

Welcome to Religious Education at St. Mary's Catholic Church

What is St. Mary's Religious Education about?

The religious education program is a parish and family based religious education program, geared to help young people in grades K – 12, to come to know Jesus Christ and begin to form a life-long relationship with Him. Through the sharing of personal faith stories, personal witness, the use of Church-approved catechetical materials, family involvement in sacramental preparation, craft activities, study of the traditions of the Church, and praise of God through prayer, song and Liturgy, our parish children receive a solid foundation in their faith development.

What classes are available for my child?

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Baptism Preparation with Deacon | Make appointment at Church Office |
| Religious Ed Class K-5 (Wed 6:30-7:45 pm) | Elementary Building |
| Religious Ed Class 6-8 / Edge (Wed 6:30-8 pm) | Holy Family Center |
| Religious Ed Class 9-12 / LifeTeen (Sun 6:30-8 pm) | Holy Family Center |
| First Communion Sacrament Classes (2-year program) | Elementary Building |
| Confirmation Sacrament Classes (Sun 6:30-8 pm) | Holy Family Center |

What are the fees for enrolling my student?

| | |
|--|------|
| One student | \$40 |
| Each additional student | \$20 |
| Additional fee if receiving Sacrament | \$25 |
| Edge and Life/Teen T-Shirts | \$10 |
| Late registration fee after August 9, 2015 | \$10 |

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) To register a student, we must receive payment of the registration fee.
- 2) All sacrament students must turn in a copy of their Baptismal Certificate at the time of registration.
- 3) *No child* will be admitted to class without registration paperwork, including volunteers' students.

Is there a year-long calendar available for the program?

Yes, one can be picked up in the Church Office or St Mary's School Office. Calendars will also be sent home with students during the first two weeks of class. Our holiday schedule follows that of Fredericksburg ISD.

When do I find out which classroom my child will be in?

Classroom assignments will be discussed at the Parent Orientation, date to be determined.

How important is regular attendance in religious education classes?

For any student who wishes to grow and mature in the spiritual life, attendance at all classes is desirable. **For those anticipating reception of sacraments, attendance is mandatory, except for illness or family emergencies. To attend means to be present for the entire class period; children who arrive late consistently or are taken out of class early can be disturbing to both catechists and students.** We believe the religious education of our parish youngsters is a high priority and we urge parents to see to it that their students are present each week for the

entire class time, except in case of an emergency. *Sports and other after-school events are not considered emergencies.*

When will my student be allowed to receive sacraments for the first time?

The Diocese of San Antonio and St. Mary's Parish require two consecutive years of religious education before sacraments can be received. Sacraments are normally received in the spring of the second year of religious education, provided all requirements are met. A copy of the Parish Requirements of Sacramental Preparation follows:

REQUIREMENTS FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

If your student is baptized:

First-Year Classes:

These classes all fulfill the diocesan requirement of first-year religious education, prior to the second year, in which sacramental preparation can begin. **Regular attendance and participation in class, as well as attendance at the weekly Celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy, are necessary to complete this first year.** Late arrival for class, especially on a regular basis, and early withdrawal for any reason, are a distraction for catechists and students alike. If a student must be absent, it is the parent's responsibility to pick up class materials and see that appropriate lessons are completed and returned to the catechist. Inform the Religious Education Office in the event of the student's absence so the catechist can prepare materials for you to use at home. Missed assignments can be picked up in the Religious Education Office.

Second Year:

Upon completion of the first year of religious education, your student is eligible to begin preparation for Sacraments. The same attendance requirements apply for the second year of preparation. (see above first-year requirements).

Preparation for Reconciliation begins in the fall of the student's second year, and the sacrament is usually received in late January. Preparation for First Eucharist begins in February and the sacrament is usually received in late April. Enrichment activities will take place either during class time, or at a time to be specified during the school year.

And, if reception of the Sacraments is desired, Parents of first and second year students must additionally attend mandatory parents' meetings, retreats, and practice sessions marked on the calendar. Attendance at Sunday Mass is also required for parents and students in first and second year sacrament classes. Poor attendance, lack of participation, incomplete assignments, parent non-participation, and lack of attendance at the weekly Celebration of the Eucharist Liturgy could necessitate a repeat of the first year or second year, if so designated by the catechist and/or Director of Religious Education (DRE).

If your student is not baptized:

Elementary students must attend the appropriate grade level classes and attend Sunday Mass. They will be baptized by a Deacon. Please contact the church office to set an appointment. Birth certificates are required for all students seeking Baptism.

QUESTIONS, call 830-997-9523 ext 30