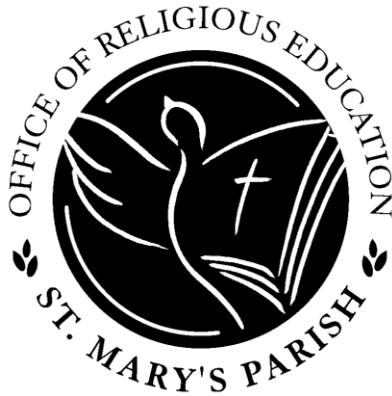


St. Mary's Religious Education Parent Handbook 2019-2020



St. Mary's Catholic Church
Office of Religious Education
600 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD 20852

Phone: 301-762-8750

smrockville@gmail.com

www.stmarysrockville.org



<https://twitter.com/StMaryRockville>

Sundays, 10:15 – 11:45 am

Minister of Religious Education: Mr. Thomas Patchan

Executive Secretary: Mrs. Ellen Finnell

Parish Staff

Rev. Monsignor Robert G. Amey, Pastor

Rev. Kevin Fields, Associate Pastor

Rev. M. Valentine Keveny, In Residence

Deacon James Morrison

Daniel F. Kostka, Sr., Deacon

Louis J. Brune, III, Deacon

Kathy Yates, Pastoral Assistant

Rectory Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rectory Office Phone: 301-424-5550

Rectory Fax: 301-424-5579

Rectory Email: stmaryrockville@yahoo.com

St. Mary's Religious Education Program

Thank you for being a part of our religious education program (CCD) at St. Mary's! At St. Mary's, we strive to share the richness of our Catholic Faith with our parish's children with the help of our dedicated team of catechists and the involvement of each family. The Christian family is the primary environment for growth in faith, and parents are the first educators of the Faith. You model and teach the faith to your children by attending Mass together on Sundays and Holy Days, praying together, receiving the Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly, and by discussing CCD lessons as a family.

We are here to assist families through weekly CCD classes for children and parent classes throughout the year so that you may continue to learn the essential teachings of our faith and experience Christian community with our parish.

Administrative Policies

Calendar: St. Mary's religious education program follows the Montgomery County public school calendar as best we can. The full 2019-2020 CCD calendar is included in the back of this packet. Please check the website for updates:
<https://stmarysrockville.org/children>

Emergency Closing: In the case of severe weather, parents will be notified by email as soon as possible, but in some cases this may be Sunday morning. The Office of Religious Education follows MCPS policy for emergency closures and will provide updates by email and Twitter.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. To complete a grade level, a student may only have **three absences** (apart from those that occur due to sickness or family emergency). After the third absence, the student, in order to move on to the next grade, will be expected to complete make-up work assigned by the MRE and catechist. If a child will be absent from CCD, the parents should notify their child's teacher by email or phone.

Drop Off and Pick Up: Please plan to drop off your child in his or her classroom and pick him or her up from the classroom at the end of class. If you wish your child to leave class with someone other than the parents, you must notify the teacher in advance. If you wish to give permission for your child to leave class on his/her own, you must give written notice to the teacher in advance.

Safe Environment Education: Every year in the fall we take time out of our regular CCD curriculum to teach about the value of positive relationships with God and others, and about basic interpersonal boundaries. The program that we use is called *Circle of Grace*, and it educates and forms youth in the value of positive relationships with God and others. *Circle of Grace* helps children/young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

Parent Classes: All parents/guardians of students enrolled in CCD are asked to attend three of our eight (two-session) parent classes (6 Sundays total). Each year the classes are on different topics, chosen by parents via an email survey over the fall. The goal for these classes is to give you tools to be able to share your faith with your children and to reinforce at home the lessons the children are learning throughout the year in CCD. These classes also give you a chance to get to know the other parents in the parish, which helps keep our community strong and vibrant.

Curriculum: In the Archdiocese of Washington we use a curriculum entitled *Forming Disciples of the New Evangelization*. This ensures “that the faith is taught to children in a complete, systematic, and consistent way in all parish and Catholic school programs.” To learn more about the curriculum, please see the Archdiocese of Washington’s website: <https://adw.org/learning-the-faith/faith-formation/parish-faith-formation>. Click on your child’s grade to see what your child will be learning each year in CCD.

Prayers to Memorize: Each year, our students concentrate on different formal prayers to grow in their prayer life. You can see the breakdown of prayers taught by grade listed below.

- K-**The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer;
- 1-** Same as K, plus Hail Holy Queen, Blessing before and after Meals;
- 2-** Same as 1, plus Act of Contrition;
- 3-** Same as 2, plus Morning Offering, St. Michael Prayer;
- 4-** Same as 3, plus Rosary, Apostles' Creed, Divine Praises;
- 5-** Same as 4, plus Memorare, Stations of the Cross;
- 6-** Same as 5, plus Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love
- 7-** Same as 6, plus Angelus, Regina Caeli;
- 8-** Same as 7, plus Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Prayer for Peace

The complete list of prayers to memorize can be found at our website, www.stmarysrockville.org/children along with other documents and resources for parents.

Sacramental Preparation: Generally, children receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the 2nd grade and Confirmation in the 8th grade. A child must attend at least two consecutive years of religious education prior to reception of each of these sacraments. We also offer classes for students in older grades preparing for sacraments. The full schedule of sacraments and preparation activities is in the calendar on page 6.

Classroom Behavior: Appropriate classroom behavior is necessary for learning to take place. Students are expected to act as they would in their regular school. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Please remember that the catechists are volunteers and deserve respect and cooperation. At the same time, each student also deserves respect, understanding, and a classroom conducive to learning.

If a student repeatedly and consistently disrupts class, the parent will be notified. If necessary, a meeting will be held with the student, the parents, the catechist, and the MRE. If the behavior continues, the student will not be permitted to return to class unless a parent accompanies him or her to class each week.

Expectations for Parents/Guardians:

The most important task of the catechesis of children is to provide, through the witness of adults, an environment in which young people can grow in faith. (National Directory for Catechesis, no. 205)

- ✓ Witness their own relationship with God through their prayer life and the love they have for their children and teach the faith to their children as primary educators.
- ✓ Maintain their homes as “domestic” churches wherein relationship with God is evident and participation in parish life is promoted.
- ✓ Esteem their children, seeing in each the face of Christ.
- ✓ Be actively involved in the life of the Church through participation in Sunday liturgies, the sacramental life of the Church, the community life of the parish and stewardship.
- ✓ Collaborate with catechists by promoting the development of faith in their children.
- ✓ Prepare their children for their participation in the sacraments.

Expectations for Students:

- ✓ Exhibit their willingness to learn through active participation in the learning environment.
- ✓ Collaborate with catechists and peers.
- ✓ Show evidence of literacy and proficiency in the catechetical message and its application to daily life.
- ✓ Come to know how Jesus Christ is central to their lives.
- ✓ Show earnestness in preparation for active participation in the life of the Catholic Church.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Office of Religious Education at smrockville@gmail.com or 301-762-8750 with any thoughts, concerns, or questions throughout the year. Your child’s catechist will be provided your e-mail address and will provide regular updates throughout the year.

St. Mary's Religious Education 2019-2020 Calendar

All CCD classes will be on Sundays from 10:15-11:45 am in the St. Mary's School building.

Classes will meet every Sunday, unless otherwise noted.

September	February
8-CCD Classes Begin	2- CCD - 3 rd - 5 th Gr. Teaching Mass
15- CCD	6 – 8 th Gr. Parent & Child Mtg. 7pm
22-CCD - Circle of Grace	2, 9-CCD - Parent Class 5: Anointing of Sick
29-No CCD – MCPS Holiday	16 – No CCD Presidents' Day
October	23 – No CCD Parish Gala Cleanup
3 – 8 th Gr. Parent&Child Mtg.7pm	29-8 th Gr. Confirmation Interviews 9am-12
6, 13 – CCD - Parent Class #1 Baptism	March
12, 19 – 8 th Gr. Confirmation Retreats	1, 8-CCD-Parent Class #6 Holy Orders
20 –CCD - K-2 nd Gr. Teaching Mass in Chapel	15, 22 –CCD-Parent Class #7 Marriage
20, 27 – CCD - Parent Class #2 Confirmation	21 – 1 st Communion Parent & Child Retreat- 9:30am – 12:30 pm
24 –Parent 1 st Reconciliation Mtg.7pm	29 – CCD
	April
November	5, 12 – No CCD Easter Break
3 – CCD	19, 26 –CCD-Parent Class #8 TBD
10 – CCD	
17, 24 – CCD - Parent Class #3 Eucharist	May
	1-1 st Holy Communion Rehearsal 6pm
December	2 - 1 st Holy Communion 10am
1 – No CCD Thanksgiving Break	Meet in Gym at 9:30am
8, 15 –CCD - Parent Class #4 Reconciliation	3 – Last Day of CCD Class
14 – 1 st Reconciliation 10am	- May Crowning after 12:30pm Mass
22, 29 – No CCD Christmas Break	- Confirmation Retreat 11:30am-6pm
	8 –Confirmation Rehearsal 6pm
January	9 –Confirmation Mass 10am Main Church Students and Sponsors Arrive at 9:30am
5 - CCD	21 – 7 th Gr. Confirmation Parent & Child Mtg. – 7 pm
9 – 1 st Communion Parent Mtg. 7pm	
12 - CCD	
19 – No CCD MLK Holiday	
26-CCD – 6-8 Gr. Teaching Mass	