



CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parent Handbook

2025-2026

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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 2nd grade uses *Renewed & Received* from Ascension Press as they prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. 7th and 8th grades use *The Chosen* from Ascension Press as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

For 1st-3rd grades, we also provide the resource *Magnifikid!*, a prayer book focused around the Sunday readings, to foster the children's engagement and understanding at Mass.

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

If classes need to be canceled due to inclement weather, an email will be sent no later than 8am on Sunday morning.

Procedures for Drop off and Pick up

Classes are from 10:15-11:15am in the school.

Students & families meet in the outside quad area facing the Church, near the large new portable structure, after the 9am Mass.

At 10:15am Sister Grace Marie leads with a prayer and students then go to their classrooms with their teachers.

Students are dismissed via the quad (the side of the school facing the church) at 11:15am.

2025-2026 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 Branson	kindergartenccd@lfparish.org
1	Suzanne Richeson	grade1ccd@lfparish.org
2	Robert & Min Jin Won	grade2ccd@lfparish.org
3	Katie Carney	grade3ccd@lfparish.org
4	Bridget Maybud	grade4ccd@lfparish.org
5	Amanda Cabe	grade5ccd@lfparish.org
6	Connie Lausten	grade6ccd@lfparish.org
7	Fr. Danny Morrison	grade7ccd@lfparish.org
8	Christian Barry	grade8ccd@lfparish.org

2025-2026 Religious Education Calendar - Important Dates

For the sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, Religious Education (RE), Little Flower School (LFS), and Private Catholic School (PCS) students join together for some of the preparations.

Tuesday, Sept 9 7-8pm, PH	Confirmation Mtg & Ice Cream Social <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS 8th grade students & parents</i>
Sunday, Sept 14 9am, Church	Opening Mass & Blessing of Catechists <i>for all RE families</i>
Sunday, Sept 14	Grades K-8 RE Classes Begin
Thursday, Sept 18 7-8pm, PH	Orientation & Dessert Social w/ Catechists <i>for all RE Parents</i>
Sunday, Oct 5 10:15-11:15	3rd Annual Sr. Roberta Speaker's Series & Social <i>for all RE families</i>
Sunday, Oct 5	Confirmation Enrollment & Community Service Plan forms due <i>for RE, LFS, PCS students</i>
Sunday, Oct 19	No Class (MCPS 4 Day Weekend)
Sunday, Nov 23 1-3pm, PH	All Parish Shoebox Service Project
Sunday, Nov 30	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
Tuesday, Dec 2 5:30-7:30pm, PH	All Parish Family Pizza & Advent Wreath Making
Saturday, Dec 6 5pm, Church & PH	All Parish St. Nick's Mass & Social w/ St. Nick
Saturday, Dec 13 9am-5pm, Church	All Parish Come Home for Christmas Confessions
Sunday, Dec 14 10:15-11:30am, PH	RE Advent Pageant & Cookie Social
Sunday, Dec 21 - Sunday, Jan 4	No Classes (Christmas Break)
Tuesday, Jan 6 7:30-8:30pm, Church	Confirmation Evening of Prayer <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS parents</i>
Saturday, Jan 10 8:30-12:30pm, PH	Confirmation Retreat for Candidates only <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students</i>
Sunday, Jan 11 9am, Church	Confirmation Enrollment Mass <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students & parents</i>
Sunday, Jan 12	RE Classes Resume
Thursday, Jan 14 7:30-8:30pm, Church	First Reconciliation & Communion Evening Prayer <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS parents</i>
Sunday, Jan 11 - Sun. Feb. 22	Confirmation Prep Sessions
	<i>8th grade Private Catholic School (PCS) students join 8th grade Religious Ed (RE) classes for Confirmation prep. LFS students are prepared at school and their forms/projects are due during their Religion class time. They are invited to attend these sessions as well.</i>
Sunday, Jan 18	No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)
Sunday, Feb 1	Confirmation Saint Projects Due in class <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students</i>
Sunday, Feb 8	Confirmation Interview Forms Due in class <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students</i>
Tuesday, Feb 10 7:30-8:30pm, Church	Lenten Evening of Prayer <i>for all parents</i>
Sunday, Feb 15	No Class (President's Day weekend)
Wednesday, Feb 18 7:00pm, Church	Ash Wednesday Mass
Saturday, Feb 21 9am, Church	Celebration of First Reconciliation <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students</i>
Sunday, Feb 22, School	Confirmation Exam in class <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students</i>
Tuesday, Feb 24 7:00-8:30pm, School	Confirmation Interviews <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students only</i>
Wednesday, Mar 4 or 11 4:30-6pm, Church	Confirmation Rehearsal <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students only</i>
Saturday, Mar 7 10am, Church	Celebration of Confirmation Mass!
Sunday, Mar 8 after 9am Mass, PH	All Parish Congratulations Party <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS Confirmandi</i>
Saturday, Mar 28 9am - 5pm, Church	All Parish Come Home for Easter Confessions
Sunday, Mar 29 - Sunday, Apr 5	No Classes (Palm Sunday & Easter)
Sunday, April 12	RE Classes Resume
Sunday, April 12, at home	ADW Faith Knowledge Assessment via Kahoot!
Wednesday, Apr 29 3:30-5pm, Church	First Communion Rehearsals <i>for all RE, LFS, PCS students only</i>
Saturday, May 2 10am, Church	Celebration of First Communion Mass!
Sunday, May 3 9am, Church	May Crowning Mass
Sunday, May 10	No Class (Mother's Day)
Sunday, May 17 10:15-11:15, School/PH	Last Class & Year End Social <i>for all RE families</i>