



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

all are welcome

Grades K-5 Religious Education 2023-2024 Registration & Instructions – please read thoroughly! ***Classes begin October 1 and 2***

Summer 2023

Dear Elementary 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.

It seems hard to believe, but it is already time to register for next year's Religious Education Program.

Class options for Grades K-5, in-person: There are two options for elementary school Religious Education at Our Lady's: Sundays 8:45-9:45am (Grades K-5) and Mondays 4:00-5:00pm (Grades 1-5 only, no K option). In addition, we plan to offer one Grade 5 class on Monday nights, 7:00-8:00pm, during our Middle School program. A tentative calendar for the year can be found online at <https://sholnewton.org/religious-education>.

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 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 seven check-ins during the year.)

Please note that homeschool formation is not ordinarily an option for those preparing for First Penance and First Communion; please contact Kristina if you need to discuss.

Cross-registration: At Sacred Heart Parish, in-person Religious Education classes for Grades K-5 are on Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00pm. Recognizing how busy schedules can be, we are glad to offer families from both parishes the opportunity to "cross-register" at the other parish. Of course, celebration of sacraments can always be at your own parish, even if you attend classes at the other. If you are interested in this option, please simply select the appropriate class time when 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.

Monday afternoon classes tend to be very popular; we will give priority registration for Monday classes to those who were enrolled in Monday classes during the 2022-2023 school year **AND** who register by September 1. All others will be placed on a waiting list by date of registration. We would like to encourage you to consider whether Monday afternoon is the right option for your Grade 1 student; it's a very long day for the littler ones, and many have a tough time with it.

In order to begin class on the first day (October 1-2), registrations must be received by Monday, September 18. This is also the deadline for 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. If your child was not baptized at Our Lady's, please send a photocopy of their baptismal certificate when they first enroll. If you are registering a new student who is entering Grade 2 for First Communion preparation but did not participate in Religious Education last year, please speak with Kristina 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. We want them to know they are more than welcome!

First Communion students from Catholic schools: Parents are asked to call Kristina and **MUST** register by October 15 if they expect their children to receive First Penance in December and First Communion next spring, as there are required parent meetings in the fall. On the registration form, there is a place to note that you are registering a Grade 2 Catholic School student.

Class locations and procedures: Sunday morning classes are held in the school building and Parish Center. Enter and exit only via the school doors on Washington Street for gathering in the auditorium. A parent or guardian must walk children in and pick them up inside; we don't allow children to leave without an adult. Monday afternoon classes are held in the Parish Center. Parents must drop off and pick up at the door (not in the parking lot).

Mass attendance: It is important to realize that weekend Mass attendance is expected for all students and families. 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.

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 parish. 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 September 18!

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. As you know, we do not start the program without 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 consider whether the Lord is calling you to spread His 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 here at Our Lady's available before classes begin, where we will discuss curriculum as well as classroom management strategies.

We hope you have a wonderful, refreshing, relaxing, safe summer, and look forward to seeing you on October 1 and 2, if not before. **The picnic will be on September 24 - please join us for this free and fun event!** Please call or email with ANY questions. Or, especially if you're new, we'd be happy get on Zoom to say hello.

Wishing you peace, rest, and blessings,

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