



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parent Handbook

2024-2025

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi
Pastor

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The Shared Mission of Families and Parish

The Gospel – the “good news” – of our Christian Catholic faith is that God has loved us with an infinite love through His Son, Jesus Christ, who became human in order to heal us from sin and lead us back to God.

We have received this good news from countless individuals throughout history. Now it is our turn to hand on this good news to our children.

The work of Religious Education at the Church of the Little Flower is our shared mission - a collaborative effort between families, especially parents, and the parish community.

In particular, parents are requested to

- worship God together with your children by participating in Mass every Sunday. At the Mass, our closest possible meeting with God takes place, which surpasses what can be provided in a classroom.
- engage with the prayers, Scripture passages, and saint stories that are provided by the Office of Religious Education alongside your children at home.

Relationship with Archdiocese of Washington

The Church of the Little Flower is a parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington; it is a local community of people in union with the Archdiocese and its Archbishop, which in turn is part of the universal Church under the leadership of the Pope, the Holy Father. As such, Little Flower supports the teachings, initiatives and policies of the Archdiocese.

Curriculum

The RE program teachers use the Curriculum Guide prepared by the Archdiocesan Secretariat for Catechesis; for additional instructional support, they utilize textbooks approved by the Archdiocese of Washington.

The grades K-6 teachers use the book series *Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts*, from Loyola Press. The 7th and 8th grades use *The Chosen* from Ascension Press as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Attendance and Promptness

Attending Mass and class regularly is essential for the growth and authentic participation of your child(ren) in our Catholic faith. It also helps them to establish a community of faith as they build friendships with their classmates.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If your child needs to arrive late, be dismissed early or miss class, please email their teacher and the office at ibarry@lfparish.org.

Parents of children in sacramental preparation years (First Communion: 1-2, Confirmation: 7-8) should note that consistent attendance will foster your child's readiness to receive the sacrament at the expected time.

Families should respect the time commitment of others by being prompt, making for a more smooth and focused class time together.

Conduct

We strive to maintain classroom environments that are ordered, safe, and suitable places for prayer and study of spiritual and religious subject matter. Each person is created by God in his image and likeness and should be treated with respect and consideration.

Students are expected and encouraged to be engaged in the lesson. Cell phones and other electronics are to be silenced and kept in students' bags unless the teacher requests their use for educational purposes.

Students are expected to listen to and follow the instructions of the teachers. Disruptive behavior will not be allowed to continue.

If a student's behavior impedes the learning environment, the teacher will remind the student of appropriate behavior expected in the classroom. If the behavior persists, he or she will be sent out of the class to the Director of Religious Education. If necessary, a meeting with parents will be arranged.

Inclement Weather

Sunday Classes - Grades K-5: An email will be sent no later than 8am on Sunday morning.

Wednesday Classes - Grades 6-8: Religious Ed classes will follow the MCPS school closures. If MCPS closes early or is canceled for the day, no classes will be held.

Procedures for Drop off and Pick up

Sundays - Students meet in the quad on the side of the school until the bell rings at 10:15am. Teachers line up grades K-5 and escort them to their classrooms. Classes are dismissed by the bell at 11:30am. Parents pick up their children in the quad.

Wednesdays - Doors open at 7:20pm and students may go straight to their classrooms. Staff will guide students to their classrooms the first few weeks of classes. Classes are dismissed by the bell at 8:45pm. Parents pick up their children in the quad.

If a student arrives late or needs to be picked up early, please check in with the staff and they will escort your child to class or go to the classroom to get them.

2024-2025 Religious Education Directory

Catechists are volunteers and we are so grateful for their time and dedication to faith formation of our students.

GRADE	TEACHER	EMAIL
K	Christine Faucett	kindergartenccd@lfparish.org
1	Jessica Watson	grade1ccd@lfparish.org
2	Katie Blot	grade2ccd@lfparish.org
3	Katie Carney & Katie Pirzadeh	grade3ccd@lfparish.org
4	Bridget Maybud	grade4ccd@lfparish.org
5	Christian Barry	grade5ccd@lfparish.org
6	Sebastian von Stauffenburg	grade6ccd@lfparish.org
7	Connie Lausten	grade7ccd@lfparish.org
8	Fr Robertson & Sr Grace Marie Horan	grade8ccd@lfparish.org

2024-2025 Religious Education Calendar - Important Dates

Sunday, Sept 15 9am	Opening Mass and Blessing of the Catechists
Sunday, Sept. 15 10:15-11:30am	Grades K-5 Religious Ed Classes Begin
Wednesday, Sept. 18 7:30-8:45pm	Grades 6th – 8th Religious Ed Classes Begin
Sunday, Sept. 29 10:15-11:30 am	2nd Annual Sr. Roberta Speaker’s Series & Social
Wednesday, Oct. 2 7:30pm	Confirmation Enrollment Forms Due
Sunday, Oct. 13	No Class (Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day)
Sunday, Oct. 27 10:15-11:30am	Circle of Grace Lesson for K-5 (Make-up class 11/3)
Wednesday, Oct. 30 7:30-8:45pm	Circle of Grace Lesson for 6th-8th (Make-up class 11/6)
Sunday, Nov. 24 1:00-3:00pm	Annual LFS & RE Advent Service Project
Mon. Nov. 25 – Tues. Dec. 3	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
Sunday, Dec. 15 10:15-11:30am	RE Advent Pageant & Cookie Social
Sunday, Dec. 22 - Sat. Jan. 11	No Class (Christmas Break)
Wednesday, Jan. 8 7:30-8:15pm	Confirmation Evening of Recollection for Parents
Wednesday, Jan. 8 7:30-8:45pm	Grades 6th – 8th Religious Ed Classes Resume
Saturday, Jan. 11 9-12pm	Confirmation Retreat at Little Flower
Sunday, Jan. 12 9am	Confirmation Enrollment Mass
Sunday, Jan. 12 10:15–11:30am	Grades K - 5 Religious Ed Classes Resume
Tuesday, Jan. 14 7:00-7:45pm	2nd Grade Parent Meeting First Penance & Communion
Wednesday, Jan. 15-Feb 12 7:30-8:45pm	8th grade Private Catholic School students join
Sunday, Jan. 19	No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)
Wednesday, Feb. 12	Confirmation Assignment Packets Due & Exam
Sunday, Feb. 16	No Class (President’s Day weekend)
Saturday, Feb. 22 9am	Celebration of First Penance
Wednesday, Mar. 5 7:00pm (Ash Wed)	Grades 6th – 8th Mass instead of Class
Wednesday, Mar. 12 7:00-8:30pm	Confirmation Interviews at School
Wednesday, Mar. 19 7:30-8:45	Last RE Class for 8th Grade
Sunday, Mar. 23 – Apr. 6	ADW Faith Knowledge Assessment via Kahoot!
Wednesday, Mar. 26 5:00-6:30pm	Confirmation Rehearsal
Saturday, Mar. 29 10am	Celebration of Confirmation Mass
Wednesday, Apr. 9 7:30-8:45pm	Last Class for Grades 6th & 7th
Saturday, Apr. 12	Come Home for Easter
Sunday, April 13 – Saturday, April 26	No Class (Easter Break)
Tues. April 29 & Weds, Apr. 30 3:30-5pm	First Communion Rehearsals
Saturday, May 3 10am	Celebration of First Communion
Sunday, May 4 10:15-11:30am	Last Class for Grades K-5th (No Class for 2nd Grade)
Wednesday, May 14 7:00-7:45pm	7th Grade Confirmation Meeting for parents & students