



**Our Lady of the Lake
Religious Education
Parent/Student Handbook 2020-2021**

**Welcome to our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
Religious Education Program**

The Religious Education Program at Our Lady of the Lake is blessed with dedicated, conscientious volunteer catechists who believe in the mission of our parish, and in helping to build a faith-based community. It is through their instruction and modeled example that our students learn and put into action timeless Catholic values that will prepare them for lives of faith and service.

We are committed to working together in forming your child's life. We will try to enhance and support what is already introduced and lived in your homes.

We collaborate with parents the primary educators of their children to ensure proper instruction of the teachings of the Catholic faith. We encourage parent's involvement and participation with events pertaining to your child/children with the Religious Education Program.

The Religious Education Program prepares the children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

As a community, we should always strive to be intentional in our faith-making choices in response to Christ's grace to live our lives together as the Body of Christ. The Christian faith reminds us that Christ is both the means by which we reach God and the attainment of our quest.

It is our hope that each of you has an enriching experience and a fulfilling spiritual journey with our Church and program. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

Cyndi Sabatino, Director of Religious Education

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.

GUIDELINES

Parents are the first educators of their children. Every family is different and their participation in the life of the Church can vary according to their circumstances. Pastoral consideration of their faith life is important.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Share your faith story with your child/children.
- Participate in Sunday Mass with your child/children.
- Participate in Reconciliation on a regular basis.
- Model a Christian commitment of prayer, community worship, and service.
- Be committed to help your child/children meet the attendance and formation requirements.
- Be committed to meet the requirements for your child/children's sacraments according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Pray for, and with, your child.

Communication

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.

A new form of communication this year will be Evangelus: To sign up, visit eva.us/LOLCC or Text LOLCC to 55321 (updates may also be included in the weekly bulletin and in parent/teacher letters throughout the year as necessary).

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.

STAFF 2020-2021

Father Austin Gilstrap, Pastor	office@ololconline.com
Father Thomas Kalam, Associate Pastor	tkalam@gmail.com
Father Luke Wilgenbusch , Associate Pastor	Lukejw1221@gmail.com
Jim Carr, Deacon	jamesfcarr@bellsouth.net
Mike Kopczynski, Deacon	mikemarkkopczynski@yahoo.com
Mike Rector, Deacon	mirector@aol.com
Sister Maria Edwards, Pastoral Minister	SrMaria@ololconline.com
Cyndi Sabatino, Director of Religious Education	CyndiS@ololconline.com
Elsa Ehinger, Director of Hispanic Ministry	ElsaE@ololconline.com
Mike Zimmerman, Youth Director	MikeZ@ololconline.com
Patti Deffendall, Adult Faith Coordinator	pattideffendall@comcast.net
Rhonda Wigger, Parish Coordinator	RhondaW@ololconline.com
Sharon Scruggs, Director of Finance	SharonS@ololconline.com
Parish Telephone Number	615-824-3276

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.

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 on a scheduled session, 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



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.

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.

*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.*

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.

Cell Phones

- No cell phone use during classes. Please be sure your son/daughter's phone is either left at home or in the "off" position before entering the classroom, and that they are aware of no cell phone use in the classroom.

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 Saint Joseph Hall. classroom. There are No exceptions. A family member must be 18 to pick up your child/children for safety reasons. Catechists can not dismiss students without a parent or caregiver over the age of 18 coming to the classroom.
- Only in an emergency can students be picked up early. Students will not be dismissed from class early unless an emergency arises. If parents pick up their child early, they must come to the Religious Education office to sign them out for the evening.

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. Your child will be waiting in the Religious Education office for your arrival. Please make every effort to pick up your child on time.



Safe Environment

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has a commitment to creating a safe environment within the church for children and youth. In 2005, they developed the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young people. The Charter was revised in 2011.

The Safe Environment programs established in each diocese include requirements for a background check of all volunteers who are 18 years and older and work with children. All those who work with children must review the diocesan safe environment programs and policies and complete the training presentation through the diocesan website.

Our Lady of the Lake has an age appropriate safety program in place. The program is called "Family Life". Please feel free to contact Cyndi Sabatino the Safe Environment Coordinator for additional information or answers to specific questions regarding the Safe Environment Program. **BACKGROUND CHECKS: If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity with children and youth under the age of 18, please go to: <https://nashville.cmgconnect.org/>**

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.

Baptismal Certificates

All students receiving the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation must turn in a copy of their child's baptismal certificate at the time of registration, or by October 30, 2020 to the Religious Education office. You may also e-mail your child/children's Baptismal Certificate to Cyndi Sabatino: CyndiS@ololcconline.com.

First Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation

Appropriate Sacramental formation is critical to the proper reception and life-long practice of the Sacraments. All students wishing to receive any sacrament must attend Religious Education Faith Formation classes for the **two years** prior to receiving the sacrament. **Just as in school, this is a progressive learning experience in which your child builds upon his/her knowledge and spirituality with each year.**

Parents have an important role in the preparation of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. They must attend the required parent meetings. Parents are also encouraged to attend Adult Faith Formation as they continue their own faith formation journey.

If a student has not been enrolled in Religious Education 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. The Program utilizes the curriculum by RCL, Faith in Action.

- Children preparing for these sacraments are required to attend class weekly. More than 5 absences will likely result in delay of the sacrament.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is completed in the Second Grade. The Penance Service will be held on November 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary. A simple reception will be held in the Narthex following the Penance Service.
- First Holy Communion also takes place in the Second Grade. First Communion will be held on May 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. A reception in the Bevington Hall following the First Communion Ceremony.

Curriculum

A child's school grade level is the basis for placement in a particular class. Parishioners serve as Catechists (teachers).

This year in Religious Education we will be utilizing Christ In Us! This curriculum by Sadlier.

This program allows us to:

- ***Encounter Jesus Christ***
- ***Accompany him in our lives***
- ***Witness our faith as Catholics***

This curriculum also has an online digital portal to help students discover and grow closer to Jesus Christ. Every lesson has four Spiraling Main Ideas. Faith words are part of the lesson to help students understand the important words we use as Catholics. Activities are also part of the lesson to help engage the students learning ability. Included is a portfolio to help the learners to use their creativity to bring Christ to the world. Each lesson ends with a Mini-Task that invites students to show ways they can live out the Catholic faith as a missionary disciple of Christ. Scripture and the Saints are included throughout the lessons along with online videos to support the topics being introduced throughout the program.

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: First Reconciliation will be held for the students who have completed the preparation process on November 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

First Communion: First Communion will be held on May 8, 2021 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 8, 2021.

First Communion Prep Class: 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.

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.



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.

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. Students are required to attend a Confirmation Retreat as part of the Confirmation Program.

Parents are also encouraged to attend Adult Faith Formation as they continue their own faith formation journey.

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 2021.

Sacramental Retreats

First Communion Retreat

A First Communion retreat will be held on February 20, 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 8, 2021.

Confirmation Retreat

A Confirmation retreat will be held for all students preparing to receive Confirmation in 2021. 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 2021.

