

Our Lady of the Mountains
Religious Education Handbook

2011-12



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1425 E. Yaqui Street
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Parish 520-378-2720
Religious Education Office 520-378-2733

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PARISH INFORMATION

Pastor: Father Ariel Lustan

Parish Administrative Assistant: Donna Parsons

Director of Religious Education: Felicia Klein

Mass Schedule

Monday– 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 7:00 a.m.

Friday – 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Communion Service – 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Anticipated Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. (Spanish), 5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation

Saturday – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MISSION

The religious education program for children and youth at Our Lady of the Mountains Parish seeks to open children's hearts and minds to the Holy Trinity and the Salvation accomplished in Jesus Christ, through basic study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other related faith formation courses that lead to a meaningful celebration of the Sacraments and an active living of one's faith as a young Catholic Christian.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Sunday	10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
1 st – 6 th Grades	Sunday	10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
7 th /8 th Grades/Pre-Confirmation	Sunday*	10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
9 th Grade (Confirmation)	Tuesday	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

*Please note that the 7th/8th grade/Pre-Confirmation class meets the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month. The 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month are youth group, from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Calendars for the catechetical year are provided at the time of registration.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be held in April/May of each year for the next school year. Families must be registered members of the parish in order to enroll their children in the program. A tuition discount is in effect for registrations completed before June 1.

It is very important that the Religious Education office has registrations early, in order to plan effectively for the following year's program. Supplies need to be ordered and catechists need to be recruited and trained.

If your family moves during the year, please contact the RE office so that your child's records can be transferred to the new parish.

Registration Process

1. Complete the registration form, including the medical release
2. Turn in Baptism certificate for each child
3. Registration fee payment is made

REGISTRATION FEES

The fees below help defray the cost of texts, materials, catechist preparation, and other operating expenses of our program. The additional fee for sacraments helps offset the costs of workshops/retreats, certificates, and other costs arising from the celebration of the sacraments. Fees are due at the time of registration. A payment schedule can be made if fees cannot be paid in full at the time of registration. Any family experiencing financial hardship may request assistance; requests may be made through the Religious Education office (any request will be kept confidential).

Registration Fees (2011-12)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: \$5/child

- Child MUST be three years old BEFORE September 1 to enter this program.

Grade 1 through Confirmation: \$35/student

Sacrament preparation (First Penance/Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation): \$20

Late Fees: An additional \$5/student will be charged if registering after September 8.

Families new to the parish after September 8 will pay no late fee.

ATTENDANCE

Children are expected to attend each class. Please make every attempt to be prompt.

Absence: A parent or guardian must call the Religious Education office (520-378-2733) to report the absence of a child.

Due to waiting lists for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, if your child is absent more than three consecutive classes, he/she will be removed from the class roster so that another child may begin attending, and your child will be put on the waiting list, should you decide to return. *If there are special circumstances which cause multiple absences, please contact the RE office so that your child may remain in the class.*

ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT

Every child must have a medical release form on file in the Religious Education office. When a child is ill or is injured in a Religious Education class/event the office will immediately make every attempt to contact the parent or guardian.

SUPERVISION

DROP OFF

- *Please do not drop of your child in a classroom before a catechist is present. The safety of your child is our greatest concern. Children/youth should not arrive more than 10 minutes before class begins. **There is no supervision before this time.***
- Preschool through Grade 3: Parents/Guardians need to use the recessed door entrance leading to the parish meeting rooms. Please do not attempt to use the classroom doors that exit to the parking lot; these are for emergency use only.
- Grades 4-8/Pre-Confirmation: Parents/Guardians need to enter and exit the school grounds through the Prayer Garden.
- Please see the Parish/School Grounds Map at the end of the handbook for reference.

PICK UP

- Parents/Guardians must come into the classroom to pick up their child (preschool through Grade 6). Other youth and/or adults allowed to pick up your child must be on file in the Religious Education office.
- Please be prompt in picking up your child at the end of class. If you are more than 10 minutes late your child will be taken to the Religious Education office for a reasonable length of time. Please contact the office if, due to an emergency, you are unable to pick up your child on time.
- A parent should notify the office if an ex-spouse is or is not allowed to pick up a child. Specific notice of custody arrangements should be on file with the Religious Education office.

BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINE

BEHAVIOR

Certain guidelines are necessary in order for all children/youth to feel safe and respected and enjoy their time in the religious education class.

1. All children/youth are expected to be on their best behavior at all times, both in and outside the classroom. As Christians, respect should be shown for all catechists, RE personnel, and other students.
2. Respect for classroom and other personal property is expected. Damage that is caused by a child/youth to personal or room property WILL be paid for and/or replaced by the student(s) causing the damage.
3. Students are expected to follow specific rules in their class, as set forth by their catechist or other person in charge.
4. Children/Youth are expected to dress appropriately, promoting good behavior.

DISCIPLINE

If the behavior of a child/youth disrupts the class as explained above, the following action will be taken:

1. A verbal warning will be given to the student.
2. If the behavior does not improve and/or the child/youth is uncooperative, parents will be notified by the DRE.
3. If necessary, a meeting to include the parents, student(s), and DRE will be arranged to discuss the issue.
4. After repeated attempts are made to remedy the situation, parents will be asked to consider alternatives to classroom instruction (i.e. home study, tutor, etc).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

CHILDREN AGES 3-6 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials they use to help them absorb the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith. (*referenced from www.cgsusa.org*)

1st Grade The Holy Trinity - God is our Creator and Father, Jesus saves us, the Holy Spirit forms the community of the Church; personal prayer and worshipping God in the celebration of the Eucharist; caring for one another and the world.

2nd Grade God loves each of us and we are called to act on God's love for us by loving one another, by living as Jesus wants us to live; special attention is given to examination of conscience, how to make a good confession and importance of preparation to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. *Sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation and Eucharist are received.*

3rd Grade Living in community; being a faithful follower of Jesus; sacraments deepen our relationship with God; theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

4th Grade Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, Sacraments of Healing and Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

5th Grade Being strengthened in the sacramental life of the Church, living more fully in the Holy Spirit as members of the Church, fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

6th Grade Salvation history – Creation through the Old Testament, to its fulfillment in Jesus; connection to Christian worship from its roots in the Old Testament; Catholic Social Teaching.

Texts for 1st through 6th grades are Finding God, Loyola Press.

7th/8th Grades/Pre-Confirmation The Revelation of God, the Gift of Salvation, the Church, Worship and Sacraments, Life in Christ, the Ten Commandments, Introduction to Scripture and the Gospels, the Letters and Revelation. Faith First, Resources for Christian Living

9th Grade *Preparation for celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation*
Confirmed in a Faithful Community, Saint Mary's Press.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

The Religious Education ministry is here to assist parents/guardians in your child's faith formation and we value and need your participation in this process.

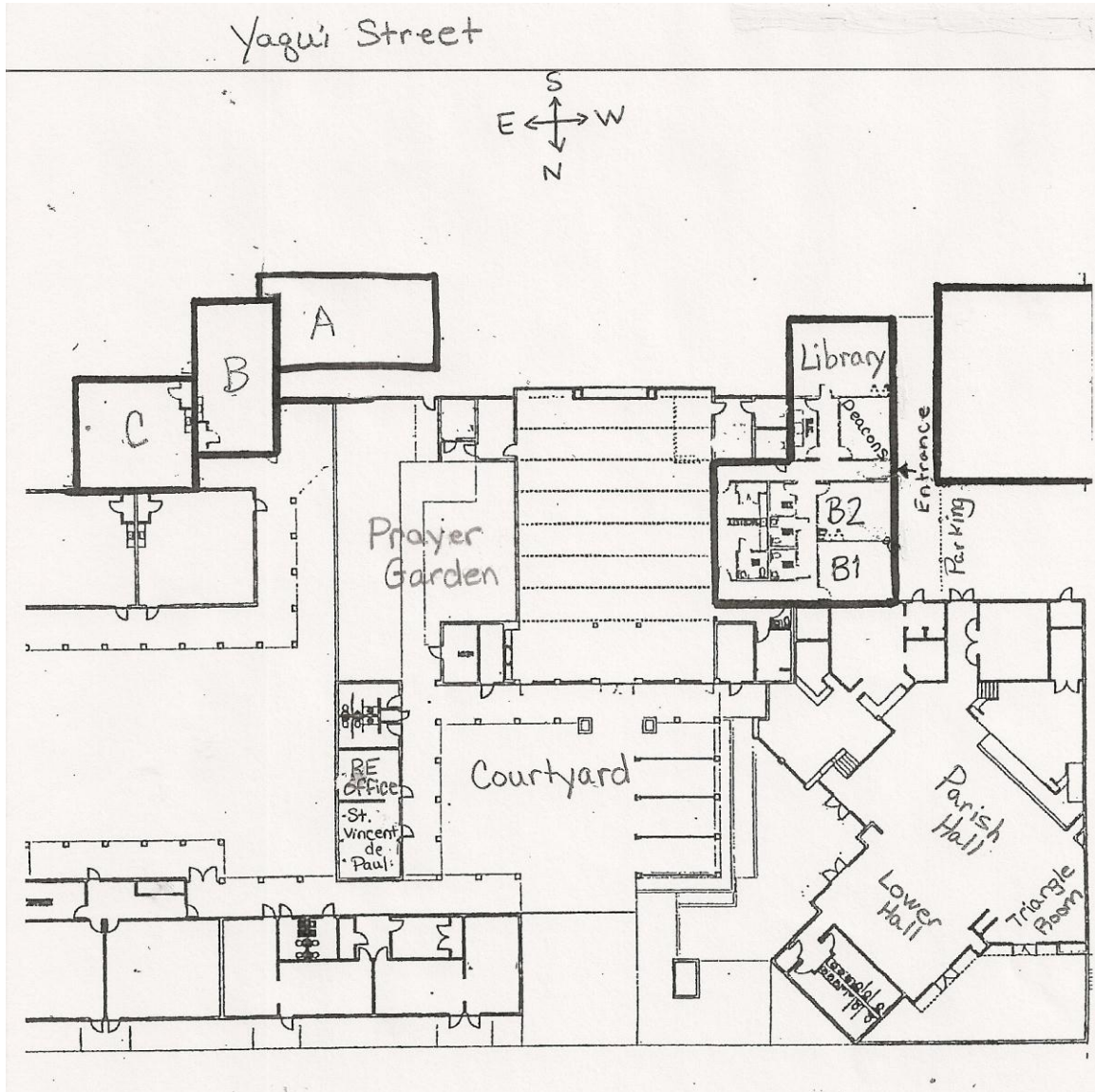
SACRAMENT of PENANCE and RECONCILIATION and SACRAMENT of the EUCHARIST

- These sacraments are celebrated in the 2nd grade.
- There are four gatherings scheduled for the parents/guardians of children/youth in the religious education program preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and/or the Sacrament of the Eucharist. These meetings are held during your child's regular religious education class time.
- In addition to these four meetings there is a workshop scheduled for children and their parents (siblings are welcome) for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and/or the Sacrament of the Eucharist (one workshop for each sacrament).
- Please note that parish policy states that these are mandatory gatherings and parents/guardians **MUST** attend if their child is to receive a sacrament.
- Dates and times for the above meetings and workshops are on the RE calendar.

SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

- This sacrament is celebrated in the 9th grade.
- Youth must have participated actively in the religious education/youth ministry program, or been enrolled in Catholic school, for one full year prior to enrollment in the Confirmation program
- Youth will attend a Confirmation retreat in the spring (date is determined early in the spring semester)
- Confirmation sponsors must attend all classes in the spring semester.
- Service experiences will be completed according to program guidelines.

PARISH/SCHOOL GROUNDS MAP



Parish Meeting Rooms

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Library

1st Grade – Deacons Room

2nd Grade – Bryerton Room (B1)

3rd Grade – Brazaskas Room (B2)

Confirmation – Bryerton/Brazaskas Rooms (B1/B2)

School Classrooms

4th Grade – Room A

5th/6th Grades – Room B

7th/8th/Pre-Confirmation – Room C