



Mary Our Queen Church
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK
2023-2024

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LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear parents,

I am so grateful that you have allowed us to cooperate with you in the religious formation of your child. It is my conviction to work alongside you in order to carry out this most important and necessary of tasks: the raising up and education of the next generation of our Church.

At Mary Our Queen, we are blessed with many opportunities for children and adults alike to engage with their faith in a deeper and communal way. The Religious Education program is one among many other opportunities here, but it is one that is rooted in the tradition of Catechesis and teaching that goes all the way back to the Apostles.

As a parent myself, I know that maintaining balance throughout a school year is a difficult task. My hope is that the religious education of children does not become just “one more thing” on our ever growing to do list. On the day of our children’s Baptism, we vowed that we would raise them in the Church, teaching them what it means to be a practical Catholic. Our commitment to regular attendance and conversation with our children about their classes is one important way that we keep this vow.

The grave responsibility of a parent to bring up faithful Catholics is one that can at first feel overwhelming. I often find myself wondering what it is I have to offer in the face of a world that is getting more and more difficult to be a Catholic in. I am reminded of the most important tool we have at the most unlikely of times: when my daughter teaches her little brother how to say grace, when my son asks if he can practice receiving communion, when a child excitedly remembers which Rosary mystery is next. More than anything, it is *our example as parents* that will form the faith of our children. Each day can be full of things that make us feel like failures: at work, at school, in society; but to our children, we are heroes worthy of imitation. It is a heavy responsibility, but one that must be faithfully carried on to the finish line of life. If we do not teach our children their faith, and more importantly how to pray, then who else can? Their hour in a classroom each week is but scraps compared to the banquet of learning that can be had in the everyday business of family life and *YOUR* example.

I will be praying for all of our students, and you, their family, throughout this year. If at any time you have concerns or questions or just need some support, please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the parish staff. We are here to serve you.

Most sincerely,
Jake Cortright

“... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8 -

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFERED AT MOQ

To meet the varying needs of the families at Mary Our Queen, the Department of Religious Education will offer several sources for the formation of your family. You can find an outline of each program below:

Materials and Programs used at MOQ Religious Education

We use the ***Spirit of Truth*** series from Sophia Press for our parish religious education program. Spirit of Truth series provides inspiring and orthodox content of the truths of the Faith for our families in a format that allows children not simply to learn information but also to encounter Jesus at the church, in the Sacraments, in the home, through conversation, and in prayer.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the primary means of faith formation for children in our Preschool, Kindergarten and First grade children. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (“CGS”) is a rich Montessori approach to religious education and spiritual formation. It engages children as young as 3 (or even a bit younger) in age-appropriate, hands-on materials based on Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy. Children will join the catechist in a prepared environment called the Atrium full of beautiful items for the children to learn with by using them. After a presentation from the catechist, the child is allowed to choose their work. The Atrium is a place of prayer and work, imitating our life in the Church.

Our Second Graders use the ***Renewed and Received*** programs from Ascension Press for First Communion and First Reconciliation Experience and Sacramental Preparation. With world-class production value, workbooks that are works of art, and catechist-friendly leader guides, First Communion and First Reconciliation prep finally meets children where they are and leads them, step-by-step, to where God is calling them to be. This is our first year with this brand new offering from Ascension, so we would very much value your feedback on these materials.

The Seventh Grade Class use the ***Alpha Youth Series*** for their catechetical formation. The Alpha Youth Series is a brand-new interactive series of thirteen short episodes designed to help engage young people in conversations about faith, life, and God. The series features stories from all around the globe, from a wide variety of different contexts and cultures. Each episode is interactive—with short breaks that make space for discussion in small groups.

For our Eighth Graders we use ***Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation*** by Ascension press as part of their Confirmation preparation. *Chosen* presents the Catholic Faith to teens in a way that keeps their attention as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Chosen provides an exciting and comprehensive journey through the Catholic Faith, offering a complete system of catechesis and evangelization. Engaging video presentations, dynamic student workbooks, and easy-to-use guides for leaders, parents, and sponsors, progressively call young people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and a commitment to discipleship.

Special Education Program

We also provide a special education class for those children who need special teaching methods in order to bring them a better understanding of the love Jesus has for all His children.

TUITION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

1 Child: \$125

2 Children: \$240

3 Children: \$350

4+ Children: \$440

- Register and make payment (or set up a payment plan) before July 1, 2023 and receive \$20 off!
- Late Registration fee of \$25 will be applied after August 1, 2023.
- 8th graders have an added cost of \$75 due to the additional materials required for Sacramental Prep.

Payments can be made at: <https://maryourqueenchurch.weshareonline.org/re>

COMMUNICATION

All communication will be sent to you via Flocknote. Please complete the following instructions to sign up for Flocknote so that you do not miss important information such as updates, events, or cancelations!

It is highly recommended that you add a phone number and elect to receive text messages so that you are instantly aware of any cancellations or other time sensitive information!

Sign up by texting MOQ to 84576. You will receive a text with instructions for registering (or signing in if you already have an account). Once logged in, join all mail lists that are pertinent to your family. You may also sign up at the following link: www.flocknote.com/maryourqueen

“CCD 2023-2024” and mail lists are found under the Religious Education heading. If you have a child in a sacrament year, please additionally sign up for the **“CCD 2nd Grade Sacraments”** and **“CCD Confirmation”** mail lists, which can be found under the Sacrament Prep heading.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We ask that you please make an exerted effort to attend all Religious Education sessions and events. However, if you are unable to attend a session due to an illness or conflict, please contact Cassie Baker at cbaker@mogchurch.org or leave a message at 402-333-3663 ext 1209

SACRAMENT PREPARATION ATTENDANCE

It is of dire importance that a child in Sacrament Preparation classes attend all sessions so that they do not miss important and much needed formation. If a child misses more than one Sacrament Preparation class, they will need to make arrangements to make up the lesson.

If a child misses more than two classes, they risk being unable to participate in the Sacrament.

Note: Attendance for First Reconciliation and First Communion are accounted for separately!

To be eligible to participate in Sacramental Preparation and to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a child must have participated in the Religious Education program for the previous year (7th grade).

TUITION REFUND POLICY

If you have registered your family for Religious Education and decide that your family is unable to keep the commitment, the following refund schedule will be used:

Before September 1, 2023: Full Refund

Before September 15, 2023: 75% Refund

On and After October 1, 2023: No Refund will be given

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP INSTRUCTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Drop-off:

We recommend that younger children are walked into class for the first few classes until they are comfortable with their routine.

After the first few classes, feel free to drop your children off using the drive in front of the Church building.

Pick-up:

In order to ensure the safety of all of the children, each class will have an assigned meeting place where Catechists will escort their class to meet their parents. We ask that parents meet their children at the designated area.

