

Prince of Peace Catholic Community

Religious Education 2023-2024 Family Handbook



**IF YOUR CHILD/REN CANNOT ATTEND CLASS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.
468-5718 EXT 104 or email at re@popgb.org**



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Prince of Peace Religious Education Program

We are excited to be helping your child/ren learn more about their Catholic faith. Our program incorporates hands-on activities, while providing service opportunities and promoting participation in the weekend Masses. Additionally, our goal is to provide spiritual growth and guidance with sacramental preparation.

Prince of Peace Religious Education Mission Statement

To provide instruction and education that complements the religious education efforts of the parents or guardians at home. Through a variety of media and hands-on activities, we seek to teach children the essential information needed for understanding their faith, deepening their relationship with the Lord, and participating in a Catholic community.

The Important Role of the Family Who Grows Together in God's Love

Parents are the first teachers of faith to their children. A child's attitude toward Mass, the sacraments, prayer, service to others and a Christian lifestyle grows out of a parent's example and attitude. The following are ways to nurture your child's faith formation:

- Attend Mass as a family each weekend and practice your faith at home.
- Show interest by asking about the topic that was learned during class each week.
- Encourage your child to talk and ask questions about our faith.
- Spend time teaching your children prayers and make prayer important in your home.
- Participate in our Together in Faith sessions, retreats, sacraments, special events, weekend and Ash Wednesday Masses.
- Talk about where you see examples of God in your daily life - in creation (such as a sunset, beautiful flower, or animals), in community (the kindness of a stranger or neighbor), and in our families as we serve each other.

Registration & Tuition

No child shall be denied a Catholic education based solely on the inability to pay tuition and/or sacramental fees. Payment plans and tuition assistance are available by contacting the parish office. Tuition payments are due in full by September 15 if choosing single payment plan. If paying in 2 installments, half payments are due September 15 and January 15. All accounts should be paid in full by January 15th. Fees for the 2023-24 religious education year are as follows:

\$115.00 for one child

\$190.00 for two children

\$240.00 for three or more children

\$150 Out of Parish tuition per child

Additional \$50.00 sacramental fee for 2nd Grade and Confirmation students

**IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE
AT (920) 468-5718 Ext 104 OR EMAIL re@popgb.org.**

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival: Students will be dropped off under the canopy in front of the main church doors or can be walked up to the door by an adult if the parent chooses to park. All students should enter through the main doors. Volunteers will be there to guide students to their class area.

Dismissal: Catechists will accompany students out of the parish/church building when classes are over. Students will be dismissed out of the main entrance. To ensure the safety of your children, we ask that parents of students from grades 1 to 6 get out of their vehicle and come to the sidewalk to meet their children and walk them back to the car.

Class Attendance & Participation

All registered students are expected to participate in Faith Formation classes and related activities. Masses and special events like Together in Faith are to be attended by both students and parents. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation Sacramental preparation must be met by regular participation in class and retreats to enhance learning and to be fully prepared for the Sacraments. Students are expected to be in their classrooms five minutes before class starts.

If notification is received (phone call or email) that your child cannot attend class, that will be considered an excused absence. If there is no notification, it will be considered an unexcused absence. Multiple unexcused absences will result in an inquiry regarding the continuation within the program and may result in dismissal from the program and inability to receive sacraments.

Student's friends/visitors are not permitted to attend RE session without prior approval from a religious education coordinator.

Cancellation of Religious Education Classes

When the Green Bay Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, our classes will not meet. If the students are in school and the weather turns bad late in the day, please check for cancellations via email.

Cell Phone and Internet Use

Students are expected to silence their cell phones during class. Keeping phones in a pocket during instruction is expected. There may be times that students conduct research on their cell phone per the catechist. Students who access the church's internet are to do so in a considerate and responsible manner. If cell phones become an issue, we reserve the right to ask the students to place their phones in a designated spot during class time.

Class Times for Religious Education and Family Faith Formation Events

Students in Grades 1-6 meet from either 4:30-5:30 or 5:45-6:45 PM. Students in Grades 7-9 meet from 7:00-8:15 PM. Grades 10-11 typically meet on Sundays after the 6PM Mass from 7:00-8:30PM.

All Saints Day Mass, November 1, 2023: In place of class, families are asked to attend Mass.

Ash Wednesday Mass, February 14, 2024: In place of class, families are asked to attend Mass. This is a great way to begin the Lenten season!

Together in Faith Family Nights: There are four classes that are scheduled which allow the entire family to participate. The anticipated time frame for each event may be different, so please watch for communications about these events. The Together in Faith nights are designed for families to learn together. The evening may include activities, speakers, and prayer which allow the family to deepen their relationship with the Lord and each other. Dates include: October 25, December 6, January 24, and March 20. Students and families should plan to attend, as these evenings take place of the regularly scheduled class.

Curriculum

Grade 1 Learns the Sign of the Cross, prayers, and that God's greatest gift to us is his Son, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can live as Jesus' followers who serve people throughout the world.

Grade 2 The second graders will be preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion this year and will get hands on experience getting to know our faith and the church environment.

Grade 3 Students will spend the year learning about the Catholic church: how the church works, the work of the church, how we are called to serve, and how we grow the Kingdom through being disciples.

Grade 4 Students will focus on God's goodness in forgiving sins. They will learn the importance of serving others as Jesus did. They will spend time on learning that God loves us so much, He gave us rules of which to live. They will focus on the Ten Commandments.

Grade 5-6 Students will be using the Life Teen Edge series. Edge helps middle schoolers unleash who they were created to be, in Christ. We will begin with "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing." The goal of "Wolf In Sheep's Clothing" is for teens to recognize the four substitutes for God identified by St. Thomas Aquinas and gain insight on how to be counter-cultural by choosing Christ-like virtues.

Students in Grades 7-9 will use LifeTeen. Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church that leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. We will begin with "Vital." Sometimes we approach the Holy Spirit as if He is something extra; an epilogue to the Good News. The Holy Spirit is not extra, but vital to the Christian life. He is the very Spirit of God breathed into us giving us life. In this series, we will enter more deeply into the life and mission of the Holy Spirit, the fruits and gifts He offers us, and discover how we can be more open to His presence and power in our lives.

Students in Grades 10-11/Confirmation Prep. Students will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation using a combination of resources that emphasize our Catholic faith and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and our Church, which will help students make a conscious decision to receive the Sacrament. 11th grade students will receive Confirmation on October 21, 2023, and 10th grade students will receive Confirmation most likely in the fall of 2024. Purpose is a transformative approach to confirmation. Multiple components combine impactful curriculum with a powerful digital tool to enhance communication. Coupled with engaging supplementary material for teens and parents, it is a whole new approach to sacramental preparation. The curriculum addresses three big questions, "Why believe in God?", "Why trust Jesus?" and "Why be a part of the Church?" This series accompanies them as they become disciples. We will begin with "Here and Now." The goal of "Here and Now" is for teens to embrace the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity - and to reveal God's enduring presence in the Catholic Church.

Discipline

Respect for the parish staff, volunteer catechists, and other students is the expectation. However, if students make poor choices, redirection to correct their behavior will help them to grow more as a faithful member of the parish community. Most poor choices can be redirected via a verbal warning from the catechist. However, if further behavior instruction is needed, a plan will be formed with a religious education coordinator and/or parish administrator. Parents may be called and asked to pick up their child for severe cases.

Dress Code and Conduct

Please remove all hats upon entering the building. Please dress appropriately for the sacred space you may be entering. We ask that their attire reflect the respect that God desires and that all human persons deserve. Drinks, food, candy, and gum should be consumed before arriving to class. At times, students will be in the church for class. Because the home of Jesus is sacred, these items are not appropriate. At times, snacks and candy may be given to students during class by the catechist; this will be consumed outside of the church setting.

Drugs/Alcohol

Any child in possession of drug(s)/tobacco/tobacco-like products/alcohol/weapons of any kind will result in a parent phone call and meeting that night. Police will also be involved. Prince of Peace has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for this behavior.

If your child takes medication for behavior management, please keep in mind that the volunteer catechists have limited strategies; at times, parental help may be needed for redirection.

Faith in Action/Discipleship Projects

Grades 5 – 11 will have the opportunity to put their faith into action by using their interests and talents to serve others. Students will learn about a community service agency via a guest speaker, brainstorm needs for the agency, and create items for those in need. Families will be asked to help donate to the project(s) that were being created for the community service agency. Additionally, students will learn about Corporal Works of Mercy and social justice as a preview to the service project.



Protecting God's Children/Safe Environment

Every church in the Diocese must have one class session devoted to Protecting God's Children. Each grade has an age-appropriate lesson that will be taught. An opt out form is available if you choose not to have your child attend.

The Diocese of Green Bay is committed to creating, providing and maintaining safe environments in all its parishes and schools so that all persons, especially children, youth and individuals at risk, will be protected. All employees and adult volunteers who have contact with children, young people and individuals at risk, are required to attend a VIRTUS session and undergo a background check.

Sacraments

2nd Grade First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation/Communion Parent Meeting (parents)	Sunday, October 15 11:00-Noon
First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament (students and parents)	Saturday, November 11 10am-noon (Sacrament 11am)

2nd Grade First Communion

Student & Parent Retreat (parents attend too)	Saturday, February 3 8:30am-10:30am
Bread Partners at Weekend Masses	Saturday, March 16 at 4:30pm or Sunday, March 17 at 8am, 10am, 6pm
First Communion	Sunday, April 14 Mass at 1:00pm

11th Grade Confirmation

Parent & Student Meeting	Sunday, August 27 at 7:00pm
Student Retreat at Prince of Peace Spiritus	Sunday, October 1 10:00am (Mass)-5:00pm
Field Trip to The Shrine	Sunday, October 15
Confirmation	Wednesday, October 21, at 7:00pm

Scrip - Lower Your Tuition Cost through Scrip Purchases

***Continuing this year: The \$50 deductible for Scrip tuition credit has been eliminated! ***

The SCRIP Tuition Reimbursement Program is available to help families offset costs of Religious Education for their children. By purchasing Scrip cards from Prince of Peace, families can earn Scrip credit in the current year that will be applied toward tuition costs for the next year. Scrip profits for families are calculated annually from approximately April 1 to March 31. Please see the Scrip Policy for details. A signed copy must be on file to receive tuition credit.

Family's last name: _____

******Copy to stay in Handbook******

Prince of Peace Covenant

In signing this covenant, our family understands that student behavior reflects the value of living out our Catholic faith and helping students and others to grow as Christians. Our family agrees to follow the rules and guidelines set by the Prince of Peace Religious Education program:

Behaviors that show we are Christians and promote a positive classroom environment:

- ✓ Respecting classmates and adults through attentive listening, valuing others' opinions, keeping hands to self, wearing appropriate clothing to class, and expressing kind words.
- ✓ Participation in class and special events each week through attendance, contributing to class discussions, and maintaining a positive attitude.
- ✓ Keeping focused during class, especially by storing cell phone in pocket. At times, students may be asked to use their phones for research.
- ✓ Knowing that drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco-like products such as e-cigarettes, or any type of weapons are not allowed in the building or on the property. The police will be contacted, should a student be found in possession of any of these items.
- ✓ Respecting the sacredness of the church by entering quietly and walking.

Respect for the parish staff, volunteer catechists, and other students is the expectation. However, if students make poor choices, redirection to correct their behavior will help them to grow as a more faithful member of the church community.

Most poor choices can be redirected via a verbal warning from the catechist.

However, if further behavior instruction is needed, a plan will be formed with a religious education coordinator and/or Deacon Jeff. Parents may be called and asked to pick up their child for severe cases.

Note: Further explanations of the Covenant can be found in the 2023-2024 Religious Education Family Handbook.

I understand that the purpose of this covenant is to allow for a safe, positive learning experience to grow deeper in faith. By signing this covenant, I agree to talk to my child(ren)/dependents, and as a family, respect and uphold the rules and conditions set forth by the Religious Education staff and Prince of Peace.

By signing this covenant, I agree to the policies and procedures that are explained in this handbook.

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Children's names and grades: _____

Family's last name (Please print): _____ *****Copy to turn in to RE Staff*****

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