RE Mass**  
May 4  
**May 7: FFN: Mother of All Faith Nights**  
**May 11: RE Mass**  
May 18 + **Parent Fellowship Meeting**  
May 25  
**June 4: FFN: Works of Mercy**  
**June 8: RE Mass and closing Potluck**  
*Please cut out and post this page at home!*