



ST. MARY'S PARISH

Religious Education 2024-2025

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 - MAY 17, 2025



**“The greatest inheritance you can give to your children is the faith”
Pope Francis**

Families Handbook

Parents' Involvement



Parents should responsibly and actively assume the mission entrusted by God, which they accepted before the Church the day of their child's baptism: "the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor." (Rite of Children Baptism)

As the first educators in the faith of their children parents must have an active role in the Religious Education program. That implies, but is not limited to:

- ◆ *Participate in Sunday Mass and the special Eucharists for Religious Education to live together the center of your faith: the Holy Eucharist. "Faith grows when it is transmitted."*
- ◆ *Participate in the monthly meetings for parents and attend at least one of the parents' retreats offered during the year.*
- ◆ *Work with your child helping him/her to memorize the prayers as assigned according to the child's formation level.*
- ◆ *Ensure your child is on time for the weekly encounters of Religious Education and brings his/her book and folder to catechesis every week.*

Religious Education Schedule:

Monday ➡ 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Wednesday ➡ 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Saturday ➡ 9:00 am-10:30 am and 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Parents' Meeting and Retreats

Monday Students

Monday, October 21, 2024—6:00 pm
Monday, November 18, 2024—6:00 pm
Monday, January 13, 2025—6:00 pm
Monday, March 17, 2025—6:00 pm
Monday, April 21, 2025-6:00 pm

First Communion year 2

Thursday, October 10, 2024—7:00 pm
Thursday, November 14, 2024—7:00 pm
Thursday, January 9, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, February 6, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, March 6, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, April 10, 2025—7:00 pm

Meetings held in English

Thursday, October 24, 2024—7:00 pm
Thursday, November 21, 2024—7:00 pm
Thursday, January 16, 2025—7:00 pm
February 22, 2025 (3-6PM RETREAT)
Thursday, March 20, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, April 24, 2025—7:00 pm

***Parents' Retreats:**

October 19, from 3-6 pm (Spanish)
January 25, from 3-6 pm (Spanish)
Feb 22, from 3-6 pm (English)

Saturday 9:00 am Students

Saturday, October 19, 2024—9:00 am
Saturday, November 16, 2024—9:00 am
Saturday, January 25, 2025—9:00 am
Saturday, February 22, 2025—9:00 am
Saturday, April 26, 2025—9:00 am

Confirmation year 2

Thursday, October 24, 2024—7:00 pm
Thursday, November 21, 2024—7:00 pm
Thursday, January 16, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, February 27, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, March 20, 2025—7:00 pm
Thursday, April 24, 2025—7:00 pm

Unbaptized children

Thursday, October 10, 2024—6:00 pm
Thursday, November 7, 2024—6:00 pm
Thursday, January 9, 2025—6:00 pm
Thursday, February 6, 2025—6:00 pm
Thursday, April 10, 2025 —6:00 pm

Meeting place:

- * All parents' meetings will be in the Church
- * Meetings in English will be in St. Francis Hall
- * Unbaptized children in the parish office.
- *Parent's' retreats in the school building

St. Mary's Parish Religious Education Calendar 2024-2025

Calendario de Educación Religiosa en la Iglesia St. Mary's 2024-2025

SEPTEMBER 2024						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	RE	17	RE	19	20	RE
22	RE	24	RE	26	27	RE
29	RE					

OCTOBER 2024						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
6	RE	1	RE	3	4	RE
13	NO	8	RE	10	11	NO
20	RE	15	NO	17	18	RE
27	RE	22	RE	24	25	RE
		29	RE	31		

NOVEMBER 2024						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
3	RE	5	RE	7	1	RE
10	RE	12	RE	14	8	RE
17	RE	19	RE	21	15	RE
24	NO	26	NO	28	22	RE
					29	NO

DECEMBER 2024						
1	RE	3	RE	5	6	RE
8	RE	10	RE	12	13	RE
15	NO	17	NO	19	20	NO
22	NO	24	NO	26	27	NO
29	NO	31				

JANUARY 2025						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
5	RE	7	NO	2	3	NO
12	RE	14	RE	9	10	RE
19	NO	21	NO	16	17	NO
26	RE	28	RE	23	24	RE
				30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
2	RE	4	RE	6	7	RE
9	RE	11	RE	13	14	NO
16	NO	18	NO	20	21	RE
23	RE	25	RE	27	28	

MARCH 2025						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
2	RE	4	RE	6	7	RE
9	RE	11	RE	13	14	RE
16	RE	18	RE	20	21	RE
23	RE	25	RE	27	28	RE
30	NO					

APRIL 2025						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
6	RE	1	NO	3	4	NO
13	NO	8	RE	10	11	RE
20	NO	15	NO	17	18	NO
27	RE	22	RE	24	25	RE
		29	RE			

MAY 2025						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
4	RE	6	RE	8	9	RE
11	RE	13	RE	15	16	RE
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- FIRST DAY OF CLASS
- * SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
- LAST DAY OF CLASS
- * MAY 17, 2025

- 2024 HOLIDAYS-NO CLASSES**
- OCTOBER 12-16 (COLUMBUS DAY)
 - NOVEMBER 25-30 (THANKSGIVING)
 - DECEMBER 16-JAN 4 (CHRISTMAS BREAK)

- 2025 HOLIDAYS-NO CLASSES**
- JAN 18-22 (MARTIN LUTHER KING)
 - FEB 15-19 (PRESIDENTS' DAY)
 - MARCH 31-APRIL 5 (SPRING BREAK)
 - APRIL 14-21 (HOLY WEEK)

First Communion Requirements

- ◆ If your child was baptized in a parish different to St. Mary's in West Chicago, you should bring a copy of his/her baptismal certificate at the time of registration.
- ◆ If your child is 7 years old or older and has not been baptized, he/she will be prepared to receive the sacrament of Baptism.
- ◆ There will be two retreat during the 2nd year of preparation for First Eucharist: the first one will focus on the sacrament of reconciliation and will be done before children celebrate their First Confession. The second one will be centered in the sacrament of the Eucharist and will be done during the spring. Both retreats are mandatory.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREATS

SATURDAY-NOV 23, 2024 3-6PM

SATURDAY-MAY 10, 2025 3-7PM

Confirmation requirements

- ◆ Confirmation candidates attend and actively participate in class sessions showing respect for catechist and classmates at all times.
- ◆ Candidates should complete a minimum of 15 service hours as a way of responding to Jesus' call to serve those in greater need. Students will keep a service hours sheet and turn it in promptly by the end of February .
- ◆ Candidates should participate in one of the ministries at the parish community as a mean for youth to grow in the sense of belonging to the body of Christ.
- ◆ A copy of the baptismal certificate should be provided to the parish office at the moment of registration as well as a copy of First Communion certificate.
- ◆ Confirmation candidates must attend and actively participate in the two mandatory retreats that are part of this formation process.
- ◆ Candidates should choose a sponsor who is a practicing catholic, a role model of faith, at least 16 years old. The sponsor should had completed Catholic initiation (has received Baptism, Communion, and confirmation), if not single should be married in the Catholic Church, and is a person different from the candidate parents who will accompany and support him/she during the preparation journey to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The sponsor will complete his/her Certificate of Eligibility and return it to the parish office before classes begin in September. In addition the candidate will write a report explaining why he/she chose that person as sponsor.

- ◆ Confirmation candidates should come freely and willingly to receive the sacrament. If after the proper preparation they don't desire to receive the confirmation and renew their baptismal promises, candidates cannot come forced to the sacrament.

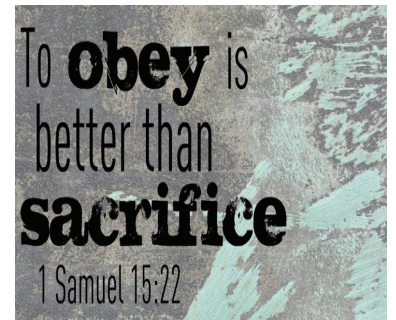
CONFIRMATION RETREATS

SATURDAY-NOV 9, 2024 2:30-6PM

SATURDAY-MAY 17, 2025 3-7PM

Behavior Expectations and Discipline

Rules



We are very thankful to God for allowing us to partner with you and your family in the faith formation of your children. We want to make the best use of our talents, time, efforts, and resources to respond to the call of God to transmit the faith to the next generation of Catholics. The effort you make to bring your children to our Religious Education program is deeply valued as well as the time of all our catechists and volunteers, without whom it would be almost impossible to complete our mission of catechization and evangelization.

To guarantee a more effective development of the formation process of our children and youth we have seen the need to state our discipline policies and procedures in a more clear and specific way.

Discipline Procedure

As a way to value the out time together and the faith formation process we expect that all children and youth will at all time show respect for their catechists and peers as well as for all volunteers who are part of our program. An act of disrespect may be, but is not limited to: not paying attention, talking while the catechist is trying to lead an activity, using obscene language, physical violence, theft or acts of vandalism, etc.

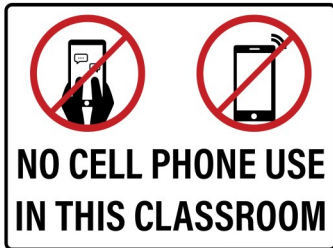
If a child or youth fails to follow this basic rule of respect, the following procedure will take place:

- ♦ Two verbal warnings by the catechist.
- ♦ If for a third time the student repeats the inappropriate behavior he/she will be sent to talk with the Religious Education director who will determine if and when the student should go back to the classroom. Parents will be notified of the incident.
- ♦ If after dialogue with the director the misbehavior continues, parents will be called to a conference with the director.
- ♦ If problems continue, a final meeting will be held with the parents, DRE, and our pastor Fr. David.



Electronics

Students **are not allowed** to bring radios, electronic games or toys of any kind to class including iPods. These items will be taken from students and returned after classes have ended. **Cell phones should not be brought to class.** If your child must bring a phone to class, it must be turned off during class time. If a student has a phone in class and it is used for text messaging or it rings, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of class. Emergency phone calls during class time must be made to or from the parish office only.



Dress Code

Students are expected to dress appropriately when attending religious education classes. Clothing that is too short or too tight and underwear that is clearly visible is considered inappropriate. Dress is casual; however, be mindful of where we are. No tank tops or half shirt, no t-shirts advertising drugs, alcohol or cigarette products, or those displaying profanity, offensive or suggestive words will not be allowed. Absolutely no baseball caps may be worn to class. No Heelys or sneaker skates are allowed on the premises. **If your child doesn't comply with the dress code, parents will receive a call to conversate about it.**

Harassment–Bullying

We are committed to offer an environment of respect for the dignity of each person created in the image and likeness of God. If student behavior consists of acts of violence, threats, harassment and bullying, it should be reported to the catechist and director and all reports will be taken seriously. Every effort shall be made to provide for both the person being mistreated and those alleged to be mistreating someone. The director shall take great care to investigate such alleged behavior. The director, along with the pastor, retains the decision-making for the resolution of this type of inappropriate behavior.

Weapons and substance abuse

Any student found with an offensive weapon will be asked to leave the Religious Education Program. Law enforcement authorities will be notified. Items that simulate a firearm lethal weapon will be perceived as a threat to the student or other's safety and well being. Parents will be notified immediately. Transgression of this rule may result in dismissal from Faith Formation Program.

- ♦ The use or possession of illegal drugs or illegal mood altering substances, alcoholic beverage, drug-related paraphernalia, or the abuse of prescription or over the counter drugs by any student on parish property or while attending or participating in any religious education program sponsored activity is forbidden. Transgression of this rule may result in dismissal from the Faith Formation Program.



Attendance Policy

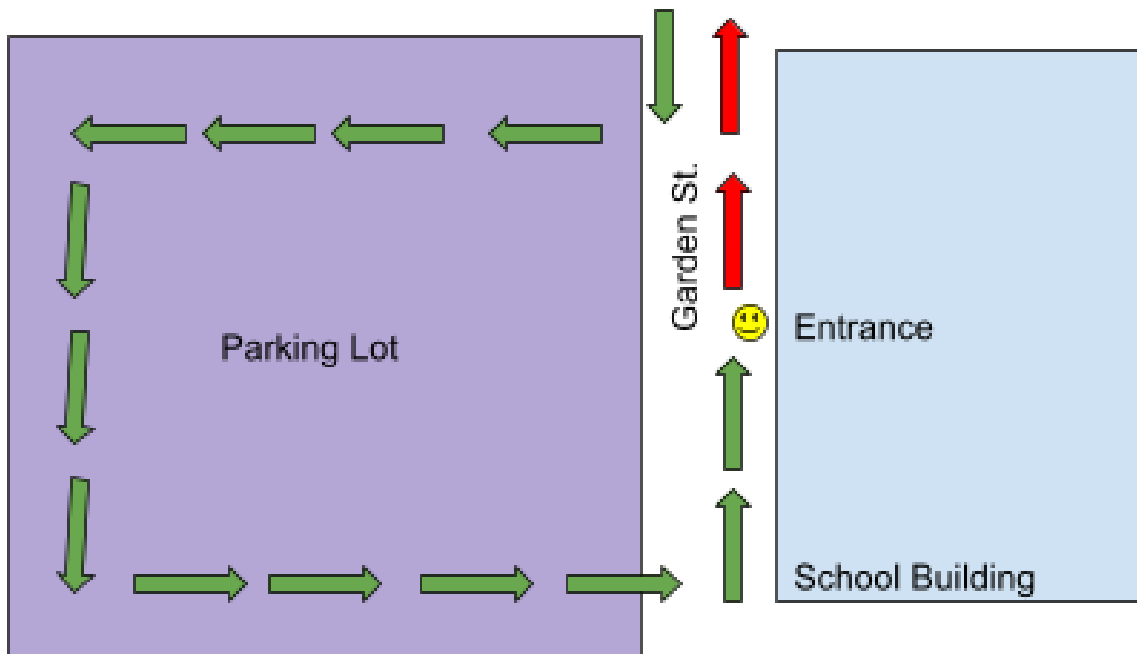
Please call the Religious Education office in case your child cannot come to one of our weekly meetings. Each child can have a maximum of 2 unexcused absences during the Religious Education year. Parents will be contacted if children are not present without a excuse. If the absences are frequent the child may have to course the year again in order to complete the required amount of time as preparation for the Sacraments.

For absence please call the office of Religious Education

at 630-231-0013 ext 227

Drop off and pick up procedure

Children Drop off: To maintain order and as a way to assure your safety and that of your children, we ask you to follow the traffic pattern in the above diagram when dropping off your children for Religious Education. Cars will make a line on the parking lot on Garden St. in the order of their arrival. Children should be dropped off at the main entrance of the school building, not on the streets or any other place around the school.



Children pick up: to pick up your children we ask you please wait for them in the parking lot in front of the school building. Please visit our parish campus to become familiar with the location where you should wait for your children . Please do not wait for your children parking on the street or a nearby place. Take in account all these procedures are to ensure the safety all our students.

The security of our Kids is the
Responsibility of All!

Communication with families:

Communication is essential in working together for the faith formation of our children. We ask you, please check the parish bulletin and listen to the pulpit announcements after Sunday Masses for reminders about Religious Education activities. Please check your child's folder and ask him/her about any note sent home.

Remember we are here to collaborate with you in the faith formation of your children. If you have any question, please contact our Religious Education office:

Telephone: 630-231-0013 Ext. 227

Email: religious.education@stmarywc.org

For more information visit our website: stmarywc.org/religious-education/

Thanks for been faithful to your promises and passing on the treasure of the Catholic faith to your children.

May God continue to bless you and your family throughout this journey.

United in prayer.



St. Mary Catholic Church

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF LOVE STRONGER THAN
DEATH

