

August 2019

Dear OLV Parents,

Our 2019-20 Religious Education school year will be beginning soon! Welcome to all our new families to the parish. Over the summer I took a course on Catechetical Leadership and so many in my class were amazed to hear me comment that I had no challenges getting parents to be Catechists for our program. So many programs have to beg for Catechists. Thank you to all our wonderful Catechists that joyfully show up each Sunday morning to teach and shepherd our children in the faith. Our generous Catechists provide a fun, engaging, knowledgeable, spiritual and loving atmosphere in their classrooms. Our curriculum integrates Scripture and Tradition, and Liturgical Music, along with teaching the children how to put their faith into action. Thank you to all our parents in seeing the need to raise your children in the faith.

We offer 5 programs here at OLV:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is our Pre-K class for ages 4 and 5 years old. This class is limited to 16 students due to the nature of the program, so don't delay in registering!
9:30 – 10:40 am weekly/Class begins 9/15

Christ Our Life – The New Evangelization is for our K-5th grade students. 9:30-10:40 am each Sunday. Class begins 9/15

CHOSEN – 6th – 8th grades 9:40 am – 10:45am each Sunday. Class begins 9/22

Guest speaker, Jim Lachey, Former OSU Football player, who also went on to play for the Washington Redskins AND won the Super Bowl. Jim will share his journey of faith and how that has led him through his career and life. Parents are welcome to stay to hear him.

Special Needs – Offered for all ages, including Sacramental Prep. Classes begin in October on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm. One on one attention for children and adults. Please spread the word! Please contact me personally to set up an appointment to discuss.

Catch Up Class - for all grades – for children that are entering Religious Ed after 2nd grade and need First Communion, etc. If you know of someone in the parish or elsewhere that desires their children to be in Religious Ed, please have them contact me at religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc

New this year! A make up class for 7th and 8th grades will be offered on Thursday evenings twice a month from 7:00 – 8:30 pm for those students are are in travel sports or a family situation that does not allow them to come to class on Sunday mornings. Please email Krista at the Religious Ed address if this is something you are interested in for your student.

Our theme this school year is: **“Your Moral Compass”**. Children learn their lessons about virtues early in the home. Much of life is a moral and spiritual journey. We must raise human

beings that know what is right and wrong, just and unjust, etc. We will talk this year about the ten traits of character: Self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, and faith.

On the first day of class, Sunday, September 15th, our guest speaker, Judi Engel will talk about “Do as I do”. In a world of instant communication and a culture of materialism and relativism, how do we help our children develop well-formed consciences and find a strong, living moral compass for their lives? **St. Pope Paul VI**, in describing the depth of evangelization needed in our time, wrote that “People do not pay attention to teachers. They pay attention to witnesses. They will pay attention to teachers only if first they are witnesses.” Join us for a sharing of wisdom in discerning our own call to be such witnesses, and thus to help our children grow into the kind of faith-filled and morally responsible life we desire for them.

I know this is your first day of a little break while the children are in class, but I am asking you personally to wait a week to start your routines of working out, grocery shopping, etc. Father Metzger has been generous to continue this tradition of having an opening speaker for the parents. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet him and also meet some new friends at OLV! Please drop off your children to their classrooms, and head up to the Father Romano Parish Life Center for coffee, donuts, and bagels and hear the wisdom of Judi Engel in raising your children to be moral human beings.

Now for the nuts and bolts of our program this year!

1. Parents of children in Pre-K – 3rd grade are to escort their children both to and from the lower level Parish Life Center doors (or for the Pre-K program located in the Atrium classroom of the Church) at the beginning and ending of each class for your child’s safety. Please do not stop and drop in the lower parking lot ever! 4-5th grades can be dropped off at the upper level parking lot doors to the PLC.
2. Grades 6-7th can be dropped off at the far north, lower level parking lot doors. 8th grade only can be dropped off at the upper level parking lot PLC door. Pick up is the same. **Do not pick up your 6-7th grader at the upper parking lot please.**
3. Contributing financially to the parish according to your ability.
4. Sending your children regularly to Religious Education classes and enrolling them each year in our program until they receive their Sacrament of Confirmation. This demonstrates to the child that our faith is not something that we take lightly nor do we just pick it up when it is convenient in our lives.
5. **A minimum of 2-3 hours is expected of parents to volunteer in the program.** Opportunities are the Christmas Play, The OLV Festival, and Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW at the 11:00 am mass), etc.
6. **Attending weekly mass with your family is a NON-NEGOTIABLE. Mass and Religious Education go hand in hand. There is FREE childcare offered at the 11:00 am mass also.**

Always pick up a bulletin at mass each weekend for the most updated information regarding Religious Ed and our Parish. You will receive weekly communications from me on Thursday afternoons with, **This Week, Next Week, and Looking Ahead to keep you informed.** Please take the time to read these!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Krista Joseph, DRE

Father William Metzger, Pastor