



SACRED HEART PARISH



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

*all are welcome*

## Confirmation Preparation Program 2023-2024 Registration & Instructions

**Classes begin September 17 (Grade 9) and October 29 (Grade 10)**

Summer 2023

Dear Confirmation Candidates and Families,

We hope you are enjoying a fun and relaxing 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 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!

**General Information and Schedule:** Candidates are prepared for Confirmation over two years, typically during Grades 9 and 10. The program consists of large-group presentations and small-group discussions. Each grade will meet for **8 classes on Sunday nights, 7:00-8:15pm** (plus an opening orientation for Grade 9). *Since we do not meet every week, please be sure to provide an email address and check your inbox regularly for class reminders.*

Classes are held in person at Our Lady's Parish. Each class will begin in the Lower Church Halls (basement level of the main church building) for large-group presentation and then move into small-group discussions, which are held in meeting rooms located in the parish office building, across the parking lot from the church.

**Grade 9 Schedule:** September 17 (note special time: 5:15pm gather for orientation - parents encouraged to attend, followed by 6:00pm Mass together), October 1, October 15, October 22, January 7, January 21, January 28, February 4. Retreat: Saturday, December 9, at Our Lady's

**Grade 10 Schedule:** October 29, November 5, November 19, December 10, March 3, March 17, March 24, April 7. Retreat: March 10, 2024, on Cape Cod. Please also know that the Confirmation Mass date for Grade 10 Candidates has not yet been set for Spring 2024; we will notify you as soon as we hear from the bishops! Note also that Grade 10 does not have a separate orientation, but we will take the first 15 minutes on October 29 to go over necessary information and reminders. Parents are welcome!

**Introductory Meetings for New Confirmation Candidates:** Because Confirmation preparation marks a significant time in the journey of faith *and* because the program is different from the Religious Education programs for younger grades, all rising 9th graders as well as any new 10th graders are required to take part in an introductory meeting on Zoom with Marissa during the summer. We will discuss the meaning and importance of Confirmation, along with the program requirements and components, and you will have a chance to ask questions. **Each candidate and at least one parent/guardian must be present for the meeting.** We will provide you with meeting options after you register.

**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.

Forms must be received two weeks prior to the start of classes in order to begin on the first day: September 3 for Grade 9, October 15 for Grade 10. This is also the deadline for friend requests, which we always do our best to honor but can't guarantee even when received by the deadline.

**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 as parishioners, 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 copy of their baptismal certificate when they first enroll.

If you are registering a new student who did not participate in Religious Education last year, please speak with Marissa as you register. There will be additional faith foundation work to be completed.

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:** It is important to realize that weekend Mass attendance is required for all Confirmation Candidates. Participation in the Sunday Eucharist (Mass) is the most important preparation for and sign of membership in the Christian community. Those who go to church on a regular basis have a much-needed foundation for understanding what is discussed in class.

**Payment:** We are 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.** It can be paid online at <https://sholnewton.org/tuition-payment> or you can mail a check to the Our Lady's Parish (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 Marissa 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 AT EACH SESSION as a small group leader or a hall monitor do not pay tuition.** There is a \$25 per family **late fee** (for returning families) for registrations received after September 3 for Grade 9, October 15 for Grade 10 – unless discussed with a staff member prior.

**Volunteers:** Finally, please help us to begin the year with all our volunteer needs met by early September. Small group leaders, hall monitors, and retreat support are needed. Please let us know if you will help! Remember, there are only eight 75-minutes sessions in the year.

So many people tell us year after year how much they learn by teaching. We provide discussion ideas for each class and lots of support. 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. And remember, those who volunteer at every session don't pay tuition.

We hope you have a wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing you in the fall, if not before. **The Collaborative Picnic will be on September 24 at Our Lady's - please join us for this free and fun event!** Please call or email with ANY questions.

Wishing you peace, rest, and blessings,

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