

# Things to know about Religious Education at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

## Who do we serve?

1. Children of all grades from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, and their families.
2. The ordinary age to begin the two year process to prepare for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation is First Grade. The new diocesan ordinary age for the one year process to prepare for Confirmation is the Seventh grade. However children are placed in classes with their own age group. Children who are older than the ordinary age for the sacrament are always warmly welcomed and will never feel out of place or “weird.”

## What do we offer?

1. Classes to prepare to celebrate the sacraments of First Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, and Baptism if necessary.
2. Continuing religious education classes after celebrating the sacraments up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## When does all this happen?

- ❖ Regular religious education classes are held on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:15 pm and Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:45 pm.
- ❖ Confirmation classes are held on Fridays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and on Sundays 10:15 to 11:45 pm.

## What can you and your child expect from the Religious Education Program at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church?

1. Your child can expect a learning experience that is age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and varied to appeal to a variety of learning styles. Class materials are rooted in Sacred Scripture, Tradition, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students are given the tools to live out their discipleship among their friends, at home, and in the parish community.
2. As parents, you can expect to be welcomed at Our Lady of Guadalupe no matter where you are on your faith journey. Our goal is to supplement and support what you are teaching your child at home about living as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## What do we expect from you and your child?

1. **That in choosing to prepare your child to celebrate the sacraments of the Catholic Church, you are acknowledging that the first precept of the church is to celebrate the Eucharistic liturgy every week.** Children are expected to attend mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church every week, unless ill or traveling. **Mass attendance is verified through a check-in process at the English and Spanish liturgies on both Saturday and Sunday. Students who do not attend mass will not be eligible to celebrate their sacraments.**
2. **That you will not schedule other events and activities such as sports or music lessons, that conflict with the punctual and consistent attendance at religious education classes.** If you would like to have your children in religious education classes, we would love to have them there. If you would like to have them do other activities, we support that as well. Please do not try to do both at the same time.

## What is the cost?

- ❖ \$65 per student, per year, with a \$150 per family maximum.

Payment plans and scholarships are available for those who need them.

**For More Information:** Carole Pforsich, Director of Religious Education

Learning about God's love begins in the family. We are happy to be joining you in preparing your child to celebrate one or more of the Sacraments.

### **First Holy Communion and Reconciliation – for all grades**

There are four parts to the sacrament preparation process for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation:

- 1) Regular religious education classes for two years.
- 2) Weekly mass attendance at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.
- 3) Sacrament Preparation classes for parents and students – Intensive preparation to celebrate sacraments takes place during the second year of religious education. **Parents and Children take part in three (3) special classes for Reconciliation preparation and four (4) special classes for First Communion preparation.** These classes are held during the regular Thursday class time and are taught in English and Spanish. The parent/student classes are designed to be attended by the student along with a parent. If a parent cannot attend, a godparent, grandparent, or other special relative must come with the student.
- 4) Parent classes – Parents are required to attend one parent meeting before Reconciliation preparation and one parent meeting before First Communion preparation. These classes are mandatory. If at least one parent doesn't attend the meetings, then an appointment must be made for a one-on-one meeting with the religious education director before the sacrament can be celebrated.

Older children preparing for Baptism are given special instruction at a time to be arranged with the parent and catechist.

First Reconciliation usually takes place in February or March and First Communions and Baptisms take place in April or May

### **Confirmation – for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and above**

There are six parts to the sacrament preparation process for Confirmation:

- 1) Confirmation preparation classes for one year.
- 2) Weekly mass attendance at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.
- 3) Attendance to all the celebrations of the holy week: Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, Holy Saturday, and Sunday of Resurrection.
- 4) Five hours of community service
- 5) Attendance at the diocesan youth day.
- 6) Attendance at the retreat for students and parents prior to Confirmation.

