

Office of Religious Education Program
Our Lady of Good Counsel
668 Ridgewood Road
Twp. of Washington, NJ 07676
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www.olgcwt.org

July 25th, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to take a moment and first say thank you for all that you do! As parents ourselves, we can appreciate all the work and sacrifices you make for your children.

As we stated in our opening email to you a few weeks ago, our new parish administrator, Fr. Ray, has asked us to oversee both the Religious Education program, as well as the Youth Ministry program. Many of you already know Matt, who was the Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry here from 2010-2016 and briefly again last fall. In that email, we mentioned about having to make some changes to the upcoming religious education year. Why the changes? Over the past several years, we have lost several volunteers in our program who had committed themselves to teaching each week, as well as helping virtually during the height of the covid pandemic. Last year, we were unable to hold classes for two grade levels on Sunday mornings. We have also had families move to other parishes, so our enrollment has dropped significantly over the past several years. Finally, as parents ourselves, we know how busy life can be! We both work two jobs and have a 4 ½ year old who is starting to become more involved in school and extracurricular activities. So, we both can understand how life just keeps seeming to be getting busier and busier.

So, in consultation with Fr. Ray, we have decided that it is best for this upcoming year to offer a family-based program. What does that mean? To put it simply, it's a mix of in-classroom teaching, as well as asking for you to help your children with some work at home, as well as offering several voluntary family events throughout the year. So what does this family-based program look like? The plan is to offer seven in-classroom meetings throughout the year. While class is going on, we are asking you, the parents, either one or both of you, to stay for a 30–45-minute presentation based on the material in your child's books. During the presentation, we will be offering you food and refreshments. So, think of it as a way to take a break from life and spend time with your friends while your children are in class. For the weeks your children will be working at home, we simply ask that they submit the interactive session reviews each week, as many of you are now familiar with. Preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation will remain the same. In fact, they are actually being enhanced and if your child is receiving a sacrament this year, you will receive more information soon.

We understand that some of you may not like or even support a change to the program. Some of you may prefer your child come each week to in-person classes or that you want to simply just work from home. Trust us when we say we understand. The simple reality and truth is that at the moment, we simply are unable to enlist the allotted amount of volunteers needed to have a full in-person program. We also feel that in light of the events of the past year, that this change will be good because it will help bring you the parents a bit more into the preparation of your child's faith formation, a promise you made at their baptism about being the first people in their lives to raise them in the Catholic faith.

In addition to the change in classes, we are also planning on bringing back several of the popular programs which covid unfortunately halted for some time. This includes our weekly Liturgy of the Word for children, which helps explain God's word to them at their level, the monthly class Masses where we invite your children to participate at a Sunday Mass, and several family-based events for you and your children, such as the Spookley Halloween Night we held last fall, and much much more!

All that we and Fr. Ray ask for is a chance. A chance to be able to show you the parents that we care about you and your children, as well as their faith formation. An example of this is included in this packet and includes a backpack blessing, an athletes blessing, and our first ever comedy evening featuring our best friend and someone many of you know, Fr. Paul Houlis.

We have included the registration form if you have yet to register your child yet. (We are working on an online registration and will have that up and running soon.) **If you have yet to register your child for the fall and would like to do so, we ask that you do as soon as you can. If you are not planning on returning to the program or to the parish, we ask that you let us know as well.** As always, please feel free to contact us with the information provided at the beginning of this letter. Finally, below are the grades we still need volunteers to help teach. Remember, it's only 7 classes this year! Grab a friend!

Thank You For All You Do!

Jennifer DeCaux
Director of Religious Education

**Sunday Morning Teacher Openings:
Pre- K, Grade 2-3, Grade 5-6, 8**

**Tuesday Afternoon Teacher Openings:
Kindergarten, Grades 2-6**

Our Lady of Good Counsel

religious education program

2022-2023 CALENDAR

| | |
|--|---|
| Sunday, October 2nd- Session 1- Family Gath | Tuesday, October 4th- Session 1 Family Gath |
| Sunday, October 9 th - Session 2 | Tuesday, October 11 th - Session 2 |
| Sunday, October 16 th - Session 3 | Tuesday, October 18 th - Session 3 |
| Sunday, October 23 rd - Session 4 | Tuesday, October 25 th - Session 4 |
| Sunday, October 30th- Session 5-Family Gath | Tuesday, November 1st- Session 5- Family Gath |
| Sunday, November 6 th - Session 6- | Tuesday, November 8 th - Session 6 |
| Sunday, November 13 th - Session 7 | Tuesday, November 15 th - Session 7 |
| Sunday, November 20 th - Session 8 | Tuesday, November 22 nd - Session 8 |
| Sunday, November 27 th - Session 9 | Tuesday, November 29 th - Session 9 |
| Sunday, December 4th- Session 10- Family Gath | Tuesday, December 6th- Session 10- Family Gath |
| Sunday, December 11 th - Session 11 | Tuesday, December 13 th - Session 11 |
| Sunday, December 18th- Session 15- Family Gath | Tuesday, December 20th- Session 15- Family Gath |
| Sunday, January 1 st - Session 12 | Tuesday, January 3 rd - Session 12 |
| Sunday, January 8 th - Session 13 | Tuesday, January 10 th - Session 13 |
| Sunday, January 15 th - Session 14 | Tuesday, January 17 th - Session 14 |
| Sunday, January 22nd- Session 16- Family Gath | Tuesday, January 24th- Session 16- Family Gath |
| Sunday, January 29 th - Session 17 | Tuesday, January 31 st - Session 17 |
| Sunday, February 5 th - Session 18 | Tuesday, February 7 th - Session 18 |
| Sunday, February 12 th - Session 19 | Tuesday, February 14 th - Session 19 |
| Sunday, February 19 th - Session 20 | Tuesday, February 21 st - Session 20 |
| Sunday, February 26th- Session 21- Family Gath | Tuesday, February 28th- Session 21- Family Gath |
| Sunday, March 5 th - Session 22 | Tuesday, March 7 th - Session 22 |
| Sunday, March 12 th - Session 23 | Tuesday, March 14 th - Session 23 |
| Sunday, March 19 th - Session 24 | Tuesday, March 21 st - Session 24 |
| Sunday, March 25th- Session 25- Family Gath | Tuesday, March 27th- Session 25- Family Gath |
| Family Gath Means In-Person Classes | Family Gath Means In-Person Classes |

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Times
Sunday (9:30-10:45)
Tues. Aft. (4:15-5:30)
Tues. Eve. (7:15-8:30)

For Office Use Only
Date Rec'd _____
Am't Rec'd _____
Check # _____

Family Name: _____
Address _____ **Home Phone #** _____

Father's Name: _____ **Cellphone** _____
Father's Email _____
Mother's First & Maiden: _____ **Cellphone** _____
Mother's Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ **Emergency Phone** _____

PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY

Please provide us with correct email address throughout the year. Email is our primary method of communication and convenient way of notifying you of class cancellation.
Thank you!

CCD 2022-2023 School Year

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Child 1 _____ | Grade _____ | Birth Date _____ |
| Special Needs: _____ | | |
| Choice of Day: | Sunday Morn. _____ | Tuesday Aft. _____ |
| | | Tues. Eve. _____ |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Child 2 _____ | Grade _____ | Birth Date _____ |
| Special Needs: _____ | | |
| Choice of Day: | Sunday Morn. _____ | Tuesday Aft. _____ |
| | | Tues. Eve. _____ |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Child 3 _____ | Grade _____ | Birth Date _____ |
| Special Needs: _____ | | |
| Choice of Day: | Sunday Morn. _____ | Tuesday Aft. _____ |
| | | Tues. Eve. _____ |

Tuition: \$110.00 for one child \$140.00 for two children \$175.00 for three or more
Check payable to Our Lady of Good Counsel

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOU RETURN THIS PACKET DID YOU...

Fully complete form? _____
Include tuition payment? _____
Include Parent Contract on back? _____
Include Parent Virtual Contract _____

Parent Contract 2022-2023

**Parents Should Review the Parent Handbook online at
www.olgcwt.org and sign this contract.**

Please note the following areas we wish to bring to your attention:

- 1) The elimination of snacks during our programs due to the increasing number of life-threatening allergies. Children should have snacks and bathroom breaks before coming to class.
- 2) Your child is permitted a total of four absences for the entire year. In the event one is absent for more than this, the child is subject to work being sent home and the possibility of having to repeat the grade.
- 3) Please inform the Religious Education Office of all special needs of your child(ren). We cannot be as effective if we are not aware of the needs of your child.
- 4) In case of an accident or serious illness, the above name Catholic Church will contact the parent/guardian. If the church is unable to reach the parent/guardian, or any other person designated, then the parent/guardian will hereby authorize the church and its representatives to make arrangements for immediate emergency treatment. Payment of fees for all medical services will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. This medical release is valid from June 25, 2022 to June 25, 2023 and for all events throughout the year. It is the parent's responsibility to update this form as necessary throughout the year.

Permission To Use Student(s) Photographs

During the year, we would like to be able to use photographs of the children to let people in our parish and our community, know about the things that are happening in our program.

_____ **I give permission for photographs to be used in the following ways:**

- Posted on displays in the classrooms, Parish Center and Church
- Included in articles in the parish bulletin
- Posted on the Parish Website
- Submitted to the Media (Such as the Community Life/Pascack Press/Catholic Advocate)

_____ **I do not want photographs to be posted or published at all.**

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____.

I have read the DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY, I fully understand it, and I voluntarily agree to be bound by its terms. I represent and certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor.

Parent/Legal Guardian NAME (REQUIRED):

Parent/Legal Guardian SIGNATURE (REQUIRED):

Email (REQUIRED): _____

Address (REQUIRED): _____

City (REQUIRED): _____

State: New Jersey



**AUTHORIZATION, CONSENT AND RELEASE FOR
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION INVOLVING MINORS FORM**

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of
_____.

I give permission for my child to participate in (Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish
CCD ONLINE GATHERING)

I understand that I will have access to everything provided to my child and be made aware of how digital media is being used, be told how to access the sites, and be given the opportunity to be copied on all material sent to my child via digital platforms.

I authorize and consent to staff and/or volunteers of the Parish to communicate with my Child electronically, including via the above-referenced video conferencing tools in accordance with the program(s).

I have read this Consent and Release Form, I fully understand it, and I voluntarily agree to be bound by its terms. I represent and certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (REQUIRED):

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature (REQUIRED):

Email (REQUIRED): _____

Address (REQUIRED): _____

City (REQUIRED): _____

State: New Jersey



*Please Volunteer,
We Need You!*

2022 - 2023

**We need many adult volunteers- Moms,
Dads, Grandparents, High School Siblings,
etc. to make our program successful!**

PLEASE NOTE: Virtus training & a Diocesan application and background check must be completed & turned in **before** you can be volunteers. Please see us for forms & information.

Volunteer Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s) & Grade: _____

Full Year Program

Grade: _____ Day _____

___ I would like to teach

___ I would like to co-teach

___ I can be a classroom aide

___ I can be a substitute

During Class Time

___ I can be an attendance helper

___ I can be a Hall Monitor

Supporting Roles

___ I will be willing to participate on an as needed basis, about issues concerning the entire program as a member of the Religious Education Advisory Board

___ I am interested in helping in another area concerning the Parish

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When: Sunday, September 11th 11:00am Mass

Join Us As We Invite All Children & Teens to Bring Their Backpacks to Mass for a Special Blessing For The Brand New School Year!

Questions?

Call/Text Jenn DeCaux, [862-591-3440](tel:862-591-3440)/olgcreligioused@gmail.com

We Look Forward To Seeing You Soon!

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Please Join Us For A Special Blessing For All Athletes for the Upcoming Year! (Please bring your Jersey, Piece of Equipment, Etc.)

When: Sunday, September 25th 11:00am Mass

Questions?

Call/Text Jenn DeCaux, [862-591-3440](tel:862-591-3440)/olgcreligioused@gmail.com

We Look Forward To Seeing You Soon!

“Sports are not merely the exercise of muscles, but the school of moral values and of training in courage, in perseverance, and in overcoming laziness and carelessness. There is no doubt that these values are of greatest interest for the formation of a personality which considers sports not an end in itself but as a means to total and harmonious physical, moral and social development.”- St. John Paul II