

ST. MARY MAGDALEN



SUMMER RELIGION PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RELIGION PROGRAM

The Second Vatican Council describes the family as a “domestic church”. This is because within the family there should be a special relationship between its members and Jesus Christ. Parents, therefore, have the right and duty to pass the faith on to their children. It is the nature of the Church’s religious education programs to build upon the good work, which was begun in the life of the family. The CCD Summer Religion Program for the Parishes of St. Mary Magdalen utilizes the summer break for religious instruction, which allows a truly continued educational setting for the spiritual growth of the students as well as their volunteer religion instructors.

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Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the CCD Summer Religion Program for St. Mary Magdalen. Since the program began years ago, we have received a lot of positive feedback from parents and students. We are very pleased through the utilization of shared resources to be able to provide an excellent educational program for the students of both parishes.

Parents, we thank you for your continued support of this program and for all that you do for your children and for the Church. Faith is a wonderful blessing that we are given as a gift from God. These two weeks of formal religious education supplement the primary education you provide in your everyday family life. You continue the spiritual journey with your children by reinforcing the teachings of the Catholic faith within your family lives and by fulfilling your obligation to attend weekly Mass. It is our prayer that as parents you will guide your children in their journey into deepening their worship of God through communal and private prayer.

Students, this CCD Summer Program provides an opportunity for each of you to continue your religious education and deepen your commitment to Christ and to His Church. We pray that these two weeks will be a time of spiritual growth and a great blessing for each of you. We also pray that you will form a foundation in your relationship with the Lord and His Church through this program, strengthened through your attendance at weekly Mass, and reinforced by the guidance of your parents at home.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the teachers for their willingness to volunteer their time and talent to teach your children during our summer program. To all the volunteers who help behind the scenes we also say thanks for making this program run so smoothly.

We take this opportunity to remind you that the dates for the summer program will be the 2nd and 3rd weeks of July each year. We appreciate your assistance in making these dates a priority when scheduling summer events. Thank you for your support of this program.

With prayers for a spirit-filled summer, we remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,



(The Rev.) William C. Blanda

Pastor

St. Mary Magdalen Parish

CCD SUMMER RELIGION PROGRAM DATES:

The CCD Summer Religion Program is held during the **second and third weeks of July.**

FACULTY:

The CCD Summer Religion Program has a teaching staff that consists of priests, deacons, seminarians, professional and experienced teachers, and volunteers, many of whom have been involved in the program since its inception.

WHICH GRADE SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE IN?

The grade level of each child for summer religion is based on the grade level that your child has completed in school. For example if your child just finished first grade in school, he/she will take first grade in the religion program.

WHO MUST ATTEND THE CCD SUMMER RELIGION PROGRAM?

Children of parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen who attend public schools and non-Catholic, private schools must attend the CCD Summer Religion Program if they wish to progress to Confirmation. Proof of attendance in CCD Programs of other Catholic Churches must be presented for transferring students.

Children who are participating in an overall academic homeschool program are not required to attend CCD if religion classes are a part of their regular daily curriculum. However, homeschool parents who have children entering 2nd grade must contact their respective parish regarding particular policies for homeschoolers in this sacramental year.

All juniors whether in Catholic school, homeschool or public school are required to attend Confirmation classes through their parish as this is not a part of the curriculum in any schools. In addition, the junior year Confirmation classes provide open discussions and guest speakers allowing all youth of the parish to benefit from these important teachings.

REGISTRATION:

Parents are required to re-register their children by the end of July for the following year's Summer Program. Each year that you have children enrolled in our CCD Summer Religion Program, you will be required to re-sign a new policy agreement form, acknowledging your continued support and adherence to the requirements and policies of our program.

REGISTRATION COSTS:

The standard expenses and fees for students in the Summer Religion Program are as follows:

\$15 for one child; \$20 for two children; \$30 for three or more children

Additional fees for First Communion and Confirmation Programs may be applicable.

A late fee will be assessed to the standard fee for students if registration is completed and returned after the original due date of July 31 of every year.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

In an effort to reach and accommodate each student so that they can learn and grow to the fullest of their abilities, we ask that parents notify the office in writing of any physical or learning disability that their children have. This will be kept confidential on the student's individual file. Teachers will be given advanced notice of any specific modifications needed in the class environment. If your child has an IEP in their public or private schools, please indicate in the notice all special needs and suggested accommodations.

TIME & LOCATION OF CLASSES FOR EACH GRADE:

All CCD classes will be held in morning sessions from **8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.** at Vermilion Catholic High School.

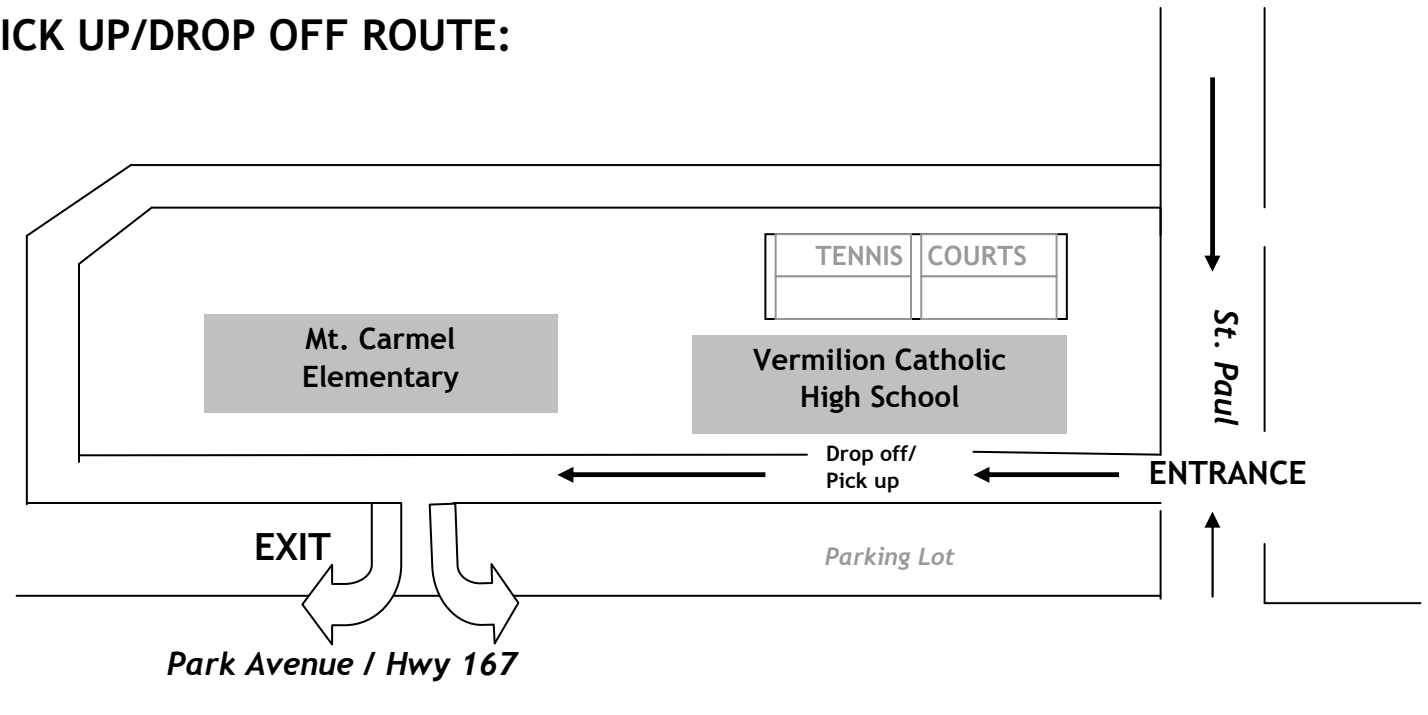
DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP CHILDREN AT VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:

For the morning session doors to Vermilion Catholic High School will open at **7:30 a.m.** for parents wishing to drop off their child before work.

When dropping off or picking up your child for religion classes, please enter the VC parking lot from St. Paul Street and exit the parking lot in front of Mt. Carmel onto Park Avenue. This will ensure a smooth flow of traffic. Students must be picked up in a timely manner after classes have finished. You may also park and enter the school to pick up (especially the younger children).

Note: Students who drive will be permitted to park in front of Vermilion Catholic for classes. See map below.

PICK UP/DROP OFF ROUTE:



DRESS CODE:

Please make sure your child observes the following guidelines of dress for attending the CCD Summer Religion Classes. All children are required to dress modestly. Students will be sent home to change or parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing if children arrive wearing any of the following: shorts shorter than 5 inches above the knee when standing; shirts that are too tight, reveal midriff, have vulgar or obscene language or images, have spaghetti straps or plunging necklines; and sagging pants that reveal undergarments. The cooperation of parents and students is greatly appreciated in this matter.

“Purity requires modesty, an integral part of temperance. Modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It means refusing to unveil what should remain hidden. It is ordered to chastity to whose sensitivity it bears witness. It guides how one looks at others and behaves toward them in conformity with dignity of persons and their solidarity.” - Catechism of the Catholic Church #2521

MATERIALS FOR CLASS:

For grades 3rd through 10th, each child must be prepared for the first day of class by bringing a pen or pencil and something on which to write. Students are NOT to write in textbooks. They may be brought home for studying, but must be returned each day for classroom use. A teacher may give reading or homework assignments where the textbook needs to be brought home; it is the student's responsibility to return the text back each day.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- Respect teachers and all volunteers.
- Respect the classroom as a place of learning.
- No food or drinks allowed in classrooms.
- No playing with lockers or going in locker area at Vermilion Catholic.
- No running in hallways.
- No heely shoes will be allowed as they mark the floors.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- No cell phones are to be brought into the building at Vermilion Catholic.
- Students will not be allowed to go to vehicles during class or during break.
- No vandalizing of walls, floors, desks or property at either facility – guilty parties will be held responsible for repairs.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

Parents will be called to pick up their child for any of the following:

- Causing a fight
- Vandalizing property at any of the facilities
- Displaying out of control behavior which disrupts the process of learning
- Any other act of a student that is determined to be best handled by calling parents

SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION SESSIONS:

The Diocese of Lafayette has mandated that every CCD and religious education program offer educational sessions on personal safety at each appropriate grade level. In compliance with this policy, lessons will be dedicated toward student participation in the Safe Environment Program. The Safe Environment Educational Program that will be used is called ***“Circle of Grace: Respecting All God’s People”***. This is age-appropriate educational lessons given in the classroom.

- More information about the ***Circle of Grace*** program has been included in this packet.
- Included in this packet is an Opt-Out form for parents to sign and return only if they **do not** wish their child to participate in the program. Parents are also welcome to attend these sessions with their children.

CHAPEL VISITS FOR CLASSES:

Teachers have the opportunity to take their classes to the chapel for visits to the Blessed Sacrament. This aspect of teaching children to actively engage in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is something that we are very fortunate and blessed to be able to offer students during the program.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Priests will be available for students to take advantage of the opportunity to go to confession.

HOMESCHOOLING POLICY FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION YEARS **FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST -2ND GRADE AND** **CONFIRMATION – 10TH AND 11TH GRADES**

Children of parishioners of St. Mary Magdalen who are homeschooled must comply with the following requirements in the sacramental preparation years (2nd, 10th and 11th grades) in order to receive the sacraments at St. Mary Magdalen Church:

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist – 2nd Grade

- 1. Use of a Catholic-based homeschool program.**
 - a. The Pastor or a delegate of the Pastor must review and approve the text being used in the homeschool curriculum.
 - b. Copies of any testing in the religious education portion of the program pertaining to First Reconciliation and First Eucharist must be presented for review to the Pastor or delegate of the pastor.
 - c. An interview will be scheduled with the child and the Pastor or delegate of the Pastor to determine the child's readiness for reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The interview will consist of oral questions as to the child's understanding of what Confession is, when one should attend confession, what types of sins should be confessed, what is Holy Communion, and other such questions deemed appropriate by the Pastor.

- 2. Use of a Non-Catholic-based homeschool program using a Catholic-based religious component on a daily basis.**
 - a. The components as listed in the **Use of a Catholic-based homeschool program will apply if** religion is taught on a **daily** basis. If religion is not taught on a daily basis, please refer to the requirements listed for a non-Catholic-based homeschool program.

- 3. Use of a Non-Catholic-based homeschool program.**
 - a. If the homeschool curriculum does not teach religion on a **daily** basis, then this situation is treated as a public school type situation and this homeschooled student will be required to attend St. Mary Magdalen's CCD sacramental preparation program in the 2nd grade.

Confirmation – 10th and 11th Grades

The Confirmation process begins at the Catholic school level and CCD in the 10th grade with a concentration in Morality. It is intended that a priest do the instruction in the 10th grade CCD program. Because of the priest's instruction, homeschool students are required to attend St. Mary Magdalen's CCD program.

During the 11th grade Confirmation year, Catholic school students and public school students attend the preparatory program. Because of this requirement, homeschooled students are required to attend the preparatory program at St. Mary Magdalen Church.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Diocesan policy allows for a child to miss no more than 2 days of CCD before they must repeat the course. The reasons for missing a day are irrelevant.

For the St. Mary Magdalen Summer 2010 CCD program there will be no make-up opportunities. Diocesan policy requires a child miss no more than 2 days of CCD. Days missed (no more than 2) must be documented with a valid medical excuse.

If you know a child will not fulfill the attendance requirements of St. Mary Magdalen's CCD Program arrangements must be made to attend another CCD program in its entirety. This option will require, at time of enrollment, a letter of permission from the Pastor of your church parish.

TESTING

Actual tests, quizzes and homework assignments will be administered at the discretion of the teachers in grades 4-10 to determine if students are learning what is being taught. A grading scale will be used and letter grades will be assigned to each student along with any comments from the teacher. Students who miss classes for any reason are responsible for getting the missed material and making up any assignments or tests. No work can be done or turned in after the last day of the CCD Summer Program.

GRADES

In all classes, grades are recorded. A failing grade or excessive absences will require that a student repeat the course the following year. A letter indicating the child's final grade will be mailed to parents by early August. Students who fail a grade due to low marks or excessive absences have the option of retaking the course next summer.

CLOSING MASS

The closing Mass for St. Mary Magdalen CCD program will be on Sunday, July 25th at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Church. Parents and family are invited and encouraged to attend with your child(ren).