

ST. MARY CHURCH GUIDELINES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The passing on of the faith tradition is the responsibility of the whole parish community; Pastors, Parents and Directors of Catechetical Ministry must collaborate to insure that the children/adults and young people are appropriately catechized and prepared for the reception of the sacraments. As parishioners, families are expected to participate in the parish Sunday Mass. (Diocesan Guidelines for Educational Ministry #200).

Religious Education Program at a Glance:

St. Mary Church has adopted a systematic Catechetical Program. Children are accepted for First Communion in the First Grade. All Sacraments require at least two years of instruction including parents and children. Parents, tutors or legal guardians and sponsors/godparents share the same schedule as their children. Special students who learn at a slower pace might require more than two years for preparation for the Sacraments and help from their parents in and out of the classroom. Post sacramental classes are available from Third to Twelfth grade. Grades 6-8, gather on Wednesdays, starting at 6:00pm Mass. The non- sacramental program for High School meets on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00pm. Young Adult groups (18-36) for singles, meet on Sundays. Theology of the Body for Grades 5-12 meet on Fridays 7-8:30pm. There is no cost for non-sacramental classes.

Requirements to register for the Sacraments:

- The Family must register at St. Mary and attend Sunday Mass using the envelopes or online giving.
- Children in the First Grade can apply for First Communion.
- Youth can apply for Confirmation when they are 13 years of age. Candidates will receive Confirmation after two years of preparation and one retreat per year. They must pass the appointed test for each year. Another year of classes will be assigned in lieu of missing a retreat.
- Unbaptized Children (five years or older) will receive the Sacraments of initiation (baptism, communion, confirmation) after completing two years of instruction. Children should continue for at least one year after they receive the Sacraments.
- **Homeschool:** All responsibilities set forth on this document apply to parents who decide to homeschool their children. Parents are responsible to keep up with annual retreats, weekly evangelization classes, and submitting the children's envelopes as proof of attendance to weekly Mass.
- **Special Needs Classes:** available if the child is unable to progress in the conventional classroom environment. At least one parent must assist in the Special Needs classroom. Classes currently meet on Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30 am. Children might require additional instruction beyond the two years of preparation for the Sacraments.

Documents needed for each Sacrament:

- Copy of Baptism for First Communion; Copy of Baptism and Communion for Confirmation; copy of birth certificate for Baptism of children five years or older or adults.

Registrations for Baptism (5 years or older) Communion and Confirmation.

- Registration for Eucharist and Confirmation start in February and end in August for a reduced fee. Post Communion classes and unbaptized children and adults are accepted any time of the year. Fees are due at the time of registration. Partial payments can be accepted through automatic deduction only. No refunds granted after three months have passed since the beginning of classes.

Registration fees per child:

- Registration fee from February to August \$80
- Textbooks \$10 each, due in October when books arrive.
- Registrations in September go up to \$100. Three or more per family \$250

- Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA or RICA) \$50. Classes meet on Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm
- Grades 6-8 gather on Wednesdays, starting at 6:00pm Mass. One Retreat per year for a \$25 fee, due in November.
- The Confirmation retreats are \$65. Permission slips are due in November.
- All fees must be cleared at the time certificates are received.
- Godparents/Sponsors are asked a \$50.00 donation for the Church and help to resolve any unpaid fees.
- Cancellation of any registration will incur a \$20.00 processing fee.
- Any damage caused by your children to the school or church property will incur a \$25.00 minimum fee per occurrence depending on the damage. Please counsel your children about this in advance.

At Home Collaboration:

Parents are asked to support their children’s religious education as follows:

- Pray with your children daily
- Discuss with your children what they learned in class each week.
- Help children learn the basic prayers if they don’t already know these yet.
- Return the envelopes provided, at every Sunday Mass, with your child’s and teacher’s name on it.
- Attend the weekly parent evangelization classes and attend/assist at one parish retreat per year.
- Attend the classes provided for non-married couples.
- Bring your children on time for class (20 minutes late will get a Tardy, 4 tardiness in one year are an absence) each absence requires a make-up, three consecutive absences are considered a drop out; without a refund.

Class Schedules:

- Mondays Confirmation classes for the second year of instruction: 6:40-8:30 pm.
- Thursdays Confirmation classes for the first year of instruction: 6:40-8:30 pm.
- Tuesdays, First Communion Classes and classes for unbaptized children (RCIC) 6:30-8:00 pm
- Wednesdays, First Communion classes and classes for unbaptized children (RCIC) 6:30- 8:00 pm
- Saturdays: First Communion classes for Spanish speaking.
- Special Religious Education: Saturdays 10:30—11: 30 am. American Sign-Language classes on Sundays.
- Additional adult Confirmation classes available from January to June.

Classes for First Communion and Confirmation begin in September after Labor Day, and end in May. Community service is available for junior-high and high-school students. Mass attendance is verified by collecting the envelopes at the 5:30 or 7:00 pm masses on Saturdays and all Sunday Masses. Please make sure your child’s name and teacher’s name are written on the envelope.

Pictures of students’ events will be publicized parish/diocese wide unless parents, or the responsible adult submits an objection in writing by the time of registration or before classes begin.

If this Religious Education Program meets the needs of your family, please complete and sign the registration form, provide the required certificates of birth, baptism and/or communion certificates and the correspondent fees and mail them to 1170 S. Broadway, Escondido California 92025 or attach to email mbriceno@stmaryp.org.

I (Parent/Guardian, Tutor) Name: _____ understand the guidelines for the Religious Education Program at St. Mary Church and promise to abide by them.

Parent/Guardian/Tutor Signature: _____ Date: _____