

# ***Prince of Peace Catholic Community***

Religious Education

2024-2025

Family Handbook



**IF YOUR CHILD/REN CANNOT ATTEND CLASS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.**

**468-5718 EXT 104 or email at [re@popgb.org](mailto:re@popgb.org)**





## **Welcome to the 2024-2025 Prince of Peace Religious Education Program**

We are excited to partner with you to help your child/ren learn more about their Catholic faith. Our program incorporates hands-on activities, while promoting participation in the weekend Masses and providing opportunities to serve. Additionally, our goal is to provide spiritual growth and guidance for sacramental preparation.

### **Prince of Peace Religious Education Mission Statement**

*To provide instruction and education that complements the religious education efforts of the parents or guardians at home. Through a variety of media and hands-on activities, we seek to teach children the essential information needed for understanding their faith, deepening their relationship with the Lord, and participating in a Catholic community.*

### **The Important Role of the Family Who Grows Together in God's Love**

Parents are the first teachers of faith to their children. A child's attitude toward Mass, the sacraments, prayer, service to others and a Christian lifestyle grows out of a parent's example and attitude. The following are ways to nurture your child's faith formation:

- Attend Mass as a family each weekend and practice your faith at home.
- Show interest by asking about the topic that was learned during class each week.
- Encourage your child to talk and ask questions about our faith.
- Spend time teaching your children prayers and make prayer important in your home.
- Participate in our Together in Faith sessions, retreats, sacraments, special events, weekend and Ash Wednesday/Holy Day Masses.
- Talk about where you see examples of God in your daily life - in creation (such as a sunset, beautiful flower, or animals), in community (the kindness of a stranger or neighbor), and in our families as we serve each other.

### **Registration & Tuition**

No child shall be denied a Catholic education based solely on the inability to pay tuition and/or sacramental fees. Payment plans and tuition assistance are available by contacting the parish office. Tuition payments are due in full by September 15 if choosing single payment plan. If paying in 2 installments, half payments are due by September 15 and January 15. All accounts should be paid in full by January 15. Fees for religious education year are as follows:

- \$115.00 for one child
- \$190.00 for two children
- \$240.00 for three or more children
- \$150 Out of Parish tuition per child
- Additional \$50.00 sacramental fee for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and Confirmation students

**IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE  
AT (920) 468-5718 Ext 104 OR EMAIL [re@popgb.org](mailto:re@popgb.org).**

## **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

**Arrival:** Students will be dropped off by the sidewalk near the new entrance with the smaller canopy to the north of the main church doors or they can be walked up to that door by an adult if the parent chooses to park. All students should enter through the north doors. Volunteers will be there to guide students to the St. Francis Cabrini Community Room.

**Dismissal:** Catechists will accompany students out of the parish/church building when classes are over. Students will be dismissed out of the same place they enter (North canopy). To ensure the safety of your children, we ask that parents of students from grades 1 to 6 get out of their vehicle and come to the sidewalk to meet their children and walk them back to the car.

## **Class Attendance & Participation**

All registered students are expected to regularly participate in Faith Formation classes and related activities. Masses and special events like Together in Faith are to be attended by both students and parent(s). The Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation Sacramental preparation must be met by regular participation in class and retreats to enhance learning and to be fully prepared for the Sacraments. Students are expected to be in the St. Francis Cabrini Community Room five minutes before class starts.

If notification is received (phone call or email) that your child cannot attend class, that will be considered an excused absence. If there is no notification, it will be considered an unexcused absence. Multiple unexcused absences will result in an inquiry regarding the continuation within the program and may result in dismissal from the program and inability to receive sacraments.

Student's friends/visitors are not permitted to attend RE session without prior approval from a religious education coordinator.

## **Cancellation of Religious Education Classes**

When the Green Bay Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, our classes will not meet. If the students are in school and the weather turns bad late in the day, please check for cancellations via email and/or text.

## **Cell Phone and Internet Use**

Students are expected to silence their cell phones during class. Keeping phones in a pocket during instruction is expected. There may be times that students conduct research on their cell phone per the catechist. Students who access the church's internet are to do so in a considerate and responsible manner. **If cell phones become an issue, we reserve the right to ask the students to place their phones in a designated spot during class time.**

## **Class Times for Religious Education and Family Faith Formation Events**

Students in Grades 1-6 meet from 5:30-6:30 PM. Students in Grades 7-11 meet from 7:00-8:30 PM.

**All Saints Day Mass, Friday, November 1, 2024:** In place of class this week, families are asked to attend Mass.

**Ash Wednesday Mass, March 5, 2025:** In place of class, families are asked to attend Mass. This is a great way to begin the Lenten season!

**Together in Faith Family Nights:** There are some classes that are scheduled which allow the entire family to participate. The anticipated time frame for each event may be different, so please watch for communications about these events. The Together in Faith nights are designed for families to learn together. The evening may include activities, speakers, Mass, and prayer which allow the family to deepen their relationship with the Lord and each other. Dates include: September 18, October 23, December 11, February 26, and April 2 (Group 1) or April 9 (Group 2). Students and families should plan to attend, as these evenings take place of the regularly scheduled class.

## Curriculum

**Grade 1** Learns the Sign of the Cross, prayers, and that God's greatest gift to us is his Son, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can live as Jesus' followers who serve people throughout the world.

**Grade 2** The second graders will be preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion this year and will get hands on experience getting to know our faith and the church.

**Grade 3** Students will spend the year learning about the Catholic church: how the church works, the work of the church, how we are called to serve, and how we grow the Kingdom through being disciples.

**Grade 4** Students will focus on God's goodness in forgiving sins. They will learn the importance of serving others as Jesus did. They will spend time on learning that God loves us so much, He gave us rules of which to live. They will focus on the Ten Commandments.

**Grade 5-6** Students will be using the Life Teen Edge series. Edge helps middle schoolers unleash who they were created to be, in Christ. Edge is a program designed by Life Teen Inc. It is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church helping to lead teenagers and families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

**Students in Grades 7-8 will use LifeTeen.** As a Eucharist-centered movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. With the Blessed Virgin Mary as our intercessor and guide, Life Teen seeks to unleash the fullness of the Sacramental power present within the young Church.

**Students in Grades 9, 10, 11/Confirmation Prep.** Students will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation using a combination of resources that emphasize our Catholic faith and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and our Church. Our goal is to help students make a conscious decision to receive the Sacrament. 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive Confirmation on October 26, 2024, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive Confirmation most likely in the fall of 2025. We use LifeTeen and Purpose which is a transformative approach to faith formation leading to Confirmation. Multiple components combine impactful curriculum with a powerful digital tool to enhance communication. Coupled with engaging supplementary material for teens and parents, it is a whole new approach to sacramental preparation.

## Discipline

Respect for the parish staff, volunteer catechists, and other students is the expectation. However, if students make poor choices, redirection to correct their behavior will help them to grow more as a faithful member of the parish community. Most poor choices can be redirected via a verbal warning from the catechist. However, if further behavior instruction is needed, a plan will be formed with a religious education coordinator and/or parish administrator. Parents may be called and asked to pick up their child for severe cases or sit with their child during class.

## **Dress Code and Conduct**

Please remove all hats upon entering the building. Please dress appropriately for the sacred space you may be entering. We ask that their attire reflect the respect that God desires and that all human persons deserve. Drinks, food, candy, and gum should be consumed before arriving to class. At times, students will be in the church for class. Because the home of Jesus is sacred, these items are not appropriate. At times, snacks and candy may be given to students during class by the catechist; this will be consumed outside of the church setting.

## **Drugs/Alcohol**

Any child in possession of drug(s)/tobacco/tobacco-like products/alcohol/weapons of any kind will result in a parent phone call and meeting that night. Police will also be involved. Prince of Peace has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for this behavior.

If your child takes medication for behavior management, please keep in mind that the volunteer catechists have limited strategies; at times, parental help may be needed for redirection.

## **Faith in Action/Discipleship Projects**

Grades 5 – 11 will have the opportunity to put their faith into action by using their interests and talents to serve others. Students may learn about a community service agency via a guest speaker, brainstorm needs for the agency, and create items for those in need. Families may be asked to help donate to the project(s) that were being created for the community service agency. Additionally, students will learn about Corporal Works of Mercy and social justice as a preview to the service project.



## **Protecting God’s Children/Safe Environment**

Every church in the Diocese must have one class session devoted to Protecting God’s Children. Each grade has an age-appropriate lesson that will be taught. An opt out form is available if you choose not to have your child attend.

The Diocese of Green Bay is committed to creating, providing and maintaining safe environments in all its parishes and schools so that all persons, especially children, youth and individuals at risk, will be protected. All employees and adult volunteers who have contact with children, young people and individuals at risk, are required to attend a VIRTUS session and undergo a background check.

## **Sacraments**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade First Reconciliation**

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (students and parents)	Wednesday, September 11 After parent meeting
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First Reconciliation Retreat and Sacrament (students and parents)	Saturday, November 16 10am-noon (Sacrament 11am)
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### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade First Communion**

Student & Parent Retreat (parents attend too)	Saturday, February 22 9:00am-11:00am
Bread Partners at Weekend Masses	Saturday, March 15 at 4:30pm or Sunday, March 16 at 8am, 10am, 6pm
First Communion	Sunday, May 4 Mass at 1:00pm

### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation**

Parent & Student Meeting	Wednesday, Sept. 11 after parent meeting
Student Spiritus Retreat at Prince of Peace	Saturday, September 28 10:00am-3:00 pm
Field Trip to The Shrine	Sunday, October 6 11:00-3:00 pm
Confirmation	Wednesday, October 26 6:30 pm

### **Scrip - Lower Your Tuition Cost through Scrip Purchases**

*\*\*Continuing this year: The \$50 deductible for Scrip tuition credit has been eliminated! \*\**

The SCRIP Tuition Reimbursement Program is available to help families offset costs of Religious Education for their children. By purchasing Scrip cards from Prince of Peace, families can earn Scrip credit in the current year that will be applied toward tuition costs for the next year. Scrip profits for families are calculated annually from approximately April 1 to March 31. Please see the Scrip Policy for details. A signed copy must be on file to receive tuition credit.

Family's last name: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*Copy to stay in Handbook\*\*\*\***

## Prince of Peace Covenant

In signing this covenant, our family understands that student behavior reflects the value of living out our Catholic faith and helping students and others to grow as Christians. Our family agrees to follow the rules and guidelines set by the Prince of Peace Religious Education program:

Behaviors that show we are Christians and promote a positive classroom environment:

- ✓ Respecting classmates and adults through attentive listening, valuing others' opinions, keeping hands to self, wearing appropriate clothing to class, and expressing kind words.
- ✓ Participation in class and special events each week through attendance, contributing to class discussions, and maintaining a positive attitude.
- ✓ Keeping focused during class, especially by storing cell phone in pocket. At times, students may be asked to use their phones for research.
- ✓ Knowing that drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco-like products such as e-cigarettes, or any type of weapons are not allowed in the building or on the property. The police will be contacted, should a student be found in possession of any of these items.
- ✓ Respecting the sacredness of the church by entering quietly and walking.

Respect for the parish staff, volunteer catechists, and other students is the expectation. However, if students make poor choices, redirection to correct their behavior will help them to grow as a more faithful member of the church community.

Most poor choices can be redirected via a verbal warning from the catechist.

However, if further behavior instruction is needed, a plan will be formed with a religious education coordinator and/or Deacon Jeff. Parents may be called and asked to pick up their child for severe cases.

Note: Further explanations of the Covenant can be found in the 2024-2025 Religious Education Family Handbook.

I understand that the purpose of this covenant is to allow for a safe, positive learning experience to grow deeper in faith. By signing this covenant, I agree to talk to my child(ren)/dependents, and as a family, respect and uphold the rules and conditions set forth by the Religious Education staff and Prince of Peace.

**By signing this covenant, I agree to the policies and procedures that are explained in this handbook.**

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names and grades: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Family's last name (Please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\*Copy to turn in to RE Staff\*\*\***

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