

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
10003 Bird River Road
Baltimore, MD 21220

August 2021

Dear Parents & Guardians;

It is once again time to begin preparing for the coming Religious Education School year. The objective of our program is to help your children better understand their Faith and to help them become active members of our parish community. Your support of our efforts is greatly needed and appreciated. At this time, we have not received any new guidelines from the Archdiocese of Baltimore regarding any possible restrictions to the opening of religious education classes. Our plan is to open fully for all children to attend every week. If we receive information from the Archdiocese that results in changes to this plan we will notify all Religious Education families by Email, Flock Notes on the Parish website and by Flock Notes. Please be sure that your email address is correct and legible on the registration form.

Enclosed you will find student information/registration forms for those students who were in our program in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Please review the information and make any corrections necessary, fill in any missing information and include any other information that you feel we may need. (i.e. medical conditions, food allergies, custodial parent issues, etc.). Review the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Policy regarding immunizations on the back of this letter. Once you have done this please read the information on the back of the registration form and sign the form. If you need an additional form for a new student, you may download a form from the parish website or call the Religious Education office and a form will be sent to you.

Religious Education begins with an open house, meet and greet the teachers on Sunday, September 12. At the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, September 19 we will have the commissioning of the Catechists and instruction will begin that day.

The fees for religious education classes for 2020-21 remain the same as last year and can be found on the registration forms.

Registration forms must be returned August 27. By returning registration forms quickly we will be better able to prepare for the coming year. We will not be able to accept walk in registrations on the first two Sundays of class so please mail them to us or drop them off at the Parish office in the Rectory before the beginning of classes on September 12.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 410-686-3085 ext. 118 or 119 or email us at kathy@olqpm.org. We will get back to you as soon as possible. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,
Debbie Boblitz & Kathy Shadrach
Directors of Religious Education

The Archdiocese of Baltimore

And

Our Lady Queen of Peace

Our Lady Queen of Peace and the Archdiocese of Baltimore affirm our collective commitment to providing religious education, including Vacation Bible School, with the safety and wellbeing of all children as our primary focus.

Although proof of immunization is not required to participate in a religious education program, you should take notice that if your child is not immunized, he/she is considered at risk for the disease or diseases against which vaccination offers protection. Vaccine preventable diseases still exist, and especially can spread quickly in child group settings, such as a religious education program. If an outbreak of the disease against which a child has not been fully vaccinated occurs during a religious education program, the child's risk of contracting the disease increases significantly.

Participation in religious education, including Vacation Bible School, at the Parish is completely voluntary. By enrolling a child who has not been vaccinated in religious education at the Parish, parents and guardians recognize, appreciate, and assume the risks associated with lack of immunization. The voluntary enrollment similarly means that parents and guardians understand and agree that Our Lady Queen of Peace and the archdiocese of Baltimore are not responsible or liable for any disease contracted by a child who is not immunized while participating in an educational program at the Parish.

**Our Lady Queen of Peace
Religious Education Calendar
2021-2022**

September 12- Meet and greet with parents in classrooms after Mass.	January 9-Class
September 19-Class	January 16-Class
September 26-Class	January 23-Class
October 3-Class	January 30-Class
October 10-Class	February 6-Class
October 17-Class	February 13- Class
October 24-Class	February 20- No Class Enjoy!
October 31-Class	February 27-Class
November 7-Class* Change Clocks	March 6-Class
November 14-Class	March 13- Class * Change clocks
November 21-Class	March 20 Class
November 28- No Class Happy Turkey Day!	March 27- Class
December 5-Class	April 3- Class
December 12- No Class Breakfast with Santa, ENJOY!	April 10- No Class Palm Sunday
December 19-Class	April 17- No Class Happy Easter!
December 26- No Class Merry Christmas!	April 24-Class
January 2- No Class Happy 2022!	May 1- Last Class!

****SNOW POLICY****

If there is a winter storm warning or advisory please note that class may be cancelled. Please check the Parish App, website or call the Parish Office for confirmation of class. If Mass is being conducted we normally will have class. However, always use your own judgement.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE
STUDENT/PARENT GUIDELINES

ATTENDANCE is very important. *Make it a priority!*

BEHAVIOR- If a child constantly interrupts a class with unacceptable behaviors (i.e. calling out, rudeness to the teacher or fellow students, not staying in his seat) we will notify the parents either when they come to pick up the child or by phone. If the misbehavior continues the parents will be required to sit in the room with the child or homeschool.

PROMPTNESS is also important. Late arrivals interrupt class in many ways. Classes start at 10 AM. Children attending 9 AM Mass should not leave the Church until the priest has left the church. Many teachers attend the 9AM Mass so children arriving for class should wait quietly in the side halls-NOT the Gathering Space. Please do not leave children alone in the classrooms.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED. The first time a teacher sees a child using one the child will be given a warning to turn it off and put it away. The second time the teacher will take it and parents will have to retrieve it after class.

SNOW CLOSING- if there is snow on the ground, a winter snow advisory or warning class is cancelled. We will also try to post on the parish app, website any cancellations and flock notes.

DROP OFF AND PICK-UP In 2017 we instituted a safety policy regarding the dropping off and picking up of students. We ask that if you are not at 9:00 Mass you drive around the back of the building, using the driveways by the Convent and drop the children off at the backdoor ramp. If you have attended the 9:00 Mass you may enter through the Child Care hallway. When you come to pick them up at 11:00 please use the back parking lot and door. Teachers will bring the children outside to you. If you are attending the 11:15 Mass and we will send the children to the Gathering Space.

Parents it is extremely important that you arrive promptly to pick up you children; including those attending the 11:15 Mass.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Religious Education Program

Dear Parents and Guardians;

In 1986 the Archdiocese of Baltimore mandated that the study of relationships, human sexuality and family life be included in the Religious Education Curriculum. As an integral part of our faith formation curriculum, we will be teaching Catechesis for Family Life. This age-appropriate program about Christian living, chastity, character formation and safe environment training promotes communication between you and your child. All materials are available for your review in the Religious Education Office anytime classes are in session. You are encouraged to review the program materials that the catechist will be using in the classroom, as well as the materials you will receive for home discussion. After examining the program if you have any questions or concerns about your child participating in this program, please contact Debbie Boblitz or Kathy Shadrach, the Directors or Religious Education.

A brief overview of the program is attached. This year the Family Life Program in most classes will be taught throughout the school year, in some cases it will be integrated into the regular curriculum.

All children will receive their books and the *Parent Connection* books on the day their class starts the program. The *Human Reproduction* books which accompany the 5th & 6th grade texts will be sent home in sealed envelopes for your use. The children will be instructed not to open the envelopes.

We hope that this “Family Life Program” will strengthen moral perspectives and teach children to take greater responsibility within the family.

Sincerely,

Debbie Boblitz

Director of Religious Education

Kathy Shadrach

Director of Religious Education

Benziger-Family Life

Benziger Family Life addresses five very specific needs of today's young people. These five needs are organized into five themes. The themes are expressed at every grade level and relate to key Catholic values. The program themes are:

1. God's Gift of Family Students explore skills and knowledge for family living, both now and for the future. As the students study this first theme, they learn to respect the family, its sacramental foundations, and its mission of teaching and transmitting values.

2. God's Gift of Self Students begin to understand their own physical, emotional, and spiritual development, as well as that of others. Self-insight, honesty, and a sincere appreciation of one's strengths and weaknesses are important qualities of maturity. They lead to self-esteem—one of the most valuable tools young people can have for dealing with negative peer pressure and false values.

3. God's Gift of Life Students begin to appreciate the sacredness of life and their own potential for love, service and selflessness.

4. God's Gift of Love Students need to develop a gradual, open and wholesome understanding of sexuality and its place in Catholic Life. As they explore this theme, they can begin to understand, according to their needs and capabilities, that sexuality is intimately bound up with the power of love and life, with strength and service, with compassion and discipline. The development of healthy habits and moral values is necessary preparation for the roles that many of them will play as marriage partners and parents.

5. God's Gift of Community An understanding of how people live with and relate to other people is essential to both family living and personal growth. Young people will learn about the need to relate to others outside the family with compassion and justice and to acquire the necessary skills to take their responsible place in society.

There is a student book for each grade level. Every level teaches the same program themes, but the content will vary according to developmental readiness. Accompanying each student book is a *Parent Connection* which is designed to support parents in their role of handing on faith and values. Parent involvement is critical to the success of the program. The parent book summarizes each unit in the student book, provides other helpful information and suggestions for activities to relate the lesson content to family life. Included with the grade 5 and 6 packet are the books on human reproduction. Level A (grade 5) includes graphics of the reproductive organs, explains sexual intercourse and fertilization and explains human sexuality as properly expressed within Catholic morality. Level B (grade 6) reviews the material covered in part A and explains about pregnancy and childbirth.

(The books on human reproduction will be sent home in sealed envelopes, not to be opened by students. We will not be teaching human reproduction in our program.)

Student Information #2

Student's Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade in 2021-2022 _____

Where did your child last attend Religious Education Classes? _____ For what grades? _____

Does your child have any medical issues we should know about? _____

Sacramental Information (If your child was not baptized at OLQP please supply a copy of his/her Baptismal Certificate with this registration)

Date of Baptism _____ Church of Baptism _____

City & State _____

Date of First Eucharist _____ Church _____

City & State if not Baltimore _____

Date of First Reconciliation _____ Church _____

City & State if not Baltimore _____

By registering my child in the Religious Education Program at Our Lady Queen of Peace, I understand that:

- My family must be registered at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.
- Completion of this form does not register my child for any Sacramental Preparation. (First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation registration info will be available by October 3.)
- If financial assistance is needed I will contact the Religious Education office so that a payment plan can be arranged.
- As an integral part of our faith formation curriculum, we will be teaching Catechesis for Family Life. This program about Christian living, chastity, character formation, and safe environment training promotes communication between you and your child. You are encouraged to review the program materials that will be used in the classroom, as well as the materials you will receive for home discussion. If you have any questions or concerns about your child participating in this program, please contact the Directors of Religious Education.
- I have read and understand the Archdiocese of Baltimore's letter about immunizations that was included in the registration packet.
- ***I have read the Guidelines for opening Religious Education and the Drop-off and pick-up procedures that was included in the registration packet.***

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Fee Schedule:

Religious Education: One child \$75.00; Two children \$110.00; Three or more children \$145.00

Amount Paid \$ _____ Date Rec'd. _____ Check #/cash _____ Rec'd. by _____