

*Queen of Heaven
Parish School of
Religion*

2018 – 2019



Parent Handbook & Calendar

www.queenofheavenparish.org

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Table of Contents

	Page(s)
Core Content	3 - 4
Protecting God's Children	4
Catechists	5
Volunteers	5
Materials	5
Special Needs or Concerns	5
Delivery and Pick-up	6
Attendance	6
Weekend Mass Attendance	6
Discipline	6
Dress Code	7
Weapons	7
Cell Phones and Electronic Devices	7
Communications	7-8
First Reconciliation & First Communion	8
Important Contacts	8
Contact the Office	8
Class Time	8-9
Prayers	9-10
Emergency Closings	10

Welcome to the Queen of Heaven Parish School of religion. Our program offers solid Catholic teachings designed to assist you in the formation of active, loving Catholic Christians.

Our program reflects the following principles:

- *We view the family as the first community of faith.*
- *We know that in our parish there is a wide range of family forms—single-parent, blended, and two-parent families.*
- *We believe parents are the primary religious educators of their children.*
- *We identify ourselves as partners with you. One hour a week cannot compare in terms of influence to the thousands of hours a child spends with family and friends.*

In light of this, we ask you to make the following commitment:

AS WE ENROLL OUR CHILDREN IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM, WE PLEDGE AS PARENTS TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR GROWTH AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS IN TODAY’S WORLD BY:

- *SURROUNDING THEM WITH CHRISTIAN VALUES, LOVE, AND FORGIVENESS.*
- *PRAYING TOGETHER AT HOME AND WORSHIPPING TOGETHER WITH THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN PARISH FAMILY DURING OUR WEEKEND LITURGIES.*
- *LISTENING AND DISCUSSING WITH THEM WHAT HAPPENED DURING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES.*
- *PARTICIPATING IN THE FAMILY AND PARENT ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM AND OUR PARISH.*

Core Content

Each grade level, in an age-appropriate way, focuses on the following content areas:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE – Students become familiar with the Bible and its importance to us, especially as it leads us to encounter Jesus Christ as the full revelation of God’s love and mercy.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? – Students learn that Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity; that he is fully God and fully human, and that he calls us to holiness as his disciples.

THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST (THE PASCHAL MYSTERY) – Students learn all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Students learn that for all eternity God has planned for us to share eternal life with him and that this is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us.

JESUS CHRIST’S MISSION CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH – Students are helped to understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. The students come to know that the Church - sacred in its nature - is the living Body of Christ today.

SACRAMENTS AS PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST – Students are helped to understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist.

LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST – Students learn that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God’s plan for their lives. Students learn the moral implications of the life of a disciple.

You, as parents are crucial to the passing on of our faith to your children. We will help and support you. Together we can surround the children of our parish with a community whose faith is alive and active.

Please feel free to join your child in class any time. The children will see by your example, your loving support and dedication, which will give them a positive respect for learning about God and our faith.

This is a volunteer program. Our religious education teachers (catechists) are all volunteers. Your cooperation when asked to assist in some way is critical to make this program work. Parents help by bringing in snacks, helping to chaperone, and taking turns assisting in the classroom. We will let you know how you can help.

Protecting God’s Children

Each diocese in the United States is required by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide some training to children in parish religious education programs in regard to self-protection from sexual exploitation. The Diocese of Cleveland (along with many others) uses the Praesidium Program for this purpose. These sessions are led by adults (including the PCL here) trained in working with children in this area.

This school year, one 60 minute or three separate 20 minute sessions will be provided to students in **grades 2, 4, 6, and 8** as part of their normal classroom time.

Please be in touch with the Parish Catechetical Leader (Steve Dyer) if you are interested in reviewing the materials or have any questions about the presentations.

All students in the grades identified above will participate in the sessions unless you specifically notify the PCL in **WRITING**, or via **EMAIL** that you do not wish your children to participate. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IF YOU CHOOSE TO OPT OUT OF THESE SESSIONS TO COMMUNICATE THIS DECISION TO THE PCL.** *In the absence of this WRITTEN communication from you – expressing your wish that your child be excluded, your child will participate along with the others.*

Catechists

Catechists are people who have made a commitment to share their faith, time and love of the Catholic Church with the young people in our parish. They are asked to attend training meetings and special workshops that help to prepare them for this important ministry. To ensure the safety of your children, background checks and VIRTUS training are required for all adult volunteers.

Volunteers

As noted earlier, the Parish School of Religion is a cooperative program between volunteer catechists and parents. Please expect during the year to be asked to help with various activities inside and outside the classroom.



Materials

Each student is provided with a textbook and other supplemental material necessary to complete the learning objectives for the year. Most often these books are kept in the classroom. Textbooks (if sent home) should be brought to each class. Often the children will be taking home papers and other materials related to the classroom. Please be on the lookout for them – sometimes they contain important information for parents.

Please try to engage your child (children) in conversations about what they are learning. Our program uses the ***CHRIST OUR LIFE*** series published by Loyola Press. Many resources related to your child's religious education are available to you on their website. It can be accessed at: <http://www.loyolapress.com/christ-our-life-religion-program.htm> Religious education works best when the students know that their parent(s) or guardians are interested in what they are learning. Feel free to call us if you have any questions about your child's instruction.

Special Needs or Concerns

Please share with the Coordinator or catechist any information about your child/children that you feel will be helpful in making the experience a positive one for them. Information will be treated sensitively and respectfully.

Delivery and Pick-Up

We ask that you make every effort to have your child(ren) arrive on time for the start of class. Classes will start promptly at the given times. Also, please make every effort to pick them up immediately when class is over (this gives the teachers time to clean things up and prepare themselves for the 11:00 a.m. Mass). **PLEASE**



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN PREK THROUGH GRADE 5: For important safety reasons, you are required to personally escort your children to and from class. Please park your vehicle in a

EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION WITH YOUR VEHICLE IN BOTH ENTERING AND LEAVING THE PREMISES.

Attendance

We understand that it will not always be easy getting your child to class. Sometimes children are tired and don't want to attend. Sometimes there are activities that compete for your child's interest. Sometimes parents, as well, have other things that they could do or must do. Sometimes your schedule or that of your child is beyond your control. These can be difficult circumstances.

Please do your best to get your child (children) to class. Your child's regular attendance is important if he/she is to be able to participate fully in the process and receive the benefits of what is being offered. If your child must be absent, please communicate with his/her catechist on how to best cover the missed material.

Weekend Mass Attendance

ATTENDANCE AT PSR CLASSES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR ATTENDING MASS ON THE WEEKEND. All Catholics have an obligation to attend weekend Mass (except in certain serious circumstances). It makes little sense to educate children in our faith without giving them access to the central expression of that faith: the Mass.

Discipline

Classroom learning occurs best when all are well-behaved and attentive to the lesson. All catechists and students are entitled to work and study in parish-related environments that are Christ-like and free of harassment. Queen of Heaven Parish will not tolerate harassment of any type. If harassment occurs, the appropriate disciplinary action may include suspension or expulsion.

Examples of harassment include, but are not limited to, verbal or written taunting; bullying; other offensive, intimidating or hostile conduct; jokes, stories, pictures, cartoons, drawings or objects which are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse or demean an individual or group. (p.125, Administrative Handbook for Parish Catechetical Leaders)

We will attempt to influence any troublesome situation that may arise in the classroom first by positively reinforcing appropriate behavior. We will let you know if problems persist. Your supportive cooperation is appreciated.

Dress Code

Students are expected to be neat in appearance, clean, and dressed modestly. Sometimes the students participate in activities, so please make sure that their footwear is safe for these activities (e.g. no “skate” shoes).

Weapons

Students, staff and visitors are prohibited from possessing, storing, making or using a weapon in any setting that is on the property of Queen of Heaven Church.

The term “weapon” means any object which - in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented - is capable of, inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns, (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

Anyone who has reason to believe that a person has a weapon on church property, or intends to violate this guideline, must report such information to the Pastor, Parochial Vicar, PCL, PSR Coordinator, or catechist immediately. Police will be notified.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Use of cell phones and all personal electronic devices is prohibited during class time. All such devices must be turned off and kept out of sight while in the classroom.

Communications

From time-to-time your child may be given papers with important papers to take home. Please ask them each week if they have anything for you.

The **CHURCH BULLETIN** is used to communicate program activities. Please check the bulletin each week for important updates.

EMAIL is the most frequently used means of communicating important information. It is very important: 1) that we have a workable email address for you (or someone who can accept email for you, 2) that you check your email, and 3) that you inform the PSR Office of any changes to your email address.



Emergency Closings

Please see the last page of the Parent Handbook for emergency closing information.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Traditionally, students celebrate First Reconciliation and First Communion in the second grade. The children in our PSR second grade will begin preparation for their First Reconciliation and First Communion during class.

Please note the dates and times for the various parent/child activities related to this on the schedule.

Children and young adults in the parish who are beyond the second grade (or otherwise have special needs) and would like to celebrate the sacraments have the opportunity to do so. Please contact the PARISH CATECHETICAL LEADER for more information.



Important Contacts

Parish Catechetical Leader

Steve Dyer
steved@queenofheavenparish.org

Coordinator: Preschool—8th Grade

Donna White
Psr@queenofheavenparish.org



To Contact the Office

HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

PHONE: 330.896.2345, **FAX:** 330.896.8882

PARISH WEBSITE: <http://www.queenofheavenparish.org>

Class Time

Pre-K through 8th grade: Sunday, 9:30 AM - 10:40 AM

Upper Room/Youth Ministry 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

PRAYERS

We are privileged to join with you in encouraging your children to pray regularly. Some prayers that the children will be learning are



listed below. Please say these prayers with your children. (All of them can be easily located online.)

Preschool

The Sign of the Cross

Morning Prayer

Thank you, thank you, God of light, I know you love me day and night.
You watch me run and dance and play. I thank you for my life today. AMEN.

Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. Let angels watch
me through the night until I wake in morning's light. AMEN.

Kindergarten

Guardian Angel Prayer

Grace before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these, your gifts, which we are about to receive from your
bounty, through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Prayer after Meals

We give you thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits. You live and reign now
and forever. AMEN.

1st Grade

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father



2nd grade

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. AMEN.

3rd grade

Hail Holy Queen

Apostles Creed

Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of your mercy.

4th grade

Nicene Creed

5th grade

St. Michael Prayer

The Memorare

Emergency Closing

In case of a weather-related or other unexpected cancellation of classes, we will make every attempt to inform you via ***EMAIL***.