

Saint Genevieve

Religious Education Handbook

2017-2018



Religious Education Office
St. Genevieve Parish
1225 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, PA 19031
PREP@stgensparish.com
215-233-8934



Saint Genevieve
Religious Education Handbook
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Saint Genevieve

Religious Education Handbook

This handbook is designed to serve as a guide for parents/guardians, catechists, and students in St. Genevieve's Religious Education Program. The contents of this Handbook may be updated with policy changes throughout the year in order to provide the best formation environment for your family. Should a change occur you will be notified by email.

THE MISSION AND GOALS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

ST. GENEVIEVE'S PREP MISSION

Our Program encourages students to deepen their **knowledge** of the Catholic Faith, its heritage and traditions; to participate more consciously and fully in the **liturgical life** of the Church; to grow in understanding the attitudes and values of Jesus Christ as found in the Sacred Scriptures which lay the foundation for **moral** decision making; to become people who know their prayers as well as people of **prayer**; to grow in understanding the privileges and responsibilities of belonging to a faith **community**; and, to have a fuller understanding of the **missionary** nature of the Church that is rooted in our Baptism. It is our hope that this Program, strengthened by parental involvement, regular prayer at home as well as study, participation at weekly Mass and in the sacraments, will bring children to a deeper love of God and others and a more generous service of God and others.

We recognize the role of parents as primary religious educators and have organized our Program as an aid and supplement to the faith formation, religious instruction, and practice of the faith received in the home. Through an understanding of the tasks of catechesis, the use of the Archdiocesan Religion Guidelines and basic religion texts, each catechist strives to nurture the student's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social abilities in an effort to bring the child to a personal, lived relationship with God.

ST. GENEVIEVE'S PREP GOALS

Our goals center around the **six** areas that are found in the **tasks of catechesis** listed in the General Directory for Catechesis (1997) and discussed in our Mission Statement.

1. **Promoting Knowledge of the Faith:** Each level will concentrate on the content for their specific level as found in the Archdiocesan Religion Guidelines.
2. **Liturgical Life:** With their individual classes each grade level will spend time in Church becoming familiar with the sacraments and their relationship to life and the Liturgy.
3. **Moral Decision Making:** For all grade levels the curriculum focuses on Jesus' life as found in Sacred Scripture which is the foundation for our moral decision making.
4. **Teaching to Pray:** Special emphasis on prayer each week will afford the children that time to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. **Belonging to a Faith Community:** The children will go to Mass as a group at the beginning and end of the school year. They will gather as one during Advent and Lent to celebrate together the gifts of each season.
6. **Missionary Attitudes – Learning to Serve:** Throughout the year the children will be given opportunities to do acts of kindness serving others which, in the end, is God's call for us.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Kevin T. Mulligan	Pastor	215.836.2828
Deacon Michael Conroy	Pastoral Services	215.836.7219
Sr. Theresa Maugle, SSJ	School Principal	215.836.5644
Mrs. Andrea Guckin	Parish Administrative Assistant	215.836.2828
	Rectory@stgensparish.com	
Mrs. Christine Beisel	Safe Environment Coordinator	215.836.2828
	Chris@stgensparish.com	
Mrs. Joan Dierkes	Coordinator of Religious Ed	215.233.8934
	PREP@stgensparish.com	

PREP REGISTRATION

PREP families must be registered as parishioners of St. Genevieve's. Under special circumstances families from other parishes may join our program but only with pastoral permission.

Important Dates:

- Re-registration begins July 1 and ends August 31.
 - The August 31 deadline enables us to recruit the needed catechists as well as order the necessary materials for the coming year.
- New registrations are accepted at any time. If registering your child for the first time the following is required:
 - A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate if not baptized at St. Genevieve's
 - Completed Registration Form
 - Fee for the year

Registration Forms:

BLANK FORMS:

- Copies are available on the parish website.
- Paper copies are available in the back of Church and at the Rectory.

COMPLETED FORMS:

- Can be mailed to the Rectory (St. Genevieve PREP, 1225 Bethlehem Pike, PA 19031)
- Can be dropped off at the Rectory at any time.
 - There is a mail slot in the Rectory's front door for non-business hour drop-off.

Registration Fees:

PREP PROGRAM FEE:

The Religious Education program fees for the year can be found on the PREP Registration Form.

- These fees help to cover some of the following expenses: students' textbooks, catechists' manuals, basic supplies, copy paper, photocopying, resource materials, catechist/assistant training, and other miscellaneous items during the year
- Families who need financial aid should contact the Coordinator of Religious Education.
- Children/Grandchildren of full time adult volunteers are tuition free.

SACRAMENT YEAR MATERIAL FEE:

There is a material fee for those students who will be receiving their First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion or their Confirmation.

- These fees help defray the cost of supplemental learning materials, retreats, and additional supplies required.
- **This fee is collected later in the year.**

SESSION DAYS AND TIMES

Each year a calendar of dates is given to parents and catechists at the start of the program. Meeting times are as follows:

- **Level 1- Level 6:**
 - Location: St. Genevieve School
 - Day: Tuesdays from mid-September to mid-May
 - Time: 6:15 PM to 7:35 PM

SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has any special needs, please notify the Coordinator at registration time. Every effort will be made to include your child and accommodate his/her needs.

HOME SCHOOLING

In keeping with the guidelines from the Archdiocesan Office, home schooling lies within the jurisdiction of the Pastor. The Coordinator of Religious Education facilitates this effort. Please contact the Coordinator if there is a decision to home school any child in Religious Education. **Parents of students in a Sacrament year are encouraged to send their children to classes due to the concentrated instruction and preparation for the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation/Eucharist and Confirmation.**

ADDITIONAL CHILD FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

In addition to PREP, St. Genevieve's offers the following programs:

- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS): Registration Required.**

Location: Delaney Hall

 - Session 1:
 - Age: 4 years old through Kindergarten
 - Time: 6:15 PM to 7:35 PM
 - Day: Tuesdays from October to mid-May
 - Session 2:
 - Age: 2 1/2 (by January 1 & Potty Trained) to 5 years old
 - Time: 9 AM to 10 AM
 - Day: Wednesdays from October through May
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLoW): NO Registration Required.**
 - Time: Held during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:15am Sunday Mass
 - Day: Sundays from September to May
- **Jr High Good Samaritans: Registration Required.**
 - Day: Two Sunday's per month from October through April
 - Objective: 1 In-House Service Project & 1 Family Service Project per Month.

PREP GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

To ensure the safety of all students, please observe the following plan when dropping off / picking up your children for class.

LEVEL 1 – LEVEL 6

ARRIVAL:

Drop off of children is done via a car-line:

- Enter the driveway behind the Rectory off Bethlehem Pike.
- Pull-up to the Main School Entrance which is across from the Parish Hall to drop off the children. An adult will be there to help children out of their cars.
- Exit onto West Wissahickon Avenue.

Please do not drop off any children before 6:05 PM. The catechists need to be in their rooms for appropriate supervision of your children.

Once class has started, all doors will be locked to ensure your child's safety. For this reason, it is important that your child is on time for class. If a parent wishes to escort their child into the building after classes have begun, they will be accompanied by the monitor. Parents/guardians may not remain in the hallways while classes are in session.

DISMISSAL:

Pick-up of children is done via two car-lines and one parent walk-up area as described below. The doors will open at 7:35 PM. The children will be brought out to the waiting car/parent.

- **CAR LINE SOUTH** - Bethlehem Pike South toward Chestnut Hill:
Parents should enter the driveway behind the rectory off Bethlehem Pike and line up in the two carlines to the right. Safety Cones will be there as a guide. You will be directed by our Traffic Flow Volunteers to pull up along the curb by the main Church entrance which is opposite the Rectory. Your child/ren will be brought out to your car.
- **CAR LINE NORTH** - Bethlehem Pike North toward Scoogis / Wissahickon Ave:
Parents should enter the driveway behind the rectory off Bethlehem Pike and line up in the carline to the far left. Safety Cones will be there as a guide. You will be directed by our Traffic Flow Volunteers to pull up along the curb by the same doors as drop-off. Your child will be standing inside the doors with an adult. Your child/ren will be brought out to your car.
- **"WISSAKICKON" WALK UPS** - Parents who walk to the door to get their children:
Parents may **NOT** park in St. Genevieve's parking lot. They **MUST** park in the street or in the banks' parking lots, etc. You will meet your child/ren at the school's Wissahickon Ave side door. Your child/ren will be standing inside the doors with an adult and will be brought out to you.

If a parent must come into the school building at the end of class to meet with a catechist, etc., please park your car and walk over to wait in the main Office. Your child will be dismissed after the main dismissal is complete.

EARLY DISMISSAL:

Since classes take place for only 80 minutes each week, time in the classroom is very short. Consequently we ask that students stay for the entire time unless it is an extreme emergency.

If for some reason a child MUST be dismissed early, the parent/guardian MUST send a hand written note to the teacher that will be used as verification that the child(ren) is leaving early. The note should contain the following information:

1. Child's name
2. Child's level
3. Time of pick-up
4. Name of adult coming for the child
5. Reason for early dismissal

If you have arranged to pick up your child before class has ended, please go to the Main Office Door, present ID, and sign your child out.

CGS SESSION 1

ARRIVAL:

Parents should park in front of the Rectory and walk their child into Delaney Hall where the catechists will greet them.

DISMISSAL:

Parents should once again park in front of the Rectory and walk to get their child from Delaney Hall:

- If there are siblings in L1-L6, they will be brought over to Delaney Hall at dismissal.
- Exit onto West Wissahickon Avenue.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance at classes is essential for any measure of success in a Religious Education Program. Weekly attendance enables your children to grow in the knowledge of the Faith, to develop a sense of belonging to the parish community, and to grow through regular prayer in their relationship with God.

If your child is going to be absent on a given Tuesday evening, please email the Coordinator of Religious Ed, in advance, to report the absence. It helps make a class go more smoothly when the catechist knows a child will be absent.

At the beginning of each class attendance is taken. The attendance rosters are then collected and your child's presence or absence is entered into the Religious Education database. Attendance records are an archdiocesan requirement and absences are recorded on each child's permanent record card.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Mandatory School Activities (ex: school concerts)
- Death in the Family.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- If a child has missed **three classes**, the parents will be notified.
- The parents and Coordinator of Religious Education may develop an educational plan to remedy excessive absences that may be affecting the child's readiness to move to the next level of religious instruction.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND PREP

Adequate and clear communication between home and PREP is essential for the success of our students. Parents are encouraged to call the Coordinator of Religious Education about any situation of concern. Generally, our primary means of communication will be via email.

- Emails will be sent to the family email addresses provided by each family on the PREP Registration form.
- **Please inform the PREP Office of any changes to your email addresses.**
- Email addresses along with family information is confidential and will not be distributed to parties outside of PREP/St. Genevieve Parish without permission.

BASIC COMMUNICATION:

- The PREP Office will send Weekly Family Updates with pertinent information and, on occasion, attached flyers that are deemed valuable to your family in lieu of paper copies in children's take home folders.
- Classroom catechists may email 'class news' to families as well. These emails will be sent via an email address used only for PREP. The subject line will begin with "PREP" as well as the class level.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS:

- Notification of cancellation of PREP will be sent to each family via email.
- If possible, the PREP Office will leave a voice mail message on the phone system regarding closings.
- If there is a snow or another type of emergency and Springfield Township Schools and/or St. Genevieve School is closed during the day on Tuesday, PREP classes will be cancelled.
 - **St. Genevieve's school number is 284.**
- You are to use your discretion if class has not been canceled and road conditions have deteriorated in your area.

DUAL PARENTING REPORTING

In cases where this applies, the names, addresses and email addresses of both parents should be given at registration time. Custodial information should be on file indicating to which parent the child should be released after class. Unless otherwise instructed, information commonly made available to parents of any of our PREP student will be made to both parents.

HOMEWORK

Parents are encouraged to ensure that homework is completed. Homework serves many purposes:

- It helps the student strengthen their knowledge and understanding of their faith.
- It brings PREP into the student's home routine.
- When parents actively participate in helping their child complete PREP homework it shows the child that the parents feel that what they are learning is important.

ASSESSMENTS AND REPORT CARDS

The Archdiocese requests assessments and evaluations.

ASSESSMENTS:

Assessments will reflect the knowledge of the Key Concepts taught to each level. The children will have a mid-year and a final assessment.

EVALUATIONS:

Evaluations are done via Report Cards that are distributed mid-year and at the end of the year.

- The report card will be sent home to the Parents/Guardians as indicated on the annual PREP calendar.
- It is asked that you sign and return the report card empty envelope to your child's catechist (teacher).
- Parents/Guardians may request an appointment to meet with the catechist (teacher) to discuss any problems the student may be having.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS:

Parents and family members are invited and encouraged to attend the Masses and Prayer Services. If you join us in church, once the celebration is over and the children are back in their classroom, you may go to the classrooms to gather your children and take them home.

OPENING AND CLOSING LITURGY:

At the beginning and end of each PREP year we gather as a community to celebrate the Mass. Parents and family members are invited and encouraged to attend these Masses.

- Class begins at 6:15pm as usual.
- The children go to Church at 6:25pm.
- Mass begins at 6:30pm.

PRAYER SERVICES:

Special prayer services are planned throughout the calendar year. The dates and times are on the annual calendar.

- Class begins at 6:15pm as usual.
- The children go to Church at 7pm.
- The Prayer Services end by 7:25pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

During the Season of Lent, our Level 3 through Level 6 students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students in St. Genevieve Religious Education Program are expected, at all times, to be **respectful, courteous, and honest** to the faculty, staff, and their fellow students.

IN THE CLASSROOM STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED...

- To arrive to class on time.
- To be prepared for class with their homework and supplies.
- To respect the property of the school and other students.
- To listen to the catechist (teacher) and follow directions.
- To show respect, through words and actions, to the catechist (teacher) and other students.
- To participate fully and appropriately in group activities.
- To stay in their seats – unless asked to do otherwise
- To cooperate with the catechist in order to maintain a Christian atmosphere of mutual respect.
- To ask “What would Jesus do?”

IF A STUDENT IS PROBLEMATIC IN CLASS

If a student fails to respond to a catechist’s request for appropriate behavior and is uncooperative on a specific night:

- The catechist (teacher) will contact the CRE to explain the situation.
- The student may be directed to a ‘time-out’ in the PREP Office or a call may be placed to the parent for early pick up.
 - If a ‘time-out’ is deemed necessary for a student, an assignment from their book is to accompany him/her.
- The CRE may notify the parents/guardians if applicable.
- The student will be asked to make up the missed class work and to improve their behavior upon returning to the classroom.
- The catechist will fill out an Incident Report.

IF A STUDENT DISPLAYS PERSISTENT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

If a student has been asked to leave the classroom on three different occasions:

- Parents/guardians may be contacted and a meeting may be set up with the student, the parents/guardians, the catechist and the CRE to develop a plan to help the child improve their behavior.
- If the behavior of the student does not improve, the parents/guardians will be notified and the student may be suspended from PREP for one week.
- If the behavior of the student does not improve after a suspension, the parents/guardians will be notified and the student may be asked to leave the program.

SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Archdiocese policy states that action may be imposed for serious misbehavior. The CRE, catechist (teacher), parent, and student will sign a written record of suspension. A student may be automatically suspended or dismissed for the following:

- Verbal and non-verbal disrespect for authority
- Vandalism or marking school property
- Using profane language and actions
- Absence without parent knowledge
- Leaving school or classroom without permission
- Stealing
- Smoking in the building or on school grounds
- Fighting, physically or verbally
- Carrying or using drugs, including alcoholic beverages
- Carrying weapons
- Other

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

The Archdiocese has established the Safe Environment Program. The mission of this Program is to oversee the training of and background checks for all Archdiocesan clergy, employees, and volunteers who have contact with children.

- All St. Genevieve's PREP volunteers over 18 years of age have already or will be attending special training sessions and have supplied the parish with background checks and all clearance forms to meet this mandate which is in compliance with Pennsylvania Law Act 153.

The Archdiocese also mandates that religious education and Catholic school students must receive instruction based on 'The Protection of God's Children: A Program for Students' during the course of every PREP year. St. Genevieve's follows the suggested lesson plans posted on the Archdiocesan Office for Catechetical Formation's webpage. This program will be taught in the Second Semester.

CRISIS RESPONSE PROCEDURES

This section is subject to review by city police and fire safety officials and may therefore be revised. Until such possible revisions are made the following will be put in place regarding Shelter-in-place and Lockdown Procedures.

FIRE DRILL / FIRE EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

The catechist will...

- instruct the children as to what they will do during a fire drill.
- direct the children to leave quickly and quietly when the bell rings without stopping to form lines.
- bring the Attendance Sheet with them when exiting the building.
- not take time to shut windows but should close the door after exiting.
- move the class away from the school building.
- lead children to their class's designated spot in the parking lot.
- keep children together quietly while accounting for all in attendance
- return to classroom when the 'all clear' signal is given.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

A shelter-in-place procedure may be implemented when a situation occurs that may be a hazard to health or is life threatening. It can be used when it is safer to keep the students inside the building rather than expose them to possible harm by allowing them to leave the building. Tornado warnings, hurricanes or release of hazardous materials may all trigger a shelter in place at schools securing the students while keeping the building open for entry only. Once the shelter-in-place is called the school should remain in that condition until the "All Clear" is given. A shelter-in-place may be called by emergency responders or weather agencies as well as the CRE with knowledge of immediate danger. Shelter-in-place and lockdown are **not** synonymous terms. While both contain the students and staff, a shelter-in-place will allow individuals into the building to seek safety.

PREP SHELTER-IN-PLACE PROCEDURE

1. To initiate shelter in place an announcement will be made via the loud speaker to seek shelter-in-place. (Office staff will call any students and volunteers indoors and ask visitors to stay.)
2. All students will sit in the hallway in front of their classroom next to an interior wall and will remain there until authorities deem it is safe to leave.
3. Steps will be taken to seal the exterior doors and hall doors. A land line will be available in the front office and there will be access to water and to bathrooms.
4. If children have cell phones they will be allowed to call a parent or guardian to let them know they have been asked to remain until further notice and that they are safe.

LOCKDOWN

'School' lockdown is the highest state of readiness that is activated when violence is occurring or is imminent in the area or any other situation deemed by the police or staff administrator to warrant a total lockdown of the school building.

WHO MAY ACTIVATE A 'SCHOOL' LOCKDOWN?

1. An officer may notify or request parish staff to activate lockdown.
2. An administrator may, in an immediate, life threatening situation, activate a school lockdown.
3. Any member of the volunteer staff who observes or suspects a dangerous situation shall immediately notify the PREP Office staff or Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE).
4. The CRE shall immediately notify the Police Department by calling 911 from a land line if possible. If there is no response from the Office staff, an immediate call to 911 should be placed.

CONDITIONS IN WHICH TO ACTIVATE A 'SCHOOL' LOCKDOWN:

1. Someone has a gun.
2. Someone with a gun is known to be in route to the school.
3. Shots are heard.
4. The immediate pursuit of a dangerous suspect.
5. The execution of a high risk search or arrest warrant.
6. A large scale enforcement operation involving potentially dangerous suspects.

PREP LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

External Threat

This is a threat that takes place outside the School Building and does not place the children in imminent danger. The goal is to prevent the threat from entering the building. Because the building is already secure and locked, a Code Yellow Alert will be issued. The following steps should be taken:

1. Notification of this type of lockdown will be via the loud speaker. The broadcast message will be "Attention! This is a Code Yellow Alert. All students are to immediately report to their classrooms."
2. Once all children in the classroom are accounted for, classroom doors and windows should be closed, locked, and any shades closed. All should stay clear of windows.
3. Staff will secure the Office area and will be on heightened alert. Exterior doors are always locked but will be double checked.
4. Depending on the threat level regular classroom activities may resume.

Internal Threat

An internal threat exists when the cause of danger is inside the facility or directly attempting to gain access. An internal threat presents a situation that may be a hazard to health or is life threatening. An internal threat will result in a Code Red Alert being issued. The following steps should be taken:

1. A message will be broadcast via the intercom (PA) that states: "Attention! This is a Code Red Alert. Lockdown now."
2. All volunteers should immediately implement lockdown procedures by first quickly checking the halls to get any students into classrooms or designated safe locations - even if they aren't members of their own class. All Volunteers are to be aware of safe locations throughout the school.
(Please note that at this time the hall bathrooms do not have locking mechanisms and are not considered safe areas.)
3. Once in classroom, classroom doors and windows should be closed, locked, and any shades closed. Shut off light. Stop all classroom activities and gather students in a safe spot - moving children away from windows and doors - staying out of sight.
4. Keep students quiet and do not allow use of cell phones.
5. Do NOT open the door for any reason until the all clear code is heard: "**Attention! Code Green. All is clear.**" Should you believe that crisis responders have arrived at your door prior to the all-clear code you have every right to ask them for identification. Crisis responders will have access to room keys.
6. **When evacuated the catechist must take the Attendance Sheet.** The Primary Evacuation Site will be the Parish Hall. Students should only be released from the designated "Reunion" site after proper accounting and out processing can be conducted by staff.

SACRAMENTAL CATECHESIS INFORMATION

A child is expected to attend a minimum of two consecutive years of formal Religious Education in order to begin preparation for the celebration of sacraments. Generally, the children receive the Sacraments of Penance / Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in their second year in the Religious Education Program. Generally, the children receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in their sixth year in the Program.

Children and Parents are expected to attend sacramental preparation meetings, retreats and other events as scheduled.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Children preparing for celebration of these sacraments must:

- Be baptized.
- Be participating regularly in Sunday Mass with their families.
- Have an appreciation and understanding of the sacrament appropriate for the age level.

Recall that ***parents are the primary catechists of their children***. It is through their catholic witness that children receive their first experiences of God and the community of faith called the Church.

Confirmation

CANDIDATES:

It is the expectation that Confirmation candidates:

- Be baptized.
- Be participating regularly in Sunday Mass with their families.
- All candidates are asked to complete the Confirmation formation program, attend a retreat, offer service to the parish and community at large and work closely with their sponsor.

SPONSORS:

The role of the sponsor is to help the candidate throughout his/her life to fulfill his or her baptismal promises. The sponsor should be one whose positive influence on the candidate is permanent and strong; hence it is not just an honorary title, but a responsibility to set a good Catholic example.

In conformity with the Code of Canon Law:

- Parents may not be sponsors.
- Sponsors must be at least 16 years old.
- Sponsors must be a Catholic who has been confirmed, received Eucharist and practices the Faith. "Practicing" means, in the case of an adult, that they are registered in a parish, frequents the Sacraments, and regularly attends Mass.
- Sponsors must have a **Letter of Eligibility** from the pastor of their present parish.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Below is a synopsis of the religious education curriculum for each grade level as applicable to St. Genevieve's PREP Program. The doctrines taught in this curriculum series are drawn from the four pillars of faith as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Worship and Sacraments, Morality and Prayer. A spiral approach to faith formation is employed.

APPROVED TEXTBOOK SERIES

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has published **Religion Guidelines** for use in teaching the subject of Religion in **Grades Pre K to 12**. To help us accomplish this, the following archdiocesan approved materials are used:

- Level 3-5: Catechetical series "We Believe" - published By William H. Sadlier
- Level 1-2, 6: Catechetical series "Pflaum Gospel Weeklies" - published by the Pflaum Publishing Group.

ARCHDIOCESAN RELIGION GUIDELINES

So that you can be more aware of the Archdiocesan Religion Guidelines for each grade and help the children with the "knowledge" of their faith, the main focus for each grade is detailed below. For additional information regarding the curriculum, please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education.

Level 1:

Core Curriculum:

- Creation: The Story of Creation; Human life is sacred
- God the Father: First Person of the Trinity
- God the Son: Jesus Christ: Second Person of the Trinity
- God the Holy Spirit: Third Person of the Trinity
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Sacramentals
- Liturgical Seasons and Colors
- Mary: Mother of God

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Level 2:

Core Curriculum:

- Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion
- Blessed Trinity: Central Mystery of Our Faith; One God in Three persons
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Sacrament of the Sick
- The Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, Vessels, Vestments
- Liturgical Seasons and Colors
- Mary: Mother of God, The Rosary

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy

Level 3:

Core Curriculum:

- The Trinity: Central Mystery of Our Faith; One God in Three persons
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Sacraments of Healing: Penance, Sacrament of the Sick
- Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Matrimony, Holy Orders
- The Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, Vessels, Vestments
- Liturgical Seasons and Colors
- Sacramentals
- Types of Prayer: Traditional, Spontaneous (Aspirations), Prayers of praise (adoration - A), of asking forgiveness (contrition - C), of thanks (T), and for the needs of others (supplication - S) ACTS
- God's Law: The Great Commandment, Introduction to 10 Commandments
- Life of Mary and Jesus: Based on the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed

Level 4:

Core Curriculum:

- 10 Commandments
- The Beatitudes: The Heart of Jesus' Preaching
- Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Works of Mercy
- Grace: Free Help of God; Gift of the Spirit
- Sin: Original; Personal
- Conscience: Formation; Examination
- Virtue: Cardinal and Theological Virtues
- Sacramentals
- Liturgical Seasons and Colors
- Life of Mary and Jesus: Based on the Mysteries of the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross
- How to Pray the Rosary

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed
- Hail Holy Queen

Level 5:

Core Curriculum:

- Sacraments of Initiation: Definition; Purpose; Rite; Elements
- The Sacraments of Healing: Definition; Purpose; Rite; Elements
- The Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Definition; Purpose; Rite; Elements
- Liturgical Year
- The Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, Vessels, Vestments
- Mary and the Saints

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed
- Hail Holy Queen
- How to Pray the Rosary

Level 6:

Core Curriculum:

- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- The Bible: Definition; Structure
- Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture): Major Persons and Events - Creation, The Fall, Choosing a Special People, Moses, Exodus, the Covenant, Joshua, Judges, Kings, Important Queens, Prophets
- New Testament (Christ Fulfills the Hebrew Scriptures): Incarnation; Baptism and Public Life
- Types of Prayer: Traditional, Spontaneous (Aspirations), Prayers of praise (adoration - A), of asking forgiveness (contrition - C), of thanks (T), and for the needs of others (supplication - S) ACTS
- Kinds of Prayer: Communal Prayer - Liturgical; Private, personal
- Sources of Prayer: the Word of God, the Liturgy of the Church
- The Liturgical Year
- Mary and the Saints

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
- Act of Contrition, Responses at Liturgy
- Grace at Meals, Apostles' Creed
- Hail Holy Queen
- How to Pray the Rosary

Days in Honor of Mary

Special days to honor Mary and the saints are ranked and celebrated in different degrees. Not everything is celebrated the same!

- Solemnity: liturgies and prayers on these days celebrate people and events of principal importance and universal significance in salvation history.
- Feast: liturgies and prayers on these days celebrate people and events of major importance and significance.
- Memorial: liturgies and prayers these days celebrate people and events that are minor in the life of Mary and in the local country, church or religious community

Aug 15	Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary*	Dec 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*
Aug 22	Memorial of the Queenship of Mary	Dec 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sept 8	Feast of the Birth of Mary	Jan 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*
Sept 15	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	Feb 2	The Purification of Mary
Oct 7	Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary	Feb 11	Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes
Nov 9	Our Lady of Divine Providence	Mar 25	Solemnity of the Annunciation
Nov 21	Memorial of the Presentation of Mary	May 31	Feast of the Visitation

*Indicates a Holyday of Obligation