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## Grades K-5 Religious Education 2022-2023 Registration & Instructions – please read thoroughly! **Classes begin October 4**

Summer 2022

Dear Elementary School Families,

We hope you are all settling into summer and enjoying time together. We pray that this summer is one of rest, relaxation, fun, and health. It seems hard to believe, but it is already time to register for next year's Religious Education Program.

**Sacred Heart in-person classes for Grades 1-5:** Grades 1-5 will meet for classes on Tuesdays 4:00-5:00pm in the Lower Church Classrooms here at Sacred Heart.

We are very hopeful that we will be able to add a Kindergarten class to our Tuesday afternoon program this year. If you have a Kindergartener, please do register, and we will keep you posted!

**Schedule:** While the first class is Tuesday, October 4, we will kick off our year on Sunday morning, October 2, with a special welcome meeting (for parents and students) at 10:30am, immediately following the 9:30am Mass.

**Virtual/Homeschool option:** We know that many of you have found the at-home and virtual program over the last two years to be convenient and helpful for your family. We are glad to continue to offer a virtual option this year for those who want it. This option will consist of the Pflaum Gospel Weekly curriculum, a family volunteer service component, and Zoom check-ins with staff (Zoom check-ins will be Sunday 10/23 at 1pm, Tuesday 11/15 at 7pm, Sunday 12/18 at 1pm, Tuesday 1/17 at 7pm, Sunday 2/12 at 1pm, Tuesday 3/14 at 7pm, and Sunday 4/2 at 1pm. Each student must attend at least four of the seven check-ins during the year.) We regret that we will not be able to continue with our more structured webinars as in the past years, but we are looking forward to what this new format will offer!

Please note that virtual formation is not ordinarily an option for those preparing for First Penance and First Communion; please contact Kristina or Kate if you need to discuss.

**Cross-registration:** At Our Lady's Parish, in-person Religious Education classes for Grades K-5 are on Sundays 8:45-9:45am and for Grades 1-5 on Mondays, 4:00-5:00pm. Recognizing how busy schedules can be, we are glad to offer families from both parishes the opportunity to "cross-register" at the other parish. Of course, celebration of sacraments can always be at your own parish, even if you attend classes at the other. If you are interested in this option, please simply select the appropriate class time when you register.

**Registration instructions and deadlines:** Please register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/NjBAE9Ef42> or by following the link at <https://sholnewton.org/religious-education>. If you need a paper form mailed to you, please give us a call, and we'll gladly send one.

In order to begin class on the first day (October 4), registrations must be received by Monday, September 19.

**New families and new students:** Welcome! We're so glad you're here and are honored to partner with you! New families are asked to register in the parish, online at [boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com](http://boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com). If your child was not baptized at either Sacred Heart or Our Lady's, please send a photocopy of their baptismal certificate when they first enroll.

If you are registering a new student who is entering Grade 2 for First Communion preparation but did not participate in Religious Education last year, please speak with Kate as you register; there will be additional faith foundation to be completed.

For those families who are returning, if you know someone who is new to our parish, our programs, or your neighborhood, please encourage them to join us and to register as soon as possible. We want them to know they are more than welcome!

**First Communion students from Catholic schools:** Parents are asked to call Kate and MUST register by October 15 if they expect their children to receive First Penance in December and First Communion next spring, as there are required parent meetings in the fall. On the registration form, there is a place to note that you are registering a Grade 2 Catholic School student.

**Mass attendance:** It is important to realize that weekend Mass attendance is expected for all students. We have really come to understand that children who go to church on a regular basis have a much-needed foundation for the topics of faith that are explored in class.

**Payment:** We would be grateful to receive tuition payment at the time of registration. **Tuition is \$75 per child with a \$150 family cap for two or more children.** Please mail a check, made out to the parish, to the parish office. Children are always welcome without payment if there is a serious need. However, please speak to a Religious Ed staff person if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are welcome. **No one is ever turned away because they cannot pay.** Parents who volunteer EVERY WEEK in the classroom or as a hall monitor do not pay tuition. There is a \$25 per family late fee (for returning families) for registrations received after September 19!

**Volunteers:** Finally, please help us to begin the year with all our volunteer needs met by mid-September. It is so much easier for everyone if volunteers don't wait until the last minute. Catechists (teachers), assistants, and hall monitors are all needed. Please let us know if you will help! So many people tell us year after year how much they learn by teaching. Please consider whether the Lord is calling you to spread His love and Good News by teaching our children. Please contact us if you are interested and would like to learn more.

We hope you have a wonderful, refreshing, relaxing, safe summer, and look forward to seeing you on October 2 for our special welcome meeting and on October 4 for the first class (if not before then over the summer!). **The Collaborative Picnic is planned for Sunday, September 18, at Our Lady's - please join us for this free and fun event!** Please call or email with ANY questions. Or, especially if you're new, we'd be happy to hop on Zoom with you to say hello.

Wishing you peace, rest, and blessings,

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