

St. Mary of the Snows
Religious Education Handbook
For
Parents & Students
2013-2014

POLICY

Children entering the Religious Education program for the first time will be placed in a grade corresponding to their grade in school, provided they have been attending either Catholic school or Religious Education classes in their previous parish.

Students who are entering a grade in which a sacrament is to be received must have attended Religious Education classes or Catholic school the previous year. Students wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must have attended at least two years of Religious Education or Catholic school prior to receiving this sacrament.

Children who have had no previous religious catechesis will be placed in a grade after an interview with the Pastor and CCD Coordinator. The decision for catching up on the missing catechesis will be decided by the Pastor and the CCD Coordinator.

All parish children are invited and encouraged to regularly attend the Religious Education classes. Children who belong to another parish will be accepted into our program if Religious Education classes are not offered at a time they can attend in their home parish.

Registration:

Each student who attends the Religious Education program (CCD) **MUST** fill out a permanent record form and provide a copy of their Baptismal Certificate if baptized at a church other than St. Mary. A permanent record card will be kept on file. All classes attended and all sacraments received will be recorded on the card.

Fee:

Each student is charged a fee to cover the cost of books and supplies used during the CCD year. The high school fee covers the cost of speakers, materials and social events.

Course of Study:

The Diocese of Toledo has issued a complete Course of Study that we are to use in teaching religion. A copy of the Course of Study is available upon request. Each grade year lists a focus with the expectations of the class listed. We encourage you to ask questions of your children and to be involved in their religious formation.

Prayers:

Prayers that are to be memorized have been assigned to each grade level. These are the common Catholic prayers that we should all know by heart. Parents will be informed of the prayers that the student should know. Please help the teacher by assisting the child in learning the prayers.

Attendance:

It is important that students **ATTEND ALL CLASSES**. If a child is ill, the work will be sent home and should be finished for the following week. If two classes in a row are missed, the CCD Coordinator will call you to ask about the student. If a student misses 5 classes in one year, the year will have to be repeated. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the CCD Coordinator's attention.

Parent Role:

Parents are not only the primary religious educators of their child(ren), which was extended to you at their Baptism, they are also witnesses and supporters on their faith journey. Parents are expected to celebrate Mass each weekend with their child. Children do as they see; not as they are told. Know that your continued interest, involvement and prayers do influence your child's perception of what the Catholic Christian life is about.

Teachers:

Our CCD teachers are volunteers who take their time, energy and faith to plan lessons and share their faith with your child. It is important that these teachers are respected and that their recommendations are considered. If you have a problem with something that is being taught, please see the teacher first to clarify the situation. If this does not solve the problem, then make an appointment with the CCD Coordinator.

Arrival:

Sunday – Students may gather in the cafeteria near the library for prayer and announcements before going to their assigned classrooms.

High School – Students may gather in the cafeteria.

Dismissal:

Teachers will dismiss students at the end of class. Parents can pickup their children in the cafeteria.

Behavior:

Students are expected to follow the rules and be respectful toward other students and adults. Students who misbehave in class, will be reprimanded by their teacher. If a student continues to misbehave, the parents will be contacted. The parish will not be liable for any injuries that result from any inappropriate student behavior.

Language:

Students are expected to use respectful language when speaking to each other or to adults. Any type of swearing or profanity will not be tolerated at any time. If a student uses bad language, they will be expected to write a penalty.

CCD Mass:

We will have two CCD Masses during the year. Students are expected to attend, as part of a regular class. Families of the students are welcome and encouraged to attend these Masses. Following the Mass we will have a potluck in the cafeteria for the families. Check the schedule for the dates.

Student Belongings:

We ask that students do not bring expensive items to religion class. We will not be responsible for items that are missing.

School Property:

It is important that the students respect the property of others. While the students are in the classrooms they will be using the desks of the daily school children. Nothing in the desk is to be touched. CCD students are supplied with pencils, crayons, etc., so there is no need to borrow or use anything that does not belong to them.

Snacks:

Since no snack time has been planned for Sunday morning classes, please be sure that your child eats breakfast.

Dress Code:

On the days that we have our CCD Masses, we would like to have the students dress appropriately. Please do not have the children wear shorts, ripped jeans or inappropriately short skirts.