

Religious Education 2020-2021

Welcome Back!

It is with great joy we welcome back your children in the fall. We have information below on how we feel we can successfully bring back some “normalcy” to the children’s faith life at St. Mary-Holy Cross. While we realize meeting in any form of group setting can pose a risk in our current pandemic, children go through sensitive periods in their faith life and we feel it is imperative to cultivate the joy and love they have for Christ and His Church during this sensitive period in the child’s life. It is our goal to meet each family where they are and this year we are offering many different program options to meet everyone’s needs.

Covid Policy

After much guidance from the Diocese, we have implemented a plan to allow the families of St. Mary-Holy Cross to return as safely as possible to religious education in the fall. We are taking many precautionary measures to allow children the time and space to grow deeper in their faith.

To help us in our efforts, we ask that each family ensure their children are fever free for 72 hours and have no cold/flu symptoms before bringing their children into the building.

Each child will be offered hand sanitizer before entering and upon leaving their classroom/session. If you prefer an alternative method of sanitizing, please let Geneveve, Tracy or the STORM team know.

Preschool through 6th grade will utilize the entire Ed Center to allow as much as possible for social distancing. We are capping our classes to allow for lower numbers as well. In addition, we are giving children individual writing/art supplies to reduce exposure to high touch items. As well as cleaning high touch surfaces frequently.

Our 7th - 10th graders in EDGE and PURPOSE, will follow the same covid guidelines. In addition, we will have designated areas for seating to maintain social distancing of our teens and leaders.

We have adjusted our session times to allow for staggered coming and going for each program, while giving us time to disinfect before the other children arrive.

Sessions:

EDGE (7th & 8th) PURPOSE (9th & 10th) Wednesdays 6-7:30pm

EDGE and PURPOSE will run with very little variation from the past. Our group is small enough, and the Social Hall is large enough for us to safely distance all teens and leaders. A final schedule will be sent out, but EDGE will have sessions two or three Wednesdays a month and

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PURPOSE will be held one Wednesday per month. The social hall will be sanitized prior to and following sessions.

We will hold a parent meeting for EDGE on Wednesday September 16th from 6-7 PM. A parent meeting for PURPOSE will follow from 7:15 - 8:15 PM. We are asking that only one parent attend and it's not necessary for your children to attend these meetings.

First Session for Edge will be September 23rd.

First Session for Purpose will be September 30th.

We will schedule STORM youth group activities for teens that are interested in attending. We will follow the same safe practices during these gatherings.

Tuesday 4:30-6:30 Toddler through 6th Grade (Session A)

Each child coming to this session will attend an atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to Religious education that uses developmentally appropriate materials to provide an environment which allows for an encounter between Christ and the Child. Developed by Scripture Scholar, Sofia Cavalletti, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd utilizes Dr. Maria Montessori's vision of the human person to cultivate an atmosphere of meditation and contemplation. We are excited to be able to offer a 2 hour session for the children attending this session, with the possibility of attending Mass a few times a month, as a class once the children have been normalized.

Wednesday 4:30/5:15-6:15 Toddler through 6th Grade (Session B)

Children, toddler through 4th grade, will each attend an atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd during this session. As noted above this program works best when ample time for work is allowed. We understand that not every family is able to allow for this extra time. So to accommodate all of our families, we have incorporated an optional 4:30 start time which will allow for children in these environments to get extra time.

If your schedule does not allow for the earlier start time, or you have older children in our program, and would like a consistent start time, feel free to bring your children at the 5:15 time instead.

We will offer a traditional classroom program for the 5th and 6th graders at this session, which will begin at 5:15.

Wednesday 6:45-7:45 Preschool through 6th Grade (Session C)

Children 3 years old-3rd grade will attend an atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, while 4th-6th grade will participate in a traditional classroom environment.

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Due to Covid-19, we are pushing back our late session 15 minutes in order to allow for all the families to depart from the early session, as well as allow for ample time to disinfect high touch surfaces/bathrooms.

At Home Option

We understand that not everyone will be comfortable returning to in person RE in the fall. We have developed a plan to assist parents at home to share their faith with their children. By choosing the at home option, you will get several packages throughout the year that will be open ended for your children to ponder scripture. There is no timeline for these and they are presented as an invitation not a requirement. The Diocese is also offering a virtual weekly Gospel reflection for families to ponder together. It is our hope that we can assist you in growing your domestic church by offering you materials that are easy to incorporate into your daily lives.

Calendar

Each Session (A/B/C and STORM) will have their own calendar, this is especially important at the beginning of the year. Important things to note; Opening Masses and Good Starts for each session will vary from session to session. If your child is 4th-6th grade, they will have a later start date than the preschool-3rd grade children.

Good Starts

In order to become more comfortable in the atrium, especially for the younger children, we have a transitional start time, Good Starts, that allows for shorter class periods at the beginning of the year. Please note your session's calendar for specific dates and times.

Registration

Registration begins August 3rd. We hope EVERY family registers, regardless of how uncertain these times are, we need to cling to our faith and we want to help you stay connected to your faith and your parish family at St. Mary Holy Cross. If you don't see an option that will work for your family, let us know, we will do what we can to provide that needed community. If cost is an obstacle, please let us know, we want to serve you, no matter your situation!

When you are ready to register, simply select your preferred session and fill out information for each student you are registering

Due to smaller class sizes we anticipate a high demand. Priority will be given to catechists and in parish families with a waiting list for out of parish families. We will begin filling this waiting list September 1st, so please register as soon as possible to ensure your spot.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to a member of our team. If you have questions specific to EDGE, please reach out to Andrea or Melissa. If you have questions specific to PURPOSE (Confirmation Prep for 9th & 10th Grades) please contact Nicole Cory. If you have questions about preschool-6, please reach out to Geneveve or Tracy.

We look forward to serving you,

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