



OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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4 September 2018

Re: Catholic Faith Formation Policies

Dear OLM Parents and Students,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Our Lady of the Mountains Religious Education Program. We pray that this year's activities lead parents and students to a greater love of God through deeper understanding of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Eligibility

Parents must be registered at Our Lady of the Mountains in order to place a child in our Catholic Faith Formation program. We must have a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate, and First Communion Certificate if they have already received First Communion, on file before they can be fully registered as a student.

Mass Attendance & Class Participation for All Students

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the Faith. It will be your duty to raise your child to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.

Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

As parents, we've each said, "I Do" to the questions asked of us in the Baptismal Rite. Enrolling your child in Faith Formation classes is an action taken to fulfill this commitment. We take our role in helping you fulfill your promise very seriously. Scheduling classes between the two Sunday Masses in order to allow families to worship together is one way we strive to support parents in living up to the solemn promise made at Baptism. Our educational programs are based on the cornerstone assumption that families are living according to the [Precepts of the Catholic Church](#), which begins with attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.

We respect that each family's time is precious. Similarly, we expect that parents and students can appreciate that time allotted for classroom engagement is equally as valuable. We are limited to approximately 28 classroom hours each academic year. This means our entire year equates to less time than students spend in class during one week of traditional school. Therefore, it is crucial that parents actively participate in the student's religious education. This includes ensuring they are present and on time for class sessions. Missed classes will be handled as described below.

Attendance

First absence: Briefly meet with Catechist to discuss work missed and receive home study assignment to ensure the student can realign with class progress.

Second absence: Meet with Catechist and the Director of Religious Education (DRE) to discuss the student's progress as well as an action plan to avoid future issues. Parents will receive work for home study to bring the student into alignment with class progress.

Third absence: Meet with Pastor, DRE, and Catechist to discuss and mitigate issues if possible while evaluating whether the student's status warrants a delay in awarding credit for coursework.

Students must actively participate and complete all assignments and required activities to successfully complete their course.

Confirmation Candidates

Confirmation students are accountable for:

1. Being in place when the Catechist begins class.
2. Bringing textbook, pens, and other appropriate class materials to each class session.
3. Turning in all homework by the deadline provided by their Catechist. Makeup work from missed classes is due two weeks from the date assigned.
4. Behaving in a mature and respectful manner is expected. Behavior issues that merit more than two warnings from the Catechist will require a parent meeting with the Youth Coordinator and possible "Supervised Attendance." This means the parent will be required to remain in the classroom during subsequent sessions until the coordinator is satisfied that no further issues will be encountered.

Students are required to attend an appropriate retreat at OLM. A retreat at another Catholic church within our Archdiocese may meet this requirement, but parents must coordinate these exceptions with the Youth Coordinator before a retreat takes place.

Students in the second year of formation for Confirmation are required to complete 30 hours of service work during the academic year in which they will be confirmed. All requirements must be completed by April 15th of the year they will be Confirmed. Service work is divided into three areas: 10 credits for community service, 10 credits for service to the parish, and 10 credits for service within the family household (cleaning, chores, etc.). Students must keep track of credits using the tracking tool provided by our Youth Coordinator. Tracking will be monitored periodically by the coordinator.

Smart Phones

The use of smart phones or other electronic devices by students during class time is inappropriate and prohibited. These devices create an unacceptable level of distraction for the user and others. We rely on parents to assist us by setting the correct expectations regarding the use of smart phones. Simply put, students must treat class time as they would any other formal gathering where use of the device would be inappropriate. Smart phones will be silenced and stored out of sight. If a student violates this

policy, the device will be collected by the Catechist and returned to a parent at the end of class. Conflicts arising over this policy may be resolved in a meeting with the Director of Religious Education.

Safe Environment

Our Lady of the Mountains complies with all Safe Environment policies of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

If You Have Questions

Please direct questions regarding these policies to Scott Curran, Director of Religious Education, 706-253-3079, or olm.dre1908@gmail.com.



Charles R. Byrd
Pastor
Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church



Scott A. Curran
Director of Religious Education
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