

2020-2021

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

1718 San Jorge Avenue · Laredo, Texas 78040 · (956) 723-6954

Changes to guidelines made to reflect virtual learning guidelines



Please note, we will start off our year with virtual learning HOWEVER, as soon as, the Diocese allows us we will resume in-person, classroom instruction.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church follows the guidelines of a two-year preparation process for Sacramental Catechesis set forth by the Diocese of Laredo. The Code of Canon Law for the Catholic Church states that children 7 years and above have reached the age of reason, therefore must participate in a formal Religious Education Program. This, however, does not replace the parent's role as the primary catechist of their child in the faith but supplement faith formation at home, Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. Virtual learning is something new to us and we are doing the best that we can under the present circumstances so please be patient with us, as we adjust to this "new normal".

TUITION

Tuition helps defray the cost of operating our Religious Education Program. Rates are less than the total cost to run the program; however, our overall goal is to make the program affordable to our families. The rates are as follow:

- \$50.00 Families enrolling one Child
- \$80.00 Families enrolling two Children
- \$100.00 Families enrolling three or more children

Virtual Learning & Attendance Matters

ABSENCES & TARDINESS

Classes are held on Sundays and begin with morning prayer at 9:25 am. Virtual learning is done from the comfort of your home. We ask that you sign on ten minutes prior to class time as technology is at times temperamental this will allow you enough time to troubleshoot any issues.

Children are allowed up to three (3) unexcused absences. Unexcused absences are those absences not due to illness, death in the immediate family (mother, father, sibling, grandparent, aunt or uncle) and other events cleared by Father Leszek Waclawik.

Parents, it is very important that you attend our monthly Parent Faith Sharing sessions and 2 Morning Reflections. You must attend at least 80 percent of our Faith Sharing Gathering and no less than 1 Morning Reflection. Parent Faith Sharing will be temporarily suspended; in lieu of parent faith sharing we will meet once a month via zoom or phone conference to check in and see how the program is working.

ASSESSMENTS

Catechist are volunteers that will help supplement religious formation that you have begun at home therefore, we ask that you continue to be your child's first catechist. Please help them learn their prayers and reinforce the lessons that we will be providing. We have a limited time with your children so in order to concentrate on other aspects of faith formation we ask that you assist us in teaching them their prayers. Throughout the program year, catechist will assess your child's progress to ensure that they are understanding the lessons covered.

DRESS CODE

We recommend that children dress appropriate for class and mass. We ask that you monitor your child's clothes, so that they abstain from wearing pajamas, shorts, tank tops, spaghetti straps, bare shoulders, mid-driffs, short skirts/dresses and/or clothing with obscene or inappropriate messages.

ENVIRONMENT

As previously mentioned, we have limited time with your children. Please work with us to prepare the space that your child will use to attend class. Help us by eliminating any distractions such as toys, electronic games and ensuring that the television is off. Virtual instruction allows you and your child to have a virtual background, so have fun creating something that represents you, your faith and/or your family. However, be mindful that this background must be appropriate (e.g. something that you wouldn't mind your grandmother seeing). You can also assist us by monitoring your children during class and helping our catechists redirect their attention when needed.

BEHAVIOR

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church fosters an environment filled with respect, honesty, charity, kindness and love for our neighbor. Our goal is to promote personal development, self-respect and respect for others. Please review these guidelines with your children so that they know what is expected of them, our volunteers and you as parents.

DISCIPLINE

If our behavior guidance is not followed, the following steps will be taken.

First Occurrence: Teacher will re direct children and remind them of our behavior guidance and classroom rules.

Second Occurrence: Coordinator of Religious Education will speak to the student; parents will be notified of occurrence after class/mass.

Third Occurrence: Coordinator of Religious Education will contact parents to advise of situation.

A serious breach of discipline may result in suspension from Religious Education Classes. Father Leszek Waclawik will handle each case on a case-by-case basis. Examples:

- Damaging, defacing and/or destroying school or church property
- Fighting
- Bringing weapons
- Leaving without permission
- Stealing
- Being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs

PARENT COMMITMENT

We understand that we are ultimately responsible for our child's faith formation and these classes will supplement what we have done and will continue to do at home. I agree to do the following:

1. Bring my child, on time, every class day and special events as indicated by the calendar.
2. Attend weekly mass and mass on Holy Days of Obligation (even when there are no religious education classes).
3. Attend parent faith sharing and morning reflections.
4. Be active members of the Parish Community.
5. Assist with the program's annual fundraiser.

By bringing your child(ren) to this religious education you agree to abide by the program's guidelines.