



SACRED HEART PARISH



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

*all are welcome*

## Middle School Religious Education 2023-2024 Registration & Instructions

**Register by September 18; Classes begin October 2 and 3!**

Summer 2023

Dear Middle School Families,

We hope you are enjoying a fun and restful summer. Along with the relaxation that summer typically brings, these last few weeks have also been a time of grief for the unexpected and tragic deaths of our dear parishioners and friends, Jill and Bruno D'Amore and Lucia Arpino. The gathering of our Collaborative community for prayer and mourning has been a witness to the strength and importance of our shared faith.

As we look forward to another year of Religious Education, we are delighted to welcome **Marissa Browne** to the Collaborative Staff, in the role of **Coordinator of Religious Education for Grades 6-10**. Marissa will head up the Middle and High School Religious Education programs, including High School Confirmation, in both parishes, under the guidance of Kristina Preman, Director of Religious Education for the Collaborative.

It may seem hard to believe, but it is already time to register for next year's Religious Education Program!

**In-person classes for Grades 6-8:** At Sacred Heart, classes will be held Tuesday nights in the Lower Church classrooms. At Our Lady's, classes will be held on Monday nights in the Parish Center on the church property. All Grade 6-8 classes, at both parishes, will be 7:00pm-8:00pm.

Recognizing how busy schedules can be, we are glad to offer families from both parishes the opportunity to "cross-register" at the other parish. If you are interested in this option, please simply select the appropriate class time when you register.

**Welcome and Info Session:** All parents, especially those enrolling their 6th grade children, are strongly encouraged to attend a brief welcome and info session on the first night of class. For Sacred Heart, that is Tuesday, October 3, at 7pm in the Lower Chapel and Classrooms. For Our Lady's, that is Monday, October 2, at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall (students will be dismissed to the classrooms in the Parish Office following the info session). The entire year's calendar will be sent out later in the summer.

**Homeschool option:** We know that many of you have found the at-home program to be convenient and helpful for your family over the last few years. We are glad to continue to offer a this option for those who want it. This option will consist of the Pflaum Gospel Weekly curriculum, a family volunteer service component, and Zoom check-ins with staff. (Zoom check-ins will be held once a month on Sunday afternoon or Tuesday night. Each student must attend at least four of the seven check-ins during the year.)

**Registration instructions and deadlines:** Please register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/XLSf6zik0Y> or by following the link at <https://sholnewton.org/religious-education>. If you need a paper form mailed to you, please give us a call, and we'll gladly send one.

In order to begin class on the first day, registrations must be received **by Monday, September 18**. This is also the deadline for same-grade friend requests, which we always do our best to honor but can't guarantee even when received by September 18.

**New families and new students:** Welcome! We're so glad you're here and are honored to partner with you! New families are asked to register in the parish, online at [boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com](https://boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com). If your child was not baptized at Sacred Heart or Our Lady's, please send a photocopy of their baptismal certificate when they first enroll.

Sacred Heart Parish  
1321 Centre St, Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-969-2248

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish  
573 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458  
617-527-7560

[sholnewton.org](https://sholnewton.org)

For those families who are returning, if you know someone who is new to our parish, our programs, or your neighborhood, please encourage them to join us and to register as soon as possible. All are welcome!

**Mass attendance:** We have really come to understand that children who go to church on a regular basis have a much-needed foundation for the topics of faith that are explored in class. We expect that any child in the RE program attends Mass, for the benefit of themselves, their families, and the whole community.

**Payment:** We would be grateful to receive tuition payment at the time of registration. **Tuition is \$75 per child with a \$150 family cap for two or more children.**

--If you are registering for Tuesday classes held at Sacred Heart, please send a check made out to Sacred Heart to the office (1321 Centre St, Newton Centre, MA 02459).

--If you are registering for Monday classes held at Our Lady's, tuition can be paid securely online at <https://sholnewton.org/tuition-payment> or by sending a check made out to Our Lady's to the office (573 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458).

Because our programs run at a deficit every year, please consider assisting other families in need with an additional donation, if you are able. Any amount is welcome.

Children are always welcome without payment if there is a serious need. However, it is necessary to speak to a member of the Religious Education staff if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are welcome. **No one is ever refused because they cannot pay.** Parents who volunteer EVERY WEEK in the classroom or as a hall monitor do not pay tuition. There is a \$25 per family late fee (for returning families) for registrations received after Sept. 18 unless discussed with a staff member prior.

**Volunteers:** Finally, please help us to begin the year with all our volunteer needs met by September 18. It is so much easier for everyone if volunteers don't wait until the last minute. We prefer to have two catechists (teachers) in each class. This makes it easier for everyone, provides a sub if the lead catechist is sick or out of town, and provides an aide at the same time. Catechists (teachers), assistants, and hall monitors are needed. Please let us know if you will help!

So many people tell us year after year how much they learn by teaching. Please pray on the calling to spread God's love and Good News by teaching our children. There is a place for volunteers to note their availability on the registration form. There will be catechist trainings available before classes begin, where we will discuss curriculum as well as classroom management strategies. If you want to talk about volunteering prior to signing up, please reach out to any of us! We are happy to talk!

We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you for classes, if not before. **The Collaborative Picnic is planned for Sunday, September 24, at Our Lady's - please join us for this free and fun event!** Please call or email with ANY questions. If you're new to the parish, we'd be happy to get on Zoom to say hello and meet!

Wishing you peace, rest, and blessings,

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