

**THE PARISH
OF GOOD**



**OF OUR LADY
COUNSEL**

**PARISH
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
PROGRAM**



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September, 2023

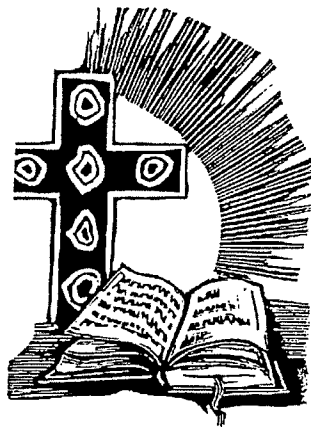
Dear Parents/Guardians and Student,

We hope that this handbook will answer some of your questions and concerns.

Note that it contains a change of student information form. This may be turned into your catechist in the event you have any changes to your mailing address, phone numbers, medical information, etc.

The excuse forms for absence and lateness are also found in this booklet.

May we walk joyfully together on our faith journey.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Faith cannot be taught in the usual sense of the word; it must be experienced and lived. Therefore, our program attempts to provide experiences which create an atmosphere that allow students to grow and develop their own faith. This life-centered approach, to teach as Jesus taught, provides the foundation of our Catholic faith formation. Opportunities of prayer, scripture, doctrine, retreats and celebration, appropriate to one's learning level, will foster the faith passed on to the students by their parents. May our combined efforts and example affect the children so that their hearts be filled with God's love.

CATECHISTS

"One who echoes the Word of God."

Our catechists are **all volunteers** who freely share their time and talent with the children of our parish. Please support them in prayer and cooperation throughout the coming year.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Your example speaks louder than our words

We ask the parents of the children and youth enrolled in our program to strengthen the religious education program's objective in the following ways:

- Attending Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days, receiving the Sacraments, and reading the Bible frequently.
- Teaching your child to pray in his/her own words in addition to learning the traditional prayers of our Catholic faith.
- Showing an interest in the class each week and checking the PREP folder with your child; helping your child be conscientious in completing assignments.
- Joining your child's participation in the service opportunities offered by his/her grade.

Parents Are Asked To Help Their Child Learn

Preschool &

Kindergarten Sign of the Cross, Story of Creation

Level 1 Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Grace Before and After Meals

Level 2 Simple Morning Offering, Act of Contrition, Lord Have Mercy (Mass), and other basic Mass responses

Level 3 Morning Offering, Apostles Creed

Level 4 - 6 Angelus, Queen of Heaven, Prayers at Mass, Rosary, Hail Holy Queen, Acts of Faith, Hope, Love, and Come Holy Spirit

Level 7 Review all of the above – including:
Memorare, Magnificat

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

CONDUCT

The goal of Our Lady of Good Counsel Religious Education Program is to provide order, structure and discipline for our children until they grow in self-discipline which reflects honesty, respect, and consideration for both self and others. Good discipline and order provide the best environment for learning and faith sharing. Proper conduct and respect at all times is expected of our students.

Students are expected to cooperate at all times with their catechists, participate fully and appropriately in all classroom activities, and treat others and the property of others with respect.

Time spent in PREP class is equally as important as the time spent in other classes at school. Thus, rules that apply in school apply in PREP. These rules include no: disrespect, disobedience, gum chewing, cell phone / watch use during instruction, smoking, fighting, failure to participate, ignoring school safety regulations, leaving the classroom or the premises without proper permission, defacing or vandalizing books, desks, walls, bathrooms or any school property or day students' property, removing items from classrooms, hallways or school desks.

If a student continues to fail to respond to a catechist's request for appropriate behavior, that student will be sent to the PREP office, and the behavior will be addressed by the PREP Director. In the event a student is sent to the office for inappropriate or uncooperative behavior on more than one occasion, the student's parent(s) will be contacted.

Please read, sign, detach and return to your child's catechist.

I have read with my child/ren the Conduct Regulations for Our Lady of Good Counsel PREP (2023-2024). Below is my signature and that of my child to acknowledge understanding and acceptance of these rules.

Parent Name (pls. print)

Parent Signature

Date

Child/ren's Name(s) (pls. print)

Child/ren's Signature(s)

Date

ATTIRE

The Religious Education Program is one of Christian formation. **All students should be properly dressed, keeping in mind that visits to Church take place at regular intervals.**

Important Note: Students are not permitted to wear Heelys (sneakers with a roller on the heel) to class at any time or for any reason.

ATTENDANCE

Each student in the Religious Education Program is expected to attend class regularly. **We ask parents not to schedule extra curricular activities at times conflicting with religion class.** After **each absence** a student is required to bring a note from his/her parents explaining the reason for their absence.

REGARDING CHILDREN PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS

Class attendance is particularly important for students who are preparing to receive a Sacrament.

Please Note: Three or more unexcused absences and/or excessive number of excused absences is considered a justifiable reason to delay a child's reception of the Sacrament.

No matter what the reason for an absence, all classroom work must be completed for the following class. It is the parent's responsibility to contact the catechist for this information.

TARDINESS

Our PREP class times are: 4:15pm-5:30pm and 6:15pm-7:30pm every Wednesday from late September through early May (please see calendar for specific days off) **Students are asked to arrive for class 5 minutes before class begins.** If tardiness is persistent, a meeting must be arranged with Mrs. Alexander in order to resolve the problem.

CANCELLATION OF PREP CLASSES

INCLEMENT WEATHER OR LARGE SNOWFALL

If Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School cancels classes, PREP classes will also be cancelled.

In case of inclement weather later in the day, catechists will notify all families via phone call.

Information will be placed on Our Lady of Good Counsel's website.

If you have provided an e-mail address, you will also be sent an "e-alert".

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

It is the student's responsibility to bring to every class: Textbook, Pencils, Writing Paper, and Bible (depending on grade level). All students are issued a textbook. Those who lose their texts will be responsible for purchasing the replacement.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Grade Level Catechist listing 2023/2024

Kristal Alexander, DRE

215-357-1300 (ext. 134)

Religious Education Office

215-357-1300 (ext. 126)

(this number available during PREP class times only)

CATECHISTS (subject to change)

Level K

Mrs. Barbara Hall & Mrs. Diane Boland (4:15pm)

Level 1

Shiela Gonzales & Isabel Johnston(4:15pm)

Marge Pirraglia (6:15pm)

Level 2

Pam Howard (4:15pm)

Mary Killorran (4:15pm)

Ellen Crawford (6:15pm)

Level 3

Kitty Crosley (4:15pm)

Joan Gross (6:15pm)

Level 4

Theresa Bonhage (4:15pm)

Pat Lorenz (4:15pm)

Lynne Lucot (6:15pm)

Level 5

Stan Gawel & Joan Wadsworth (4:15pm)

Andrea Woodring (6:15pm)

Level 6

Cathy Sledzeski & Lori Robinson (4:15pm)

Jean Callahan & Kitty Rueter (6:15pm)

Level 7

Victoria White & Kevin Bracken (4:15pm) Bill Fucich & Debbie Grant (6:15pm)

Grades 8-12 YOUTH MINISTER

Vicki & Jim Francis

357-1300 (ext. 131)

September, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

All information in our files on your child should be current. If there are changes during the course of the school year (your residence, telephone number, new emergency contact, or made any other changes important to the care of your child while they are attending PREP), please fill out the information below and return to your child's teacher. **THERE IS NO NEED TO FILL OUT THE FORM IF ALL INFORMATION IS THE SAME.**

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Room: _____

New Address: _____

New Telephone: _____

New Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Other Changes:

Medical: _____

Family Situations: _____

Thank you for your cooperation.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Excuse For Absence or Lateness

Child's Name: _____ Grade: ____ Teacher: _____

Was **(absent)** **(late)** from PREP class on: _____
Date

The parish requires an explanation from the Parent in each case of absence or lateness.
Kindly state the reason below.

Signature of Parent – Guardian

Date

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