

# **Parent and Student Policies for Religious Education Students**

**2023-2024**

**Parents are the first teachers of the Catholic Faith of students. The best way for your children to learn is by attending Mass every weekend, attending classes regularly, completing their assigned assignments, studying for their exams, and most importantly, following your example of living your Catholic Faith every day.**

## **What is St. Mary's Religious Education about?**

The Religious Education program is a family- and parish-based program geared toward teaching our children the beautiful truths of the Catholic Faith in a safe, structured learning environment. We hope to foster in our children a deep Faith and a personal relationship with Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## **What classes are available to my child?**

Religious Classes Ed K-5 grades (Sunday 10:15 am – 11:45 am)	Elementary Building
Middle School Youth Group 6-8 Edge (Tuesday 5:30 pm to 7 pm)	Holy Family Center
High School Youth Group 9-12 Life Teen (Sunday 5 pm.- 7 pm)	Holy Family Center
Classes for the Sacrament of first communion (Second year of Catechesis)	Elementary Building
Classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation 10-11 graders (Sunday 5 pm.- 7 pm)	Holy Family Center

## **What are the fees to register?**

- 1 Student \$40
- 2 Students \$60
- 3 Students \$80

Please note the following information:

**1.) To enroll a student, we must receive full payment of the registration fee.2.) All students of the sacraments must submit a copy of their baptismal certificate at the time of enrollment, unless the student has been baptized at St. Mary's.3.) Families must be registered members of St. Mary's (forms are available at the office).4.) No child will be admitted to the class without the completed registration paper.**

### **What is the disciplinary policy for students?**

One of the obstacles to a pleasant atmosphere is the student who is repeatedly a disruptive influence in class. In order to ensure a comfortable learning environment for all students, we have established and complied with the following policy:

\*Students must agree to abide by the classroom rules given on the first day of class. Parents must also consent to the strengthening of these rules.

\* Any breaking of classroom rules can result in a warning and a phone call to the parents.

\* After two warnings, a student may receive a two-month suspension from Religious Education classes. Please keep in mind that no student can miss more than 6 classes and still pass.

\*A student may be **expelled** from Religious Education if he/she receives another violation after being suspended or if he/she commits a violation of the rules, which is very serious.

### **What is the student attendance policy?**

For any student who wishes to grow and mature in the spiritual life, attendance at all classes is desirable. For students to move on to the next grade level, they must attend at least 80% of classes and pass all required tests. We believe that the religious education of our parish young people is a high priority, and we encourage parents to ensure that their students are present for as many of the classes as possible with illness and family emergencies as exceptions. Make up of missed classes will be handled by the catechists for each class.

### **What is the Dress Code for Religious Education Classes?**

All pants should be worn at the waist; shorts and short skirts are not allowed. Clothing that is excessively revealing is unacceptable. This includes the following: halter blouses, tube tops, muscle shirts. clothing that shows the bare belly or transparent clothing.

Boys: Collared shirts, dress pants and dress shoes are preferable. They should not wear T-shirts with excessive or inappropriate writing. Nice jeans and tennis shoes are acceptable.

Girls: Dress blouse with dress pants or Church dress is preferable (nothing tight, low cut or very short). Dress shoes are preferable (no slides / no flip-flops / no sneakers over 2 inches) They should not wear T-shirts with excessive or inappropriate writing. Nice jeans and tennis shoes are acceptable.

### **Electronics**

Anyone found using a cell phone or other electronic device that distracts during large group performances, small group classes, community service projects, prayer sessions, retreats, and evening activities will have to be told that their device will be confiscated for the duration of the event. Parents, we always allow students to use their phone to call in an emergency.

### **When will my child be allowed to receive the sacraments for the first time?**

The Archdiocese of San Antonio St. Mary's Parish require two consecutive years of Religious Education before the Sacraments can be received. The Sacraments are normally received in the Spring of the Second Year of Religious Education, provided that all requirements are met.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

### **If your child is not baptized:**

Primary students must attend classes of the appropriate level and attend Sunday Mass. Please contact Sara Boettcher for more details regarding the Christian initiation process.

### **If your child is baptized:**

#### **First Year Classes:**

Regular attendance and class participation as well as attendance at the weekly Celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist are necessary to complete the First Year. Being late for class, especially on a regular basis, and picking up early for any reason, are a distraction for catechists as well as students. If a student has to be absent, it is the parents' responsibility to collect class materials and see that appropriate lessons are completed and returned to the Catechist. Inform the Office of Religious Education of your child's absence so that the Catechist can prepare the materials for you to use at home. Missing assignments can be picked up at the Office of Religious Education. A student who misses more than six scheduled classes must start preparation classes from the beginning (September) of the following year.

#### **Second Year:**

At the end of the first year of Religious Education, your child is eligible to begin preparation for the Sacraments. The same attendance requirements apply for the second year of preparation. (See above the requirements of the first year)

In addition, attendance at Sunday Mass is required for parents and students in first and second year classes. Low attendance, lack of participation, incomplete assignments, non-participation of parents and lack of attendance at the Weekly Celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist may require the repetition of the First or Second Year if so, appointed by the Catechist or by the Director of Religious Education (DRE)

**Pick up and drop off Elementary and Jr. high students:**

\* Parents need to walk with their children to their classroom before class starts. Parents are sure that a Catechist is present before leaving.

\*Students should not be unsupervised in the parking lot, classrooms, or playroom.

\*Parents need to pick up their children in the allotted time. Students will not be allowed to leave without a parent or by a pre-established adult.

\*Students need to be picked up on time from the classroom.