



STAY WITH US

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**Our Lady of the Lake
Religious Education
Parent/Student Handbook 2019-2020**

Please visit the Religious Education Web Site at www.ololconline.com and register with our Parish App at myparishapp.com or text App to 88202 for important weekly information, updates, reminders, parent newsletters, upcoming events, calendar, permission slips, etc...., as this will be the primary source of communication for the parents. (updates may also be included in the weekly bulletin and in parent/teacher letters throughout the year as necessary). Registered students will begin class in their assigned classes. Thank You.

Please let us know of any address, phone, or e-mail change so we may update our records to ensure you receive important information regarding your child!

If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Sabatino at:
CyndiS@ololconline.com or (615) 338-3910



*The words “discipline” and “disciple” are derived from the Latin word for “learn”. Discipline is a process in which children develop socially acceptable and appropriate behavior. Disciple is something adults do **with** and **for** children instead of to them. The purpose is positive: to help children become self-disciplined, social and responsible. Sometimes, the catechist will need to intervene when a child behaves in an unacceptable manner.*

STAFF 2019-2020

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Dear Parent,

We know that you want your child to have the best environment for effective learning and spiritual growth, and so do we. We also know that your child's success in life will rely greatly on his or her ability to make responsible choices. With these goals in mind, we have developed a plan that outlines our rules and consequences for behavior. Please read the following plan and discuss it with your child so that you both understand the policies outlined. Together, we can make a difference by creating a fun and positive learning environment for your child so that he or she looks forward to class each week.

Yours in Christ,

The Religious Education Staff

GOLDEN RULE: LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF (What does this mean?):

- Follow directions and classroom rules.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- No unkind words or teasing toward classmates, staff or teachers.
- No inappropriate language.

Weapons & Dangerous Instruments

- Students shall not possess, handle, transmit, use or attempt to use any dangerous weapon while on the property of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church.

Threats

- Any student who makes a threat of violence, whether written or verbal, which creates any kind of personal offense to a student or any adult while on the property of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church may receive disciplinary action or legal consequences by parish staff or by law enforcement officials.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING THE RULES:

- **First time:** Warning
- **Second time:** Sent to administrative office for entry in the Behavior Journal. One copy will be kept on file and one copy will be mailed home to the parents. Student will return to class after completing form and apologizing to the person he or she offended.
- **Third Time:** Parents will be contacted to discuss situation.
- **Severe Disruption:** Immediate call for parents to pick up child and discuss situation.

Registration Fees

Registration for Religious Education is open to all children seeking formation in the Catholic faith. To ensure your child is enrolled in the Religious Education program, we must have a completed registration form for all children and the required fees at the time of registration.

- A materials fee of \$30.00 is due at the time of registration.
- A retreat fee of \$30.00 is required for students who are receiving the sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation at the time of registration.

If this creates a financial hardship, please contact the Religious Education Office. We do not want finances to stand in the way of giving your children a Catholic Religious Education.

Arrivals and Departures

Arrival for Sunday Religious Education Classes:

- ALL STUDENTS must be walked to the classrooms by a parent or guardian. Parents, please wait for the teacher to arrive before leaving your child. Drop offs are not permitted.

Pick Up for Sunday Religious Education:

- ALL STUDENTS must be picked up by a parent/ guardian from the classroom. No exceptions.
- Only in emergency can students be picked up early. Students will not be dismissed from class early unless an emergency arises. If parents pick students up early, they must come to the office to sign their child out.

MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH – 8TH GRADES

Only in emergency can students be picked up early. Students will not be dismissed from class early unless an emergency arises. If parents pick students up early, they must come to the office to sign their child out.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (Youth Mass first Wednesday of the month when classes are in session.)

Wednesday Night Arrival & Departure

For Wednesday Night Religious Education classes, students may be dropped off at the front/main entrance to the Church (upper parking lot) and picked up at St. Joseph Hall. Please check the Religious Education Yearly Calendar, to verify that class is in session, before leaving your child. Since it is dark outside, when Wednesday evening classes end, please be prompt in picking up your child on time.

Late Pick Up

We know that on occasion, circumstances arise that may result in a late pickup. If you are going to be late to pick up your child, please call 615-338-3910 or 615-338-3913 to let us know. Your child will be waiting in the Religious Education office for your arrival. Please make every effort to pick up your child on time.



Attendance

All students preparing to receive a Sacrament this year, must have been enrolled in and faithfully attended a Catholic Religious Education program for at least 2 years prior to the requested sacrament. If your child does not meet this qualification, please contact the Religious Education Office to discuss other options.

More than **five absences** during a Sacramental preparation year will likely result in delay of Sacrament. If your child is going to be absent, please contact the Religious Education office.

Cancellations

In the event that Sumner County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, Religious Education Classes will be cancelled. Please check Channel 4 – Snow Bird for other closing information. Updated closing information will also be available by myparishapp.com.

GOALS

- To teach the Catholic truth to our young through liturgy, instruction and community in complete loyalty to the Magisterium of the Church.
- To provide outreach opportunities to help develop an awareness of the moral responsibility to serve others.
- To provide Sacramental preparation for student's Pre-K – 8th grade to include First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

Curriculum

Preschool Program for children ages 3 and 4

- Children must be age 3 by September 8, 2019.
- The Pre-School program 'Stories of God's Love' helps young children take their first steps on the journey of faith.
- The Pre-School program teaches appropriate Scripture stories that tell them of God's love and connects these stories to the children's lives.
- The Pre-School program incorporates a simple 'Teach and Apply' process in every session.

K-7th grades use the "Blest Are We" Catholic school edition. To review what your child is learning, go to www.blestarewe.com/school Use this as a way to start conversation with your child about what he or she is learning in Sunday School.

Kindergarten

Five years old begin the curriculum, Blest Are We. Throughout the year, the children learn: How God's Love Creates the Universe, God's Love Makes Me Who I Am, God's Love Gives Me People to Love, God's Love Gives Me Jesus, and God's Love Teaches Me to Love. Please keep in mind that no more than five absences are allowed during the kindergarten year. The continuity and attendance of the substance taught is vital to your child's education.

First Grade

Children focus on theme of the Holy Trinity. The children learn that they belong to the church community, and they learn to participate in the church through the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. They also begin the study of morality. Please keep in mind that no more than five absences are allowed during the first-grade year. The continuity and attendance of the substance taught is vital to your child's education.

First Communion Preparation Program

Students are required to complete two years of preparation prior to receiving their First Communion. If a student has not been enrolled for two years prior to the sacrament, or has not met the required attendance, they will attend the Year One program and receive their Reconciliation and First Communion the following year.

This Program utilizes the curriculum by RCL, Faith In Action.

First Communion requires two years of preparation for a child to be fully prepared to receive the sacrament. If a child is older than Second Grade, the program utilizes Our Catholic Heritage curriculum. It enables the students to prepare fully for First Communion and First Reconciliation after completing this year. This program is for students in 3rd-5th Grade.

Second Grade

The emphasis here shifts to a study of the sacraments as the children review Baptism and prepare for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The study of morality continues as the children learn the notions of sin and its effects. Gospel stories help to teach the children about their responsibility to care for others.

Blessed is the curriculum utilized for the students in the Second Grade preparing to receive Reconciliation and First Communion. There's never been anything like Blessed in the Catholic world for children. This program has world-class animation and workbooks that are works of art. The incredible content of this curriculum meets children where they are and leads them, step by step, to where God is calling them to be. Blessed isn't just different, it's groundbreaking. The students' attendance is important throughout the sacramental preparation year. More than five absences during this year will most likely delay the student receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion.

First Reconciliation will be held for the students who have completed the preparation process on November 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm. First Communion will be held on May 10, 2019 at 10:00 am for all students who have completed the preparation process.

Attendance of the First Communion retreat is required for all students preparing to make First Communion on May 10, 2020.

Third Grade

Children begin to study the beliefs of our Catholic faith. This is accomplished through a study of the Apostle's Creed, the seven sacraments, and the Ten Commandments.

Fourth Grade

The focus here is on a study of morality and the Beatitudes. The sacrament emphasized is Reconciliation.

Fifth Grade

This program centers on a study of the seven sacraments. The understanding of morality is strengthened as children learn what it means to live as faithful followers of Jesus.

Middle School

Grades 6th- 8th meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year from 6:15 to 7:45 pm. Students will attend Mass on the First Wednesday of the month. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Sixth Grade

The Old Testament is the basis for the sixth-grade curriculum. Students learn that we find the roots of our faith in the Hebrew Scripture. The concepts of the Church are taught as a continuation of the Kingdom of God. The sixth-grade students will learn to appreciate the awesome beauty and mystery of the Mass. Through a unique learning experience, including powerful cinematography and workbook resources, students will come to see the Mass and the priesthood in a dramatically new way. This program, Alteration is designed to stir thought, create conversation, and inspire young souls to a deep and lasting love for the Mass. Please keep in mind that no more than five absences are allowed during the sixth-grade year. The continuity and attendance of the substance taught is vital to your child's education.

Seventh Grade

Among the subjects are The Mysteries of the Incarnation, The Meaning of the Kingdom, The Christian Life, The Pascal Mystery, and The Good News. Students will participate in Theology of the Body to enable them to find answers to questions concerning their bodies, their sexuality, and their future. Please keep in mind that no more than five absences are allowed during the seventh-grade year. The continuity and attendance of the substance taught is vital to your child's education.

Confirmation Preparation Program

Students are required to complete two years of preparation prior to receiving their Confirmation. If a student has not been enrolled for two years prior to the sacrament, or has not met the required attendance, they will attend the Year One program and receive their Confirmation the following year.

Eighth Grade

Eighth Grade is the year students will prepare to receive Confirmation. In the Chosen Confirmation Program, candidates will encounter Christ in the sacraments, in the teachings of the Church, in their parish community and in the experience of service. The students' attendance is important throughout the sacramental preparation year. More than five absences during this year will most likely delay the student receiving Confirmation.

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

Baptisms are scheduled through the Parish Office. For appointments, please contact our Parish Coordinator, Rhonda Wigger at 338-3901, or RhondaW@ololcconline.com

If your child is in the second grade or older, requesting the Sacrament of Baptism, please follow up with the Religious Education Office.

Reconciliation and First Communion

- Children preparing for these sacraments are required to attend class weekly. More than 5 absences will likely result in delay of sacrament.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is completed in the second grade. The Penance Service will be held on November 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Main Worship. A simple reception in the Narthex will follow.
- First Holy Communion also takes place in the second grade and will be held this year on May 9, 2020 at 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Lake. A reception in the Social Hall will follow.
- Parents should provide a copy of their child/children's Baptismal Certificate at the time of registration.
- All students seeking sacraments should complete at least 2 years of Religious Education prior to the sacramental year to be fully prepared. Just as in school, this is a progressive learning experience in which your child builds upon his/her knowledge and spirituality with each year.

The parish is called upon to recognize and support the children who are preparing for First Communion and who desire to be united with the rest of the parish as receiving members of the Body of Christ. Our Eucharist celebration is filled with prayer. By this time on your child's faith journey, he/she should know several of our Catholic prayers including The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and the Act of Contrition. This is a good time for parents, as your child's first teacher, to help prepare their children with the prayers of the Mass to insure your child understands the words that we pray. Developing a steady prayer life will help your child live a healthy spiritual life.



Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament that is intimately connected to Baptism. The baptismal promises are renewed in order to remind all the baptized that they are bound to reject sin and serve God fully by living the Christian life in the world. It is Baptism that initiates someone into the apostolic ministry of the church. Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism, strengthening oneself to serve. The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated by students in the eighth grade. Older youth, who have not confirmed their faith, may be a part of this experience by contacting Cyndi Sabatino at 338-3910. Confirmation is a continuation of the Catholic faith learning experience and students are encouraged to attend the High School program Lake House after Confirmation. Confirmation is the beginning of the Faith voyage through this wonderful life God has given each person. Confirmation Rehearsal and the celebration of Confirmation will be announced as soon as possible.

Confirmation students are required to complete 20 hours of service for the school year, a saint presentation, write a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation, and attend a Confirmation retreat. Attendance at the retreat is required for all students preparing to be confirmed in 2020.

Sacramental Retreats

First Communion Retreat

A First Communion retreat will be held on February 22, 2020 from 8:45 am-2:00 pm at Our Lady of the Lake. Parents are encouraged and welcome to come and enjoy their child/children in this retreat as part of preparation for their First Communion. Attendance is required for all those planning on making their First Communion at Our Lady of the Lake on May 9, 2020.

Confirmation Retreat

A Confirmation retreat will be held on October 26, 2019 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, Nashville, Tn. This is a unique experience where students will spend time reflecting on the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer and the celebration of the Mass along with special activities, group discussions, and various content designed specifically for the youth. Attendance is required for all students intending to be confirmed in 2020.

