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ourladyofthesnowsparish.org

Our Lady of the Snows Religious Education Formation Program

2022/2023

Reverend Juan Luis Andrade, Pastor

Maria (Cooky) Perez-Eraci, DRE/YM
Mariana Patiño, OLS Parish Office Adm. Assistant

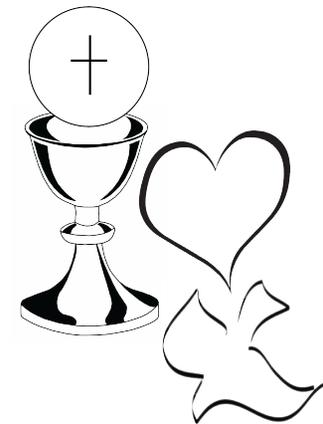
Nilsa Nieves Aguilera, OLS Parish Office Adm. Assistant

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REP Phone: 733-498-6800
Parish Office: 773-582-2266
Ms. Cooky: 708-370-3674

Essential to the Catechetical Dynamic is
ACCOMPANIMENT, education and formation in the
faith and for the faith, an introduction to the celebration
of the Mystery, illumination and interpretation of human
life and history.

Directory for Catechesis, 55.



Contact

Any questions should be directed to the Director of Religious Education, Ms. Cooky Perez-Eraci,
ols.rel.ed.formation.program@gmail.com 708-370-3674

Disclaimer:

This is by no means an exhaustive handbook. depending on the circumstances, there may be impromptu decisions made that are not highlighted.



Religious Ed. Formation

Dear Parents and REP Kids/Young People,

It is with joy and excitement that we welcome you to Our Lady of the Snows Religious Education Formation program, REF. We are so excited about the 2022-2023 REF year as we come back to in person formation. Thank you for entrusting your children to us. Our Lady of the Snows is committed to support you as parents in your role as the primary catechists, in the formation of your children. We are committed to share our faith and love of God with your children, and also to enhance the spirit of community throughout our parish family.

Our Religious Education Formation program (REF) has been designed to complement, the formation received at home by the parents, for children who go to a non-Catholic or public school. We have formation for grades 1 through High School. Children are encouraged to stay with the program throughout primary formation, even if they already have received the sacraments. Our program prepares children and our young people for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. However, we believe that Catholic formation cannot be limited to the reception of the sacraments. It involves forming lives through the Catholic lens in these very important and formative years. We accompany children and our young people and engage them in encounters. We witness a living faith and we provide space for prayer, faith growth, service, and reflection.

The program

We begin each session in church with a welcome and prayer. We will also have frequent announcements and reminders of things happening in the program or parish. We encourage parents to come in with their child and join us for a few minutes. The children will be called out by grade level, their catechist will have a sign with the level, children will follow their catechist to their assigned room in the school building. We are always looking for volunteers to help us during the year. Please to not hesitate to call us at 733-498-6800. If we are not available to answer your call please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also contact me, Ms. Cooky directly at 708-370-3674 or email ols.rel.ed.formation.program@gmail.com, if you have any issues or concerns.

Books and supplies

Everything the children/young people need for their faith formation class is provided for them; pencils, pens, glue, crayons, paper and a folder. Your child should bring their book.

Every week a folder will go home and every week is brought back. Please check your child/young person's folder and empty it every week.

We are using Loyola Press, a bilingual series. it is an approved publisher per the Archdiocese of Chicago, USCCB. The book price is included with the tuition payment. The book is the personal property of the student and family. Parents will be responsible for the book replacement if the book is damaged or lost. Family lessons are part of the formation we expect families to become familiar with the material that their child/young person are learning about and become an active in their child/young person's formation.

Dress Code

Students may dress casually, but their clothes must be appropriate. Inappropriate attire includes, but is not limited to: t-shirts with profanities or suggestive messages, tight, revealing, or baggy clothes or other items deemed inappropriate at the discretion of Our Lady of the Snows. It is also unacceptable to wear hoodies during class time or in church.

OLS Property

Students must respect Our Lady of the Snows property. Any violation will be addressed by the Director of Religious Education and communicated to the parent/guardian. Further review of this incident could lead to dismissal from the program and/or financial consequences.

Emergency Care of Students

At registration you signed off a medical release form. If a child would become seriously injured or ill during a formation gathering, we would have the authorization for provide emergency care. Every attempt will be made to contact parents if there is an accident or illness. If a minor accident or injury occurs, basic first aid treatment will be administered.

Cancellations

When there is severely inclement weather, faith formation will be cancelled.

Announcements will be made:

- Email
- REP Facebook and Parish Facebook

Dismissal

Children in 1st grade will be dismissed at 10:25AM from the South doors (leading to the South parking lot, door #2). Children in Primary Level 2 will be dismissed at 10:30AM from the South doors (leading to the South parking lot, door #2). Children in Primary Level 1 and Intermediate Level 1 will be dismissed at 10:30am from the West Hall doors (leading to the Laramie side parking lot). Intermediate Level 2 will be dismissed at 10:30AM from West Church doors. We will communicate instances where there may be a change in these procedures.

Religious Education Program Calendar – please refer to the REP calendar. It contains important information related to class days, holidays, reminders, and parent meetings.

CELL PHONES

Cell phone usage is not permitted during faith sessions. Cell phones will be held until the end of the session by staff, if used by students during faith session.

Behavior/Disciple

Students must be respectful. Disruptive behavior in the classroom or church is unacceptable. Repeat violations are ground for separation from the program.

The following are examples of infractions that are considered inappropriate and will be dealt with accordingly:

- INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE
- FIGHTING/THREATS
- LACK OF RESPECT FOR OTHERS
- CLASS DISRUPTION
- DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY
- CHEWING GUM
- TALKING BACK
- BULLYING

To Provide Opportunities to Develop Values for Christian Living

Service and stewardship opportunities will be offered, TBA

Drop off and pick up/dismissal

Parents are responsible for their children during the time they bring them to OLS and drop them off until the children enter the building. Parents are responsible during the time they exit the building and are picked up. Unfortunately, we do not have staff to supervise the parking lot for children who arrive early and for those who are picked up late. Please call the office at: 773-582-2266 if there is an unforeseen problem so we can help.

The catechist will walk the children/young people to the doors for dismissal. If you are late, we will have your child wait inside until you arrive. We ask however that you make every effort to pick up your child(ren) at dismissal.

It will be best if parents of small children get out of their cars and pick up your child at the door. It is dangerous for children to run between cars to find their parents.

First and second graders are not allowed to leave until they see the person who is picking them up.

PERMISSION TO WALK HOME FORM

If you would like to give your child consent to walk home alone after dismissal, a “Permission to Walk Home Form” MUST be completed. Children who do not have this authorization on file will not be permitted to walk home alone. If the parent/guardian is running late, the child will be directed to the office and the parent/guardian called.

If you did not complete/sign the “Permission to Walk Home” form, your child must be picked up after dismissal by an authorized parent/guardian.

Mass Attendance

As a Catholic community of faith, the Eucharistic Mass sacrifice, is the source and summit of our faith. **Weekly participation in Saturday or Sunday Mass, at Our Lady of the Snows (or another Parish), is MANDATORY for a highly developed spiritual life.** Which Mass is attended and what language is celebrated does not matter.

All children are required to complete a **“Mass Attendance Record”** each time he/she attends Mass. The record will be stamped by the Parish Office or on Saturday, signed by the pastor. If needed attendance, will be discussed with the parents.

Children participating in our program, who do not participate in the Mass, develop only a part of their life of faith. Parents should be aware that when their children were baptized, they committed to raising them in the faith, and Mass is an integral part of our lives.

Attendance Commencement

REF is held on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM for grades 1 – 6. Thursdays from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM for Confirmation Level I & Level II. Our Kick off day on September 17th counts as attendance. The first day of class will be Saturday, September 24, 2022 for grades 1-6 and Thursday, September 22 for Confirmation Level I & Level II. All children are to gather in the church (unless otherwise instructed). They must be ready to be taken to class by their catechist right after the welcome prayer and announcements.

Since each formation session is important, if a child has more than 2 absences, special arrangements will need to be made for him/her to make up the session. The Archdiocese of Chicago permits only (2) two absences a year.

When your child must be absent due to illness, you are required to call the Religious Education Formation Office at 773-498-6800 or email ols.rel.ed.formation.program@gmail.com, with the name, grade of your child.

Sacrament Requirements

ALL children and youth who are eligible to celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Communion and/or Confirmation **MUST COMPLETE TWO YEARS** of the Religious Education Formation Program.

Certificates

At registration your child’s BAPTISMAL certificate must be on file. For Confirmation, we must also have the **FIRST COMMUNION** certificate copy on file.

Tuition Rates for the 2022-2023 School Year

\$185 – 1 child full payment

\$265 – 2 children full payment

\$345 – 3 or more children full payment

Book fee is already included in tuition above

Sacramental fee:

\$35 for First Communion

\$40 for Confirmation

Tuition Refund

If a student is withdrawn from the program before the end of the first semester (12/10/22), 50% of the tuition will be refunded. If a student is withdrawn from the program **AFTER** December 10, 2022, **NO REFUND WILL BE GIVEN.** Any student that is dismissed from the program, at any time, is **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A REFUND.**

