

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great joy in Christ Jesus that we welcome you to another year of Religious Education. We want to insure that your children receive a complete education. For this reason, we have endeavored, as we have in the past, to choose a talented team of Catechists for the coming year. They are committed to this ministry as a call from God. We have a full staff for this coming year, but are always looking for volunteers.

The primary calling for religious education rests first and foremost with the family which our Holy Father calls "the Domestic Church". It is within the family that religious education is not only taught, but most importantly, lived. As we begin the new Religious Education year, we need your help in several areas.

First, we need you to fill out this Religious Education form to register your children. The form provides us with the information necessary to purchase textbooks and supplies that we will use throughout the year. For those children seeking the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist (usually 2nd grade) or Confirmation (usually 8th grade or older), please take note of the requirements which must be met before being registered in the sacramental program.

Next, you need to fill out the medical information form for your children. Because we are responsible for them during that one hour and fifteen minutes on Sundays, we need to have all the necessary medical information should a problem arise. Be sure to include a telephone number where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

Listed below is the opening date and time for Religious Education. The tuition fee will be \$20.00 per child or \$30.00 per family. The fee covers the cost of textbook plus activity book and materials for each child. We will be using the Faith and Life Series. If there is a situation where the fee poses some difficulty for your family, please see Father Peter.

Please return you completed form to the Parish Office by Sunday, August 12 or please see that Joan Ritter receives it. We are looking forward to a wonderful and prayerful year with your children.

Faithfully in Christ,



Joan Ritter

Coordinator of Religious Education



Father Peter DiTomasso

Pastor for Saint Mary's

First Day of Religious Education

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Religious Education Schedule 2017-2018

(September 3-Teacher In-Service/Doughnut Social)

September 10	First Day of Religious Education
September 17	Religious Ed.
September 24	Religious Ed.
October 1	Religious Ed.
October 8	Religious Ed.
October 15	Religious Ed.
October 22	Religious Ed.
October 29	Religious Ed.
November 5	Religious Ed.
November 12	Religious Ed.
November 19	Religious Ed.
November 26	NO Religious Ed. Due to Thanksgiving
December 3	Religious Ed.
December 10	Religious Ed.
December 17	Religious Ed.
December 24	NO Religious Ed. due to Christmas
December 31	NO Religious Ed. due to the New Year
January 7	Religious Ed.
January 14	Religious Ed.
January 21	Religious Ed.
January 28	Religious Ed.
February 4	Religious Ed.
February 11	Religious Ed.
February 18	Religious Ed.
February 25	Religious Ed.
March 4	Religious Ed.
March 11	Religious Ed.
March 18	Religious Ed.
March 25	Religious Ed.
April 1	NO Religious Ed. due to Easter
April 8	Religious Ed.
April 15	Religious Ed. April 20-Confirmation
April 22	Religious Ed.
April 29	Religious Ed.
May 6	Last Religious Ed. Class-First Holy Communion at 10:30 Mass

St. Mary's Catholic Church

2017-2018 Registration Form

Student Information (Please list oldest to youngest)

Name (Last Name First)	Birthdate	Grade	Male/ Female	Baptism Date/Parish	Place of Birth City & State

Family Information

Father's Name _____ Religion _____ Email address _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____ Religion _____ Email address _____

Children's mailing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Emergency Phone Number _____

Are you formally registered with St. Mary's Parish? (i.e. do you receive envelopes and monthly mailings?) _____

Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental Preparation is a two-year process. Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist presupposes that the child has completed one year of Religious Education prior to being accepted into the Second year course for these Sacraments. This pre-requisite is met and verified by attendance records from our First Grade Religious Education class from last year, or by attendance in the First grade of another parish Religious Education program. Please indicate which, if any, children are seeking these Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Name	First Year Completed?	At St. Mary's or Elsewhere?*
_____	Yes/No	_____
_____	Yes/No	_____

*IF "Elsewhere" was listed, please indicate the parish name and address for us to confirm.

Special Concerns

If there are any special concerns which the staff and teachers should be aware concerning your children, please indicate them below:

Volunteering

Would you be willing to help with our religious education program this year?

St. Mary's Catholic Church

2017-2018 Medical/Allergy Information Form

Children: 1- _____
2- _____
3- _____
4- _____
5- _____

Child 1- Medical Conditions: _____
Medication Being Taken: _____
Allergies: _____

Child 2- Medical Conditions: _____
Medication Being Taken: _____
Allergies: _____

Child 3- Medical Conditions: _____
Medication Being Taken: _____
Allergies: _____

Child 4- Medical Conditions: _____
Medication Being Taken: _____
Allergies: _____

Child 5- Medical Conditions: _____
Medication Being Taken: _____
Allergies: _____

In case of an emergency, I give permission for my children to be taken to a physician or hospital by St. Mary's Parish Personnel. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the Emergency Physician to hospitalize and secure proper treatment for my children.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

AN OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS FROM ST. MARY'S CATECHISTS

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES THAT PARENTS ARE THE PRIMARY EDUCATORS OF THEIR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY IN THEIR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FORMATION. THE LITTLE TIME THAT WE, AS CATECHISTS, SPEND WITH YOUR CHILDREN IS TO HELP YOU. OUR GOAL IS THE SAME AS YOURS - WE WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH GOD.

ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T NEED US- THE GRACES GOD GIVES YOU THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE, EQUIP YOU TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN VERY ADEQUATELY. SO WE ARE HERE, AT YOUR SERVICE, TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR RESPONSIBILITY - AND NOT TO RELIEVE YOU OF IT.

BUT, EVEN THOUGH YOU DO NOT NEED US, WE DESPERATELY NEED YOU!

1. WE NEED YOU TO INSTILL IN YOUR CHILDREN A RESPECT AND A DESIRE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.
2. WE NEED YOU TO INSURE THAT THEY ATTEND CLASS EVERY SUNDAY AND ON TIME, EXCEPT FOR REASONS OF ILLNESS. ATTEND MASS EVERY SUNDAY AND HOLYDAYS.
3. WE NEED YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR ASSIGNMENTS ARE COMPLETED AND THAT THEIR LESSONS ARE UNDERSTOOD.
4. WE NEED YOU TO LIVE THE TRUTHS OF OUR FAITH SO THAT WHEN WE TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THESE TRUTHS THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ARE NOT OPTIONS BUT NECESSITIES FOR ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD.
5. WE NEED YOU TO PRAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN EVERY DAY - AND WE ARE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT TEACHING YOUNGER CHILDREN THEIR PRAYERS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SHOWING YOUR CHILDREN THAT YOU NEED GOD AND HAVE A DAILY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, SO THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE. WE CAN TELL THEM THAT THEY NEED TO TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER EVERY DAY AND WE CAN PRAY WITH THEM AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF CLASS, BUT THE ACTUAL DAILY PRAYER IS IN YOUR COURT. BUT WE WILL ALL BENEFIT FROM IT, ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN.

MOST OF US ARE PARENTS AND WE KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GET KIDS TO DO ANYTHING WORTHWHILE, ESPECIALLY "RELIGIOUS THINGS". BUT LIKE ANYTHING ELSE WORTHWHILE, IT TAKES AN EFFORT, AND AS PARENTS WE ARE REQUIRED BY GOD TO MAKE THAT EFFORT FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR EFFORTS. THANK GOD, HE DOES NOT JUDGE US BY OUR RESULTS.

CONSIDER THE PHRASE "PRACTICING CATHOLIC". TO BE GOOD AT SOMETHING, WE MUST PRACTICE. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE TOLD OUR CHILDREN TO PRACTICE SOMETHING DAILY IF THEY WANT TO BE GOOD AT IT? ARE WE, AS PARENTS, PRACTICING OUR FAITH DAILY? NOW CONSIDER THIS. IF BEING A CATHOLIC WERE A CRIME, WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH EVIDENCE AGAINST US TO CONVICT US?

MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT FILL US ALL WITH THE GRACE NECESSARY TO PASS ON THE GIFT OF OUR FAITH.

Religious Education Parent Contract

As a concerned Catholic parent, I reaffirm the commitment I made at the Baptism of my child-to be the first and best of teachers of the faith. I realize that I have a serious obligation and responsibility to impart my Catholic heritage and faith to my child to the best of my ability. I realize that the Religious Education programs offered by St. Mary's Parish are a way of assisting me in my obligation of educating my child.

I am fully aware that I am responsible to see that my child is present at all of the religious education activities throughout the year. It is also my responsibility to make sure my child and family attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. I also realize that certain standards must be met before a sacrament can be administered to my child.

I realize that the best method of teaching is by example. I treasure my faith and the traditions surrounding it. I want to pass onto my child these same treasures and appreciation for the faith. I therefore reaffirm my faith and promise to participate in the Mass with my child on Sundays and days of obligation, in addition to my child attending Religious Education classes. I will take an active interest and will participate in Religious Education Programs and activities.

I, _____, promise to fulfill all of the above as a way of assisting my child to broaden his/her understanding and appreciation of the faith. I also realize that failure to do so can seriously affect my child's religious development.

Signature

Date

My children who participate in the Religious Education Program are:

Name(s)

Grade(s)

**Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**

**256 Tract Road
Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-8815**

Photo Release Form

This form is for permission to display photos of you and/or your family. We like to take pictures of our parish members/families during parish activities and then display them in parish publications, parish websites, and within our facility. Our parish members really enjoy looking at pictures of their fellow parishioners, friends, and themselves. This is also a great way to share with our community what we are doing.

Please indicate below if we may use your families' photograph for the uses mentioned above and return this form.

_____ I grant permission to St. Mary's to use my/our photograph for the uses mentioned above.

_____ I do not give permission to St. Mary's to use my/our photograph for any use.

Name of Family Members:

Signature _____ Date _____