

Parent & Camper Update

Elementary Summer Religion Program 2024

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church ✠ Erath, Louisiana



Time and dates: The two-week elementary summer religion program will be held **Monday – Friday** from **8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon** on **June 10-21, 2024**. A **camp nurse/mom** will be present to make necessary phone calls to parents when the need arises. **Online make-up packets** will be available for home study and absences!

Drop-off and pick-up zones: Please drop off and pick up your camper **near the church's circular driveway** on Broadway Street. In order to avoid having campers cross the street in the midst of congested drop-off or pick-up traffic, please drive around the cemetery and make a right turn onto Broadway Street. Please do not park and exit your car to block the flow of pick-up traffic in the outside, northbound lane of Broadway Street. **Volunteers** will meet/greet the children on the sidewalk and, when necessary (for “new” campers), will determine each child's grade level, and escort him/her directly to his/her **grade-level crew leaders** (and peers) who eagerly await their arrival inside the parish hall.

Campers should not bring toys/electronic gadgets to our program!

Their focus should be on our Scripture and Catholic topics throughout the morning. **Backpacks** will remain on the stage.

Campers' (Children's) Dress Code

For Days 1-9 (June 10-14 and June 17-20):

- modest shorts (no low-rise shorts or visible midriff; the appropriate length is equal to school uniform shorts)
- modest short-sleeve shirts (no spaghetti straps, tank tops, visible midriff, or inappropriate messages on T-shirts)
- socks and **tennis shoes** (no sandals or flip flops for outdoor games!)



For Day 10 (June 21):

- this year's summer program T-shirt
- nice jeans, capris, or modest skirt (NOTE: No shorts, please, because we will spend some time in church for Adoration, Confession, and Mass.)
- Clean shoes or dressy sandals (clean tennis shoes are acceptable, but no flip flops)
- Reminder: Indoor (not outdoor) games on Day 10!



T-shirt plans: T-shirts will still be distributed on Days 1, 2, and/or 3 as they are delivered, sorted, and organized. Students who register and/or submit T-shirt sizes after the first (and, perhaps, second) order is placed will receive their T-shirts as soon as possible. Our campers and volunteers will be encouraged to wear their T-shirts on both Tuesdays and both Fridays of the two-week program. If we have a photographer on those days, we will take pictures for photo frames.

Traditional prayers for Grades 1-5:

- All students who have already received First Communion will go to **Confession** on Day 10, so please review the **Act of Contrition** and the **Bless Me, Father** “conversation” with your child. For the benefit of those who may need a quick review, we hope to enclose a “What Happens during Confession” handout with this update.
- Your child will continue to learn/memorize/review the traditional **prayers assigned to your child's current grade level**. We sent a copy of that handout home from one (or more) of our Sunday Sessions earlier in the current school year. PDF files of those handouts are always available on the Prayer page of our church website (www.ololcatholic.com). If time permits, they may look ahead at the next grade level's list of prayers. **(REMINDER: For religious education purposes, your child is still enrolled in his/her 2022-23 grade level until the end of this summer religion program!)**

Daily routine for Days 1-9:

(Note: Day 10's schedule will be different!)

- Each day's session will begin with a **large-group morning assembly** to introduce the Bible story, Saint, Sacrament and/or other age-appropriate Catholic doctrine, music, and miscellaneous topics for the day.
- Throughout the morning, crew leaders will guide their assigned campers through five 25-minute learning centers:
 - **Craft/Activity/ToB Station:** one or two daily crafts and/or additional activities to help reinforce the Scripture passages (Bible story), ToB topic of the day, or overall theme of the program
 - **Bible Theater:** campers view segments of DVD movies or skits and/or play games to help reinforce topics that were introduced during the morning assembly
 - **Catechism Corner:** campers learn/review age-appropriate Catholic catechism lessons in traditional catechism books
 - **Prayer Center:** campers learn, review, and recite memorized prayers for our Prayer Partner volunteers
 - **Outdoor games:** old-fashioned indoor/outdoor exercises and games
- **Mid-morning Snacks:** We provide simple, daily snacks (usually chips or cookies and a juice pouch). *If your child follows a special diet, please send a snack each day!*

NOTE:

If your child suffers with **food allergies**, please send a daily snack!

*Backpacks will not be carried around throughout the morning. Instead, they will **remain on the stage** until needed or dismissal.*

- Days 1-9 will end with a **Daily Finale**. Skits and/or brief games may enhance a quick review of the day's activities. Our pastor may be present to speak to the campers. **As always, parents and grandparents are welcome to join us at 11:30 a.m. for the finale on Days 1-9!** Announcements will be made and, when time permits, songs will be sung before the children are dismissed at 12:00 Noon each day.

Special plans for Day 10:

- **NOTE:** Please note that our campers and volunteers will wear **summer religion t-shirts** on Day 10. Please refer to the dress code on the front side of this sheet for more information. **No shorts on Day 10, please!**
- All campers (including Grade 1) will spend a few minutes in church in **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** during the morning. (While Grade 1 will spend only 10 minutes or so in Adoration, Grades 2-5 will spend approximately 20-30 minutes in church in Adoration while awaiting their turn to go to **Confession**.)
- With the help of visiting priests, our pastor will hear **Confessions** of children who have already received First Communion. Members of the Catholic Daughters are usually present in church to lead several Rosaries throughout the morning.
- Other learning centers on Day 10 include a diocesan-approved **Safe Environment lesson** for each grade level, a **drawing/writing project** and/or **game** to review Bible stories and topics which were introduced throughout the program, and **indoor games** (so everyone's clothes will remain clean and dry before going to Mass).
- Campers and volunteers will attend **11:00 a.m. Mass** as a group. *(As always, parents, siblings, and grandparents are welcome to attend Mass with us! Please dress accordingly!)*
- After Mass ends, we will return to the parish hall for closing remarks and announcements. **Depending upon what time Mass will end, we hope to dismiss at or shortly after 12:00 Noon.**

Two Service Projects for our Campers:

- We encourage our **campers** to **do extra chores** for family and friends **to earn money to help purchase these items** for needy families in our area.
- All of these donations are sent directly to our church parish's **CLO (Christian Leadership Organization)**.
 - **Thursday, Week 1:** If possible, please bring one or two cans, boxes, or packages of **non-perishable grocery items** to donate to our CLO's food pantry here at Our Lady of Lourdes.
 - **Thursday, Week 2:** Please help us offer advance support to the CLO for their up-coming (July) **school supply drive**. In the past, they've offered the following suggestions for donations: notebooks, pencils, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers, pocket folders, scissors, glue, loose leaf paper, backpacks, and new and/or gently-used uniforms. All donations will be divided between our local schools for students in need.