

***PARENT AND STUDENT  
HANDBOOK***

***At-Home Learning (AHL)  
Grades 1-6***

***POLICIES  
and  
PROCEDURES***



***OUR LADY  
OF THE MAGNIFICAT***

***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
PROGRAM***

September 2026

Parents always have been and will remain the primary religious educators for their children. In our Religious Education program we will assist parents in the task of laying a solid foundation, encourage spiritual growth, help the students develop a lasting relationship with God and assist in developing students into disciples of Jesus.

To the best of our ability, we will provide a safe environment and establish a Christian atmosphere where we will try to treat each other the way Jesus would want. We will provide a program involving educational, faith-filled classes, outreach to the needy and opportunities for prayer and the reception of the sacraments. We encourage your family to participate in weekend Mass and holy day masses as well as our parish life. Please review these policies with your child/ren.

Our Parent Liaisons freely ***volunteer*** their talents and time to assist in making the AHL program run smoothly. Please treat them with respect.

Communication is most important in this team effort. Therefore, we will encourage an open dialogue among parents, volunteers, staff and students. We will be available for questions, problem solving and encouragement. It is our hope that this will be reciprocal. Contact us at 973.838.0567 or the Director of Religious Education [dre@olmchurch.org](mailto:dre@olmchurch.org). Communications for the entire group will be done via email or flocknote our email platform. Please ensure we have your correct email address.

## **1. Sunday Liturgy**

The Catholic Church has always taught that weekend Mass is not only a privilege but also an *obligation* for Catholics. The reason for this is the Liturgy (Mass) is the center and source of holiness for Catholics. Mass is what identifies us as Catholics. The Mass nourishes us spiritually with the Eucharist and the Word of God. What you teach your child about God will last throughout their lives. Attendance at weekly Liturgy is essential to our faith as Catholic Christians and AHL Religious Education classes are *not* a substitute for Mass. You would not

have your child just show up for a sporting game without being properly prepared. We ask that you have that same mindset when you and your child participate in Mass.

## **2. Catholic Prayers**

Students truly learn to pray at home. Parents are asked to help their children memorize the basic prayers; and pray with their children daily. It is best to model the behavior you would like your child to attain. Pray often and in front of and with your child. Here is the link for the prayers they should memorize by grade level. <https://olmchurch.org/prayers-2>

## **3. Sacrament Participation**

It is your responsibility to bring your 3-6 grade child to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year. Check the calendar to attend when the in-person students make this sacrament and join then. Or you can bring your child to reconciliation during Advent or Lent. Reconciliation is available on Saturdays, at 4 PM. The Reconciliation room is located in the Church, to the left of the Baptismal Font.

## **4. Accountability**

The expectation for children participating in AHL Religious Education program is that they fulfill their assignments on a weekly basis. The Parent Liaisons will keep track of assignments being handed in. We understand that on an occasion, life may get in the way of completing an assignment on time. Please contact the Parent Liaison to let them know you'll need extra time to hand in the assignment. Parents' appreciation of the importance of accountability contributes greatly toward the child's attitude toward their faith journey.

## **5. Orientation**

At the beginning of the year a virtual orientation will be scheduled for new families to AHL. One parent needs to attend. This orientation will go over the expectations of the program and the resource of the website. It should be one hour or less. Look for an email with zoom information.

## **6. Book Pick Up**

A designated weekend has been set up for you to pick up your child's AHL book. The book will be located at the top of the stairs of the OLM/Shepherd school. Make sure to take the book with your child's name on it and not someone else's. Pick up will be from a Friday at 4 PM until a Sunday at 12:30 PM.

Please make every effort to get the book during that weekend. First assignment will be due the Friday after the pick-up weekend.

## **7. Syllabi and Calendar**

A syllabus has been emailed to you and is available online. Please follow it closely. Note for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade parents, there are 2 retreats you and our child must attend. Sacramental Prep Calendar has been emailed to you.

## **Thank you**

Thank you for taking the time to read these policies. Please discuss them with your child/ren.

Together let us continue to improve our program and make it the best for our students. Your suggestions and involvement are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to call the Religious Education Office at (973) 838-0567 or email at [reled@olmchurch.org](mailto:reled@olmchurch.org) or [dre@olmchurch.org](mailto:dre@olmchurch.org) .