

Our Lady of Peace Religious Education Parent Guidebook 2023-2024

Religious Education Office - 856-629-0614

reled@olopp.org

32 Carroll Avenue Williamstown, NJ 08094

Welcome Parents

Welcome to a new year for you and your children in our religious education program. We look forward to working with you to give them the best catechetical education possible. Our dedicated staff of catechists will give your children the tools they need to develop and grow in their Catholic faith.

We hope that each week, you have a discussion with your children about their religious education classes. And be their best example on how to live the Catholic life by availing them of frequent reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Mass. After all, you are their greatest teachers.

Please let our office know if you need our assistance in any way and have a blessed year.

Jane D'Ambrosio, Coordinator of Religious Education

Mission Statement

The Religious Education program at Our Lady of Peace Parish is devoted to the teachings of God's Word and that of the Universal Church placing itself under the protection of our Blessed Mother. It shares with parents and guardians of our children the values of living a God centered life by preparing them in receiving the Sacraments with complete respect, reverence and love for our Lord. We help our children to recognize the importance of developing a close relationship with Jesus through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the true meaning of sharing this love with all of God's people.

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This Guidebook is written for the Parish students enrolled in a public education school program and their parents/guardians. You will receive notice of any changes to the content of this Parent Guidebook, as well as other information pertaining to our Religious Education through e-mail. Changes to this Guidebook may occur at any time.

Program Registration

Family registration in a Catholic Parish is needed before a student's religious education registration can be processed. All children must register annually. A Baptismal Certificate is required for first time registrations unless baptized at OLOPP or previously submitted. A copy of the original certificate received at the time of baptism is acceptable. If this is not available, a copy from the church where the child was baptized needs to be received.

Any allergies, medical issues, or special needs must be listed on the registration form at the time of registration. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence possible.

Family Information

Current contact information with the parish for all family members is necessary. Please contact the parish offices ASAP with any changes of contact persons, residences, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and emergency contact information. Our office uses e-mail as the primary tool for communicating. Children will be placed in the grade that they are enrolled regular school, unless there has been gap in their religious

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instruction. If a circumstance should arise in which a student must be changed from one class to another, a written request by the parent/guardian must be sent to the Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE).

Session Schedule

The Religious Education school year begins in September and closes in May. Classes will meet once a week for a 75 minute session. Class Sessions are assigned after registration is submitted on a first-come basis. Preferences will be granted as seats remain available.

Religious Education sessions are:

Grades 1-8

Monday 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Thursday 5:15 PM – 6:30 PM.

Home Study – Grades 3-6 only

If you need to make other arrangements, you will need to make an appointment to speak to someone in the Religious Education Office. Please contact at 856-629-0614 or reled@olopp.org

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Tuition is *due at the time of registration*

One child: \$150

Two children: \$200, for both.

Three children or more: \$250.

Home study tuition is \$35 to cover the cost of the textbook.

(Must be approved prior to acceptance into program)

If your child is entering 8th grade, there is a Confirmation Robe Fee of \$17

Checks must be made out to "Our Lady of Peace Parish".

**Parents who are experiencing severe financial issues are advised to arrange a payment schedule by contacting the Religious Education office by email: reled@olopp.org . An inability to pay should not be a reason for a child to miss Religious Education.*

Attendance

Parents are strongly encouraged to have their student attend every scheduled class during the year. Absences should be reported to the student's catechist via email noting the nature of the absence. **Four absences** will affect readiness for the Sacraments and/or advancement to the next grade. Parents are expected to review the information discussed during the student's absence.

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Students in our Home Study program must submit weekly assignments to be marked as attending class. The above attendance rule also applies to home study students. Lessons and assignments will be posted to the Religious Education website under the Home Study tab.

Textbooks are provided for students in all grades and are required for every class. If for any reason a book is lost, destroyed or becomes unusable the student must purchase another copy of the book at the cost of \$35.00.

Student Behavior

While our catechists and other staff members are volunteers they deserve the same level of respect and good behavior as any would other teacher or authority figure. A disruptive student affects the entire class of students, abuses valuable time and lessens the ability to achieve the expectation and goal of teaching the faith of the Church.

The same code of conduct in the Monroe Township Public School system is expected to be followed by every student when engaged in religious education classes. It is the standard of behavior expected at all times when on the Parish campus, or when involved in any activities no matter of location. Violation of any point of the code will be remedied by disciplinary action.

- 1st offense: will have the catechist speak privately with the student.
- 2nd offense: the catechist will inform the CRE and we will contact the parent.

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· 3rd offense the CRE, catechist, parents and child will have a conference about the situation.

If the unacceptable behavior becomes chronic, the child will be dismissed from the Program with a forfeiture of tuition paid.

Closing Dates/Inclement Weather

The Religious Education program follows the calendar for the Monroe Township Public Schools. If the schools are closed for any reason (holiday, inclement weather), there are no classes.

For inclement weather, the information will be posted to the website (www.oloppreled.weebly.com) as soon as the decision is made. In addition, please listen to KYW 1060AM Radio.

Catechists and Volunteers

Our volunteer catechists are fellow parishioners who give their time for the desire to pass it on to the next generation. We ask that you support their efforts by reinforcing your children's cooperation, positive attitude and respect of our volunteer catechists and staff. Please introduce yourself to your catechist and stay in contact throughout the year.

Consider joining our staff. We ask you to consider joining our program as a classroom teacher, aide or hall monitor. Anyone interested is welcome to contact the Religious Education for further details at any time during the year 856-629-0614 or email reled@olopp.org

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If a volunteer has a student in our program, tuition for one student is credited to that account.

Sacramental Mandates

According to Canon Law and Diocesan Policy, sacraments are to be received at the parish where the family is officially and formally registered. Therefore, a family who has a child in a sacramental year and wants to have the sacraments received at Our Lady of Peace Parish must be registered in our parish. Permission to have sacraments received elsewhere must be obtained by the pastors of each parish, i.e., the parish of registration and the parish in which the family is requesting to receive the sacrament. Likewise, to attend an alternate Religious Education program, permission from both Pastors is required.

First Reconciliation (2nd Grade)

After Baptism, the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, i.e. Penance or Confession, is a prerequisite for receiving the other sacraments of full initiation of the Church. Parental attendance is required at the Parent 2ND grade meeting given for the reception of this sacrament.

First Holy Communion (2nd Grade)

The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life, as noted in the Catechism of the Church. Parental attendance is required at the Parent 2nd grade meeting given for the reception of this sacrament. Weekly Mass participation aids the Religious Education process for all of these major

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events in their faith journey. Information about Reconciliation and Holy Communion and the requirements will be posted to the religious education website under the 2nd Grade Sacramental Tab.

Confirmation (8th Grade)

The reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation only completes full initiation into the Church, but not an end to the student's faith journey. Parental attendance is required at the Parent 8th grade meeting given for the reception of this sacrament. Weekly Mass participation aids the Religious Education process for all of these major events in their faith journey. Information about Confirmation and the requirements will be posted to the religious education website under the 8th Grade Sacramental Tab.

Our Lady of Peace Parish Mass and Confession Schedule

Mass Schedule

Saturday -4:00 pm

Sunday– 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am and 6:00pm

Thursday 6:30pm

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil – 7PM (day before the Holy Day)

6:45 and 8am and 7pm – Actual Holy Day

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Reconciliation/Penance

Saturday 8:30 am – 9:30 am and 3:00PM – 3:45pm

Thursday 6:00-6:30pm or by appointment

If there are any other questions or concerns please contact the following:

Coordinator of Religious Education – Jane D’Ambrosio

jdambrosio@olopp.org

856-629-6142 Ext 132

Administrative Assistant – Clare Lafferty

clafferty@olopp.org

856-629-0614

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