

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

## OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

2020-2021

### Mission Statement

The Religious Education Program of Our Lady, Mother of the Church Parish is founded on the belief that the primary responsibility for the spiritual growth and development of our children rests with their parents. Our formal program of religious education is viewed therefore as a compliment to the Christian faith formation and example children receive at home. Regular week-end Mass attendance is an important parental responsibility and an expectation of every family whose children are enrolled in our program of religious education. Registration to attend Saturday 5pm or Sunday 11am Mass can be made at [www.ourladychurch.com](http://www.ourladychurch.com). And for those uncomfortable in congregate settings, your obligation can be fulfilled by viewing it live-streamed. The live stream can be found on the YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9\\_ObWVmb103BAIrxhw9odw/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_ObWVmb103BAIrxhw9odw/live).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic still affecting the world as we begin the 2020-2021 school year, we have had to make adjustments as to how our children will grow in knowledge, understanding, respect and appreciation of their Catholic faith and its rich tradition. Further updates will be provided when we are able to open for in-class teaching.

**Until it is safe to do so**, instruction in Levels 1-7 will be done at home by parents with assistance and supervision of our catechists using *Alive In Christ* published by OSV (Our Sunday Visitor). We will provide outlines for parents to discuss the lesson plan and reviews at the end of each unit. On-Line resources will also be suggested. The Confirmation Class will have a slightly different schedule and will be using Matthew Kelly's *Decision Point* published by Dynamic Catholic Institute. Details are in the Confirmation Class Handbook. We, who minister in the Religious Education Program of Our Lady, Mother of the Church Parish, hold sacred the trust parents place in us and pledge to serve the families of the parish sensitively and faithfully within the context of this mission statement.

### Registration Requirements

- ◆ The Religious Education Office of Our Lady, Mother of the Church Parish upholds a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex or national origin.
- ◆ All families participating in our Religious Education Program **must** be registered in the parish and are expected to attend weekly Masses, participate in ministries/events and contribute to the parish.
- ◆ All new students must provide the rectory office with a Baptismal Certificate as well as Certificates for any other Sacraments celebrated at another parish by Sept 30, 2020. Students who participated in religious education programs at another parish must also provide paperwork that they completed the previous Level program.

9/1/2020

## The Sacramental Preparation Process

Sacraments are enriching gifts from God received by Catholic Christians at various stages in their faith journey. Each sacrament celebrates God's love for His people as experienced in the compassion, care and goodness alive and at work in their faith community. Developing an understanding and an awareness of the many dimensions of these sacred gifts is a life long process. This process, begun at Baptism, continues in the home, in church at regular week-end Mass and in the parish's religious education program. Preparation for both the **Sacrament of Holy Eucharist** and the **Sacrament of Confirmation** are **two-year** programs.

**Reconciliation** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of joy, forgiveness and peace. Living Jesus' Law of Love and following the Ten Commandments are emphasized in this introduction of Christian morality. Students in Level 2 begin to prepare for this sacrament in December and receive First Reconciliation in February. Students in all other Levels have the opportunity to celebrate this sacrament during the Season of Lent each year.

**Holy Eucharist** The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist is a celebration of love and unity. Within the context of a special meal shared at Mass, people of faith remember Jesus, receive Him into their hearts in a spirit of true thanksgiving under the forms of bread and wine, are nourished by His life and love, and become more fully initiated into the Body of Christ and the faith community of the parish. All students enrolling in the Level 2 First Communion class must have at least one year of religious education prior to the Sacramental preparation year (not including the current enrolled year). Level 2 will receive **First Eucharist** (First Communion) on Saturday, **May 8, 2021**.

**Confirmation** The Sacrament of Confirmation seals and publicly ratifies a Christian's baptismal commitment to follow Jesus. The celebration of this sacrament invites a young Catholic to a deeper understanding and a greater appreciation of the Holy Spirit and the special gifts that the Spirit confers. Reception of this sacrament completes a young Catholic's initiation into his/her community of faith and encourages a life of Christian love and service.

Students enrolling in the Confirmation class must have at least two years of religious education classes prior to the Sacramental preparation year (not including the current enrolled year). To enter the Level 8 class, all students must have finished the Level 7 Preparation class. Due to the important nature of the Confirmation preparation process, all class work must be completed in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sacrament of **Confirmation** will be celebrated at Our Lady, Mother of the Church on Wednesday, **April 28, 2021**.

**Readiness** The Office of Religious Education honors our parents' judgement concerning their child's readiness to receive a sacrament. We uphold the parents' right to delay the reception of any sacrament until such time as sufficient understanding, readiness and desire to receive have been demonstrated. The pastor and the Office of Religious Education also reserve the right to delay the reception of any sacrament if certain formation criteria have not been met.

Parents of students involved in the sacramental preparation process will be notified when required meetings take place.

## STAFF AND CONTACT DIRECTORY

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### INTERIM COMMITTEE:

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### GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

**Our Lady, Mother of the Church**

**8747 W. Lawrence Avenue**

**Chicago, IL 60656**

**Phone: 773-625-3369 Fax : 773-625-0226**

**[www.ourladymotherchurch.com](http://www.ourladymotherchurch.com)**

## Religious Education Schedule 2020-2021 as of September 1, 2020

(Home Sessions subject to change back to in-class sessions based on COVID-19 concerns)

### September

- Sat 12 Welcome - Opening RE Mass with parent, 11AM
- Sat 19 RE Session Home Session Unit 1, Chapters 1 & 2
- 19 Confirmation Mass with Parent, 11AM

### October

- Sat 3 RE Session – Home Session Unit 1, Chapter 3 & Unit Review
- 3 On-Site Confirmation Class and Mass, 9AM-12PM
- 3 Pet Blessing
  
- Sat 10 RE Session – Home Session Unit 2, Chapters 4 & 5
- Sat 17 Chapters 1,2,3 Reviews & Unit 1 Review Pages due to Catechist

### November

- Sat 7 RE Session – Home Session Unit 2, Chapter 6 & Unit Review
- 7 On-Site Confirmation Class and Mass, 9AM-12PM
  
- Sat 14 RE Session – Home Session Unit 3, Chapters 7 & 8
- Sat 21 Chapters 4, 5, 6 Reviews & Unit 2 Review Pages due to Catechist

### December

- Sat 5 RE Session – Home Session Unit 3, Chapter 9, Unit Review, & Advent
- 5 On-Site Confirmation Class and Mass, 9AM-12PM
  
- Sat 12 RE Session – Home Session Unit 4, Chapters 10 & 11
- Sat 19 Chapters 7, 8, 9 Reviews & Unit 3 Review Pages due to Catechist
- Thur. 24 Christmas Eve Family Mass

### January

- Sun 3 Epiphany Family Mass
- Sat 9 RE Session – Home Session Unit 4, Chapter 12 & Unit Review
- 9 On-Site Confirmation Class and Mass, 9AM-12PM

**January**

- Sat 16 RE Session – Home Session Unit 5, Chapters 13 & 14  
Sat 23 Chapters 10, 11, 12 Reviews & Unit 4 Review pages due to Catechist

**February**

- Sat 6 RE Session – Home Session Unit 5, Chapter 15 & Unit Review  
6 On-Site Confirmation Class and Mass. 9AM-12PM  
13 First Reconciliation 10AM  
  
Sat 13 RE Session – Home Session Unit 6, Chapters 16 & 17  
Wed 17 Ash Wednesday  
Sat 20 Chapters 13, 14, 15 Review & Unit 5 Review pages due to Catechist  
20 Confirmation Retreat with Reconciliation, Time TBD

**March**

- Sat 6 RE Session – Home Session Unit 6, Chapter 18, Unit Review, & Lent  
6 On-Site Confirmation Class and Mass, 9AM-12PM  
  
Sat 13 RE Session – Home Session Unit 7, Chapters 19, 20, 21  
Sat 20 Chapters 16, 17, 18 Review & Unit 6 Review pages due to Catechist  
Sun 28 Palm Sunday

**April**

- Sun 4 Easter  
Sat 17 RE Session – Unit 7 Unit Review/Closing Mass/Graduation  
Mon 26 Confirmation Practice with Sponsors, 7PM  
Wed 28 Sacrament of Confirmation, 7PM

**May**

- Sat 1 First Holy Communion Workshop, 9AM-12PM  
Wed 5 First Holy Communion Practice, 7PM  
Sat 8 First Holy Communion, 11AM  
Sun 9 Mother's Day - May Crowning

## **Tuition and Fees**

### **Tuition**

1 Child \$180

2+Children (immediate family only) \$270

### **Fees (Per Child)**

Workbook \$40

First Reconciliation/Communion \$50

Confirmation (Level 8 Only) \$50

- ◆ Payments can be made online via the parish website or by dropping off a check/cash at the Rectory.
- ◆ The Religious Education Office can accept payments on Saturday, September 12 in Hayes Center Kitchen from 9-10:45AM and following Mass until 1PM.
- ◆ Saturday, September 19 from 9-10:45 in Church Narthex and following Mass until 1PM.

**All tuition must be paid in full by December 5, 2020.**

**We thank you for your support of the Religious Education Program here at OLMC!**