

Parent / Student Religious Education Handbook 2025-2026



RADIATE CHRIST

Coordinator of Religious Education

Julia Brehm & Maegan Miller

julia@stmgv.org & maegan@stmgv.org

(937) 548-1616 Parish Office

OUR GOAL

Catechesis is oriented toward forming persons who get to know Jesus Christ and his Gospel of liberating salvation ever better; who live a profound encounter with him and who choose his own way of life and his very sentiments, striving to realize in the historical situations in which they live, the mission of Christ, which is the proclamation of the kingdom of God. (*Directory for Catechesis*, # 75, Vatican, 2020)

The tasks of Religious education are:

- to form children in the knowledge of our faith
- to prepare children for the Sacraments and initiation into the Mystery
- to foster a life in prayer
- to form children into a life in Christ and become missionary disciples

REGISTRATION

The student registration forms must be completed and on file for a child to attend the Parish Religious Education Program. Registration can be printed off the parish website www.stmarysgreenville.org or be picked up in the parish office, or if requested, by mail. Tuition is necessary and payment is expected. Fees are:

\$75 for 1 child
\$140 for 2 children
\$200 for 3 children
\$250 total for 4 or more children

Cash or check is accepted and can be turned into the parish office or to the Religion Coordinator.

**If you find these fees a hardship, PLEASE reach out to Julia or Maegan to apply for a scholarship to have your child(ren) attend, for free or reduced cost. We do not want these fees to prevent your children from attending Religious Education.*

COMMUNICATION

To help keep you informed about Rel. Ed. activities or reminders, we use a program called Flocknote. Flocknote allows you to receive messages via texting. This is a free service but standard messaging data rates may apply. Flocknote will keep your phone number private, while making it easier to receive reminders for parent meetings or weather-related cancellations for Rel. Ed classes and other events. It is important that you provide an email and a cell phone number so that we can contact you when necessary.

Other social media options are:

- the parish website: <https://www.stmarysgreenville.org/>

CURRICULUM

- Grades 1st – 6th will use the *Word of Life from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press*
- 7th – 8th grade will use *Word of Life from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press*
- Pre-K - Kindergarten will use *Catecheses of the Good Shepherd*
- High School/ Youth Group (Confirmed 10th graders through 12th) will be using *Bible Basics for Catholics by John Bergsma*

2nd GRADE

- First reconciliation will be November 19, 2025. It is optional but encouraged for parents to attend.
- 1st Communion will be April 18, 2026 at 11 am at St. Mary's Church.
***PLEASE NOTE:** This year is a special Mass for 1st Communion and does **NOT** fulfill the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass.
- The student/parent retreat for 1st Communion will be October 5, 2025 from 1 – 4 pm at Versailles High School (Dragon Slayer's) this retreat is **MANDATORY**. One parent is required to accompany their child but both parents are highly encouraged to attend.
- Practice for 1st communion students will be the Wednesday night before 1st communion during regularly scheduled class.

10th GRADE

- The parent/student **MANDATORY** retreat is September 21, 2025 at St. Remy Hall in Russia, starting at 1 pm. It is required that at least one parent attend with their child.
- Practice for Confirmation students will be the Wednesday night before Confirmation, (September 24th) at St. Denis and it is important at least one parent or sponsor be present with their child, time will TBD.
- Confirmation will be September 27, 2025 at the regular 4:30 pm Mass at St. Denis in Versailles.

ARK ASSESSMENT

As per the requirement of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, we will be switching to ARK testing this year. We are currently in the process of switching so details will be forthcoming.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

It is good practice for parents and children to take advantage of regularly scheduled Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please see the bulletin or website for the weekly scheduled times. We will have 2 scheduled opportunities for Day of Grace (all day confession available, 8am to 8pm) at St. Mary's, that will be during Advent (November 19th) and Lent (February 25th).

CANCELLATIONS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please check Flocknote texts to find out if Religious Ed classes are cancelled. All notifications regarding Rel. Ed cancellations will be sent by Flocknote. If Greenville City schools are cancelled, classes will not take place, if there is a 2 hour delay we will still have class. If there is inclement weather after school, a Flocknote will be sent out. Please make sure you have signed up for these text alerts, as they will be the fastest and easiest way to be updated.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken at all Religious Ed gatherings.

- All students are expected to attend each scheduled class
- All students are expected to attend all sessions involving Sacramental preparation
 - **Special Note: Sacrament years (2nd and 9/10th grades) are particularly important, and students must attend 75% of classes, if they do not and no plan is made with the CRE or Catechist, the student may be ineligible to receive their Sacrament.**
- All students are required to attend mandatory events
- If your child will be absent from class, please notify the CRE or your child's teacher before the start of Rel. Ed class via Flocknote or email
- A Permission, Release, and Authorization to Seek Medical Treatment Form must be completed and kept on file to attend any off-site events

Records of attendance for past years are kept at the Rel. Ed Office.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

In the event that your child has a medical concern, please notify the CRE or your child's teacher so that we can follow any special instructions. A Permission, Release, and Authorization to Seek Medical Treatment Form must be completed and kept on file as noted under "Registration" above.

DISCIPLINE

Our children need to be models of good, Catholic behavior. They are expected to be respectful of each other, including teachers, guest speakers, the CRE and any other church employee. Examples of unacceptable behavior include bullying, name-calling, swearing, or harassment. Unacceptable behavior interferes with learning and teaching. Each case will be handled individually and these steps will be implemented as necessary:

- The catechist will attempt to deal with in the student(s) in the classroom
- If behavior continues, the catechist will inform and work with the CRE
- If behavior continues, the CRE will notify the parents
- If behavior does not end, the parents will be notified by the CRE of the child's possible suspension, dismissal and/or expulsion. Parents will then be expected to home school religious education

- When the child resolves to no longer act in a disruptive manner, re-admittance will be considered

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students cannot have electronic devices out in class. Students may be required to place their electronic devices in a designated area during class. Violation of this policy while the student is under the supervision of their Rel. Ed teacher may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the electronic device. In which case it will be the student's responsibility to have the parents contact the CRE and make arrangements to pick up the electronic device.

In the event you need to contact your child during Rel. Ed, please contact the CRE. If the child has an immediate need or emergency to contact you, the CRE (or the teacher) will contact you.

All teachers, youth minister, and coordinators will have their cell phones with them and turned on during Rel. Ed classes. These are used for communication purposes when needed as part of our safety policy.

ARRIVING OR PARKING FOR PREP (DROPPING/PICKING UP STUDENTS)

ST. MARY'S & LORETO HOUSE

1. Students should not arrive at St. Mary's before 6:00 p.m. If a student needs to arrive before then, arrangements must be made with the CRE, when possible, 24 hours in advance.
2. Parents and students should enter the East door entrance for the school and the South entrance for the Loreto House. You may use the school parking lot or the school ally for drop off.
3. **PLEASE** have your children there at 6:25 or before so the catechists have plenty of time to finish their lesson.