

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:

Welcome to the Religious Education Program of St. Mary Church. Thank you for the privilege of allowing us to assist you in the religious and spiritual formation of your children. 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.

Requirements to register for the Sacraments:

- The family must be enrolled in St. Mary's Parish and attend Sunday Mass. use the envelopes or make your donation online.
- Registration fee from February to June \$100 Textbook included.
- Three students or more per family \$250
- Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA or RICA) \$80
- We ask the sponsors/godparents a \$50.00 donation for the First Communion/Confirmation Certificate and help to resolve any unpaid fees.
- Cancellation of any registration will incur a \$20.00 processing fee.
- All fees must be cleared at the time certificates are received.
- 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.

Documents needed for each Sacrament:

First Communion:

- Children can register for First Communion from the first grade.
- *Copy of Baptism*
- Class Schedule; Tuesday, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Confirmation:

- Youth can apply for Confirmation when they are 13 years of age if the birthday was in April.
- Candidates will receive Confirmation after two years of preparation and one retreat per year. Another year of classes will be assigned in lieu of missing a retreat.
- They must pass the appointed test for each year.
- Youth must be fifteen years of age or older at the time of Confirmation.
- *Copy of Baptism and Communion.*
- Class Schedule; Mondays for the second year of instruction: 6:30-8:00 pm. Thursdays for the first year of instruction: 6:30-8:00 pm.

Unbaptized Children (seven years or older)

- Unbaptized Children 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.
- *Copy of birth certificate.*
- Class Schedule; Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00pm

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. Children might require additional instruction beyond the two years of preparation for the sacraments.
- Class Schedule; Saturday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA):

- Submit the required documents for each sacrament
- Class Schedule; Tuesday 7:00 – 8:30pm(Spanish) Wednesday 7:00 – 8:30pm(English)

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.

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 5:00 or 6:30 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 at Religious Education Office.

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: _____