



**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION  
FAMILY HANDBOOK  
2022/2023**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH  
300 EAST HIGHLAND AVE, ADA, OHIO 45810**

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

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# Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish School Religion Program Overview 2022-2023

## General Overview:

- Our parish religious education program for this year will include a whole family catechesis component along with the traditional classroom-based model.
- Families will typically meet twice monthly (the first and the last Sunday) for whole family classes (see schedule for dates).
- The Lego Catechism will be used as the foundation for the whole family catechesis program and the "Spirit of Truth" program for the classrooms.
- **Unless otherwise noted, all classes will meet from 9:30-10:45 AM on Sundays.**
- A sample schedule is provided below:

## Sample Schedule:

1st Sunday: Whole Family & Preschool

2nd Sunday: Traditional Classroom-based PSR

3rd Sunday: Traditional Classroom-based PSR

4th Sunday: Whole Family

## Resources Provided:

- Necessary materials will be provided to all participants.
- We recommend that each family have a Bible and *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in their home for reference (If you need either one, please contact the parish office or PSR coordinators.)

## Recommended:

- We highly recommend and encourage weekly Mass attendance and encourage taking part in Eucharistic Adoration and confession (as applicable) as well.

## Curriculum Overview by Grade Level

**Preschool:** Preschool programming based on a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd model will be offered the first Sunday of every month during the whole family catechesis time from 9:30-10:45 AM. Children ages 3-5 years old are invited to attend and to learn, play, and pray together during that time. Parents should allow sufficient time to drop children off before the start of the whole family catechesis program (drop off from 9:15-9:30 AM) and to allow time for prompt pick up in order to transition to 11 AM Mass. Volunteers will not be allowed to change diapers or to help with bathroom clean up. If your child needs assistance with the bathroom during the preschool time, a volunteer will notify parents in person or via text.

**K-8th grade:** Elementary age catechesis will consist of both whole family catechesis and classroom-based, grade-level learning.

Whole family catechesis will utilize the *Lego Catechism* and will be composed of two monthly sessions. Typically, the first monthly session will include prayer, learning, and family activities. The format of the last monthly meeting will vary month-to-month including activities, crafts, skits, service, and prayer appropriate for the whole family. Parishioners without children enrolled in PSR are very welcome to attend any whole family catechesis sessions.

Traditional classroom-based, grade level catechesis will use the *Spirit of Truth* text from Sophia Institute Press. There will be 1-3 classroom-based sessions each month led by the volunteer catechists by grade level: K/1, 2nd, 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8. These sessions will follow the traditional “school” format with lessons composed of lecture, reading, and activities.

## **Sacramental Preparation 2022-2023**

### **First Reconciliation:**

- Parent Meetings: To be announced
- First Reconciliation: Tentative - December 4, 2022

### **First Eucharist:**

- Parent Meetings: To be announced
- First Eucharist: May 7, 2023 @ 11 AM

Children prepare for the sacraments of reconciliation and First Communion during their second grade year. Before the reception of these sacraments, the catechist and pastor will meet with parents to discuss the significance of the sacraments. For First Communion, children are asked to wear formal attire (typical dress includes white dresses with sleeves for girls and suits or pants/dress shirt/tie for boys). If any family finds it financially difficult to provide appropriate attire, we strongly encourage them to contact the PSR coordinators or a catechist. We will be very happy to assist the family; we want the reception of the sacraments to be a special, stress-free celebration for all families. A small celebration will take place following First Communion as well.

### **Confirmation:**

Children prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation during their 8th grade year. Our Confirmation program is a two-year preparation process along with additional Confirmation specific classes in the 8th grade year. The sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated by the Bishop, which, for our parish, typically is celebrated in the spring of the 8th grade year.

### **Sacramental Prep Enrollment Requirement:**

A year of enrollment (with adequate attendance) is required prior to enrollment in sacramental preparation. In the event that a child falls behind schedule, we will meet with the child's family to determine how to best assist the child in learning missed content and preparing for his/her reception of a sacrament.

## Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish School Religion Policies

**Communication:** We will send monthly email communications to parents/guardians and catechists with updates and a reminder about upcoming activities. Please be sure to read these emails carefully for information on schedule changes or needed supplies, etc. Updates and reminders will also be posted to Facebook and Instagram (@OurLadyofLourdesAda) as needed.

**Cancellation:** Please be sure to sign up for Flocknote via the parish website if you have not done so already. If class needs to be canceled due to inclement weather or another imminent concern, you will receive a text update from the parish through Flocknote. We will strive to share the cancellation news in a timely manner.

**Protecting God's Children:** Per diocesan guidelines, all staff and volunteers in the Diocese of Columbus must complete a training program and undergo a background check and fingerprinting in order to work with and support youth. Classroom doors will be left open if there are less than two catechists present in the room, and close supervision will be provided. If parents/guardians/children have any concerns, they should contact the appropriate authorities as soon as possible (e.g., local law enforcement, the parish priest, the parish manager, the PSR coordinators). The welfare and safety of our youth is of the highest priority.

**Pick Up:** We're asking that all children in the PSR program be picked up by their parent or caregiver in the parish hall following the classroom sessions to avoid concerns with children leaving to busy parking lots or crossing roadways. Children will be allowed to leave with the child's parent/legal guardian/caregiver or a designated adult (please specify in writing/text/or email who that alternate pick-up person will be prior to the class time).

**Dress:** We ask that all students (and catechists) be mindful of the setting and dress appropriately. We ask that hats be removed inside of the building, that messages contrary to the values and message of Christ not be worn, and that revealing clothing be avoided (e.g., spaghetti straps, exposed midriffs, exposed undergarments, etc.). If any clothing presents a concern, that will be an opportunity to learn rather than a circumstance for discipline. As a catechesis program, our hope is to encourage the development of virtuous thoughts, behavior, and presentation.

**Conduct:** Respectful and appropriate language, gestures, and behavior should be used at all times. Again, as our goal is to teach through love and mercy rather than condemnation, we are committed to addressing areas of concern by education, modeling, and informing as often as possible. If a behavior cannot be addressed with a

brief intervention by the catechist or other program volunteers due to either the severity of or the repetitive nature of the concern, additional steps may be taken as deemed appropriate by PSR staff (e.g., discussion with parent/guardian, an absence from classes, etc.).

**Health/Safety Guidelines:** Changes in vaccination statuses, variants, and health codes have required that the response to COVID-19 be a flexible one. Families and catechists will be updated on the current expectations for mask-wearing, social distancing, and sanitization at the start of the year and as needed throughout the year. Diocesan guidelines as they apply to the Catholic schools will primarily be utilized to inform decisions regarding current health guidelines.

**Fees:** There will be no fees charged for the PSR program except for a \$20 (retreat fee) per student charge for the Confirmation year. Families are encouraged to consider donating throughout the year to the parish and the PSR program. They are especially encouraged to consider a donation of \$50 towards textbooks and materials yearly.

All families are encouraged to contribute to the quarterly PSR fund as they are able. The fund offsets the costs of materials used throughout the year. If any student is unable to cover the cost for the retreat during their Confirmation year, they are encouraged to contact the parish office, a coordinator, or a catechist about receiving financial assistance. Small fundraisers contribute to the PSR budget, and families are encouraged to generously assist with and give at these times.

**Mass Attendance:** Regular Mass attendance is crucial to the students' faith formation. Please make every effort to attend Mass each weekend at either 5:30 PM on Saturdays or 11 AM on Sundays. Weekly Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration is also available, and frequent attendance is encouraged.