

SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office of Religious Education
703-533-1182x104

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our St. James Parish family! My name is Sister Regina Rosarii McLallen, IHM, and I am the Director of the Parish Religious Education Program called PREP. In PREP we provide faith formation and sacramental preparation for children in Grades 1 through 12. We do provide a Kindergarten level but it is limited to just one session in the afternoon. We accept students on a first-come, first-served basis in our Kindergarten. It is not required for First Penance and First Communion.

Our classes are held every Tuesday beginning in mid-September and ending in mid-May. In the afternoon, sessions begin at 4:45pm (Levels K-8) and end at 6:00pm. In the evening, sessions begin at 7:00pm (Levels 1-12) and end at 8:15pm. The evening classes also include special classes for students who are preparing for sacraments but who are older than the grade level in which the sacraments are normally received. We also offer Religious Education for Spanish-speaking students on Sunday from 12:30 - 1:45pm. There is a tuition charge each year. For the 2021-2022 school year, PREP tuition is as follows: \$140 for one student / \$190 for two or more students.

First Penance and First Holy Communion are received in Level 2, after having completed Level 1. We require a two-year preparation for each sacrament. Confirmation is administered in Level 8, after having completed Level 7. However, faith formation is not just for sacramental preparation. Our curriculum parallels our parish school curriculum which spans all eight grades. We use the Loyola Press "Christ Our Life" Religion Program for our students who attend on Tuesdays and Our Sunday Visitor's Bilingual Edition of "Alive in Christ" for our students who attend on Sundays. In addition, we provide many opportunities for family celebrations and for service.

There is also an opportunity for high school students, who have missed sacramental preparation, to receive instruction and formation. These classes are registered through a personal appointment with me. My number is 703-533-1182, ext. 103.

Parents of all new students must have a copy of their child(ren)'s Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate at the time of registration and must already be registered members of St. James Parish. If a new student has already completed some PREP classes elsewhere, proof of attendance and dates for sacraments already completed are also needed.

Finally, there are two wonderful people who work with me in the Religious Education Office - Pam Heid and Frances Wilson. Whether you speak with Pam, Frances or me, please know that we are all happy to help you in the faith formation of your child(ren).

May God bless you!



Sister Regina Rosarii McLallen, IHM
Director of Religious Education