

# **Parent / Student Religious Education Handbook 2023-2024**



**RADIATE  
CHRIST**

## **Coordinator of Religious Education**

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## **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](http://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 total for 3+ children

Cash or check is accepted and can be turned into the parish office or to the Religion Coordinator. If your family needs financial assistance please contact Julia Brehm or Maegan Miller.

## **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 and/or email. 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/>
- the parish Facebook page can be found on Facebook under St. Mary's Greenville

## **CURRICULUM**

- Grades 1st -6th will use the *Word of Life from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press*
- 7th - 12th will use the *Chosen series by Ascension Press*
- Pre-K - Kindergarten will use *Catecheses of the Good Shepherd*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE**

- First reconciliation will TBD. It is important at least one parent attend with their child(ren)
- Information regarding first communion will be sent home in the fall
- One (1) student/parent retreat on 1<sup>st</sup> Communion which will be October 1st
- Practice for 1st communion students will be the Wednesday night before 1st communion and it is important at least one parent be present with their child(ren)

### **9<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

- One (1) parent & student retreat on confirmation. It is important at least one parent attend with their child(ren)
- One confirmation retreat will be September 24th at Versailles
- Practice for Confirmation students will be the Wednesday night before Confirmation and it is important at least one parent or sponsor be present with their child(ren)

## **ACRE ASSESSMENT**

Currently this testing is under evaluation.

## **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) reconciliation which will be during Advent (November 22nd) and Lent (March 20th).

## **CANCELLATIONS AND INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Before calling the office, please check Flocknote to find out if Rel. Ed classes are cancelled. All notifications regarding Rel. Ed cancellations will be sent by Flocknote and posted on Facebook and/or text messages. 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.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is taken at all Rel. Ed gatherings.

- All students are expected to attend each scheduled class
- All students are is expected to attend all sessions involving Sacramental preparation
- All students are is expected 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
- 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 coordinate with the CRE
- If behavior continues, the CRE will notify the parents
- When further discipline is needed, the CRE will notify the pastor and the parents.
- If behavior does not end, the parents will be notified by the pastor 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 or pastor, 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.