



Let the children come to me.

MATTHEW 19:14

Welcome to St. Mary Religious Education for the 2020-2021 school year! It will be a different start to our year of instruction, as we focus on providing at-home classes for our families. We hope to move to in-person classes at some point during this school year. Please read over this information to understand how this will work for your family.

1. Register your child(ren) using the form found on our parish website stmarymarshall.org under the Faith Formation tab.
2. On this form, you will decide if you would prefer “online instruction” or “packet pick-up”. See below for more information about each of these formats. You can change your preference at any point (simply contact Sara Rodgers to change your preference). Please note that we do not currently have online programming available for preschool and kindergarten students. Packet pick-up is available for those students.
3. There is a \$15 cost per child. This can be paid on our parish website stmarymarshall.org. Click on Register/Donate. Then, on the donate page you will enter your amount under “Religious Education Fee.” You may also send a check to the parish office. Please put religious education fee in the memo.

St. Mary Parish
212 W. Hanover St.
Marshall, MI 49068

No one will be refused instruction based on inability to pay. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact Sara Rodgers.

Online Instruction Information (available for students grade 1-8)

Grades 1-5

For students in Grades 1-5, we will be using the online course *Faith and Life* offered through the company **My Catholic Faith Delivered**. We use the textbook series *Faith and Life* in our in-person classes, as it is the curriculum that the Diocese of Kalamazoo recommends. So, this will be a perfect fit for us, if we are able to transition to in-person classes in the future.

How will this work for me?

- Once you register and choose “online”, you will be signed up for your child(ren)’s Faith and Life grade level course offered by My Catholic Faith

Delivered (MCFD). MCFD will email you (the parent) with log-in information. The parent will need to set-up the account with a username and password.

- A grade level outline will be available on our website and also emailed to parents so you will know which Chapters should be completed each week.
- Students will complete the work on their own, with the help of parents, at their own pace.
- Catechists and St. Mary DRE will be able to see progress on each account.
- Catechists will be available for assistance through email and phone call.
- See this flyer for information about *Faith and Life* offered through MCFD. https://cdn.cd2learning.com/mcfd_web/downloads/MCFD_Flyer_FaithandLife.pdf

Grades 6 and 7

Our catechists for grades 6 and 7 have been working on creating both online and paper assignments to cover the curriculum while we cannot meet in person. Parents of these students will be contacted with specific information about accessing this content. Parents may be asked to pick-up their child's textbook (see pick up times below) so that the online assignments may be completed with ease. Specific information will be emailed to parents of students in these grades.

Grade 8 (Confirmation)

The Confirmation students will be using *Chosen* by Ascension Press. This course includes videos for each lesson. Each student will receive an access code to be able to view the videos online. **We will be scheduling in-person classes for Confirmation students.** Confirmation parents will be contacted with specific details. We will also provide online work for those students who are unable to attend in-person.

Packet Pick-Up (available for students in grade PreK-8)

For those families who prefer to work on paper, packet pick-up is available for students of all ages. Parents will need to come to the church during the following scheduled times to pick-up textbook and paper materials to complete work at home.

How will this work for me?

- Register your child(ren) using the online form and choose "packet pick-up."
- Come to the St. Mary School building on the following dates during these assigned times to pick up your child(ren)'s packet and materials.
- PICK-UP TIMES (Please come to the Religious Education doors, double doors south side of building) I will be masked and ready to bring the textbook and packet out to you. You will not need to enter the building.

FIRST MONTH PACKET PICK-UP

- Sunday, September 20 (in between Masses 10-10:45)
- Tuesday, September 22 (between 4-5pm)
- Wednesday, September 23 (between 10-11am)

SECOND MONTH PACKET PICK-UP

- Sunday, October 25 (in between Masses 10-11am)
- Tuesday, October 27 (between 4-5pm)
- Wednesday, October 28 (between 10-11am)

**Future dates for pick-up will be scheduled, as necessary.

How will be child's progress be monitored?

- If you are choosing the paper packet, we ask that you return your child's completed work to Sara Rodgers the following month when you come for the next packet.

What if these times do not work for me?

- Please contact Sara Rodgers to make different arrangements.

Catechist Mentors

We know that this method of providing religious education instruction is different for us all. We still want to help you and provide assistance as we work together to bring the faith to our children. We recognize that you are your child's primary catechist and we are merely here to assist. Therefore, each grade level group will be assigned a catechist mentor. It may be a volunteer catechist or the DRE. This mentor will check in with parents periodically to see how things are progressing. They are available to answer questions about content. You will also be able to reach out with questions at any time.

Religious Education Contact Info:

Sara Rodgers, Director of Religious Education
stmaryschoolofreligion@gmail.com (email for fastest response)
269-781-5656