



1800 South Kolb Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85710  
747-1321

September 2, 2020

Dear Religious Education Family,

I would like to welcome you back to our Religious Education Program here at OMOS. Yes the program will look different this year but together we can overcome any challenges that come along. Due to the pandemic Bishop Weisenberger has asked that all parishes do not start Religious Education classes until October and then only online until January. In January we will move to in person classes as long as it is safe to do so.

### **PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW FOR MAIL-IN REGISTRATION**

1. Each year families are required to fill out a new registration form. This year we have a new registration form and a separate registration form needs to be completed for each child in the family. Please refer to the class descriptions when signing your child up for religious ed and include the program you are enrolling in and the option. All students that attended classes on a regular basis last year received credit for the entire school year even though in person classes ended early. Please note that there is a home school option for the entire year for those students that are not celebrating a sacrament this year.

2. **Please be sure to include your email address.** If you have more than one email please include both. The pandemic has made us all aware that things change quickly and it is important that we are able to update families as quickly as possible.

3. Please include a **copy of your child's Baptism certificate** if you did not provide one when you first registered in our program. If you are registering any additional children in our program be sure to include their baptismal certificate since it is required before your child can prepare for Reconciliation, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, or Confirmation.

4. **Registration and sacrament fees must be enclosed** with your completed registration form. Use the enclosed rate chart to calculate your total fee. Checks should be made payable to OMOS REL ED. If you prefer to pay by debit or credit card, you may do so by calling the parish office, 747-1321 or pay on the OMOS website. If circumstances do not allow for payment of the full fee at this time, please contact Laura Stehle or Cindy Phillips at the parish office, 747-1321 to set up a payment plan. **Please do not send in your registration form without payment, even if you qualified for assistance in previous years.**

5. Personal Safety Training using the Circle of Grace is a part of our Religious Education Program. This training will be in the spring once we resume in person classes. By signing the registration form you understand that your child will receive age appropriate personal safety training using the Circle of Grace program.

6. During the year we take pictures of special events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Service Projects, Living Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and Celebration of the Sacraments. By signing the registration form you are giving your permission for Our Mother of Sorrows (OMOS) to use any photographs or videos of your child/children taken during the program for use in OMOS and Diocese of Tucson publications for program promotional purposes such as, but not limited to, the Ministry Fair, Religious Education, and Parish Fiesta. Please understand that your child will not be identified by more than a first name if a photo is used. All reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure privacy.

7. As you can see from our class descriptions most classes will start with a combination of learning experiences. Most K-8 grade include virtual meetings once or twice a month in addition to other assigned work. High School Confirmation will meet more frequently online. Our catechist/teachers will be following the Safe Environment Policies for the Supervision of Minors in Virtual Environments and Best Practices for Online Education in Ministry. In addition

all catechists/teachers have attended Safe Environment Training and have gone through a background check. Some highlights of the policies are as follows:

- All catechists will be using a virtual platforms that are administered through Our Mother of Sorrows.
- Break out rooms will not be used for grades K-8.
- Students may not chat privately.
- Host and participants should use their given name when signing into an online meeting.
- All meetings will be recorded by the meeting host for future review. Recordings will be compliant with Our Mother of Sorrows and the Diocese of Tucson data retention and acceptable use policies.
- A Grid-view will be used and students and host should not hide self view to ensure the recording shows everyone.
- Students are strictly forbidden from taking screen shots or recordings of the class, the instructor, or individual students during online instruction without the prior written approval of OMOS administration and the catechist.

**9. All 7th & 8th grade Junior High Confirmation Students and their Parents must attend an information meeting about Confirmation Preparation on Sunday, January 17th at 11:00am (immediately after the 10:45am opening prayer).** Confirmation Students in Junior High Confirmation Classes will need to have a copy of The Compass Bible for Catholic Teens which will be available at the January 17th meeting for \$15.00.

10. Mass is important and we encourage families to watch Mass online at 9:00am or 12:30pm (Bilingual) and receive communion through drive up communion after those Masses. In person Mass is available at 5:30pm Saturday, and 7:00am, 9:00am, 10:45am, and 12:30pm (Spanish) each weekend. Social distancing is maintained but those living with someone over 65 or with underlying health issues should wait until it is safe to return to Mass in person. At this time there are no family Masses or requirements for students to attend a particular Mass on Sunday.

11. If the class you enrolled your child in requires a textbooks/materials you will be emailed a time that they will be available for pick up. You will also be emailed the necessary information on how to access portals and virtual classes.

12. If your child is preparing to celebrate the sacraments of 1st Communion or Confirmation, just enrolling them in the program does not guarantee they will celebrate the sacraments. Good attendance in class, completing assignments, attendance at the parent/student sacrament preparation classes and Sunday Mass attendance (online or in person) are all required.

13. Place include **signed registration form, copy of baptismal certificate, and check** in an envelope and mail to:

OMOS Religious Ed Registration  
1800 S. Kolb Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85710

(Note– Registration can also be dropped in the OMOS mailbox next to the Parish Office Door.)

### **IN PERSON CLASS TIMES BEGINNING JANUARY 2021**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Time</b>
K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Sunday, 9:00am - 10:25am
R.C.I.A.*	Sunday, 9:00am - 10:25am
WCC, Jr. High Confirmation	Sunday, 10:45am - 12:10pm
Bilingual	Sunday, 2:00pm - 3:45pm
High School Confirmation*	Thursday, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

\*High Students and R.C.I.A. meet in the PAC all other classes meet in the School

Please feel to email me or call with any questions you have about our Religious Education Programs.

Peace & Blessings,



Director of Religious Education & Social Concerns Coordinator

[lstehle@omosparish.org](mailto:lstehle@omosparish.org)

747-1321/305-3611

## Our Mother of Sorrows Religious Education Classes 2020-2021

Note – Online classes from October 4<sup>th</sup> – January 10<sup>th</sup> will start at the same time as the in person classes starting January 10<sup>th</sup> but in some cases online classes will not take place every week.

There will be assignments on weeks there is no online meeting.

**Preschool and Kindergarten is not available at this time.** Parents are encouraged to fill out a registration form for preschool and kindergarten and if there is enough for a class we will start one in January once we have in person classes. (There will be no fee until classes begin.)

### 1-6 Grade Sundays, 9:00 – 10:25am

Students enter classes in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and begin to prepare for and celebrate the sacraments. After their 1<sup>st</sup> communion they continue to attend ongoing faith formation classes.

Option 1 – Students will use the *Christ In Us* series. Parents will follow the online lesson plans entered in by catechists through the *Christ In Us* portal. Parents will be responsible with the help of the *Christ in Us* ebooks and online resources to make sure that their child completes the lessons. There will be occasional online meetings and a catechist will be checking on each child's progress. Students will move to in person classes in January.

Option 2 – This option will be for families that do not have access to a computer and reliable internet. Parents will pick up a *Christ In Us* textbook and work with their child on the assigned chapters. A catechist or DRE will be checking in with families. Students will move to in person classes in January.

Option 3 - This option is for families who want to home school for the entire year with only a check in from a catechist at the start of the program and then once a month. Families will be given the Sadlier *We Believe* textbook to work on at home. First grade students starting their sacrament preparation will be required to turn in their completed textbook in order to enter the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade 1<sup>st</sup> Communion class next year. This option is not available for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.

### WCC Welcoming Children to Church Sundays, 10:45am – 12:10pm

Young people in grades 2 through 6 who have never had formal religious education, begin their formal journey in faith for the first year. During the second year of instruction, the sacraments of Reconciliation/Confession and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion are celebrated. Parents and students are required to attend scheduled sacrament meetings during the second year of sacrament preparation. (Materials/textbooks follow where students are in their faith journey which may differ from their grade in school.)

Option 1 – Students will use the *Christ In Us* series. Parents will follow the online lesson plans entered in by catechists through the *Christ In Us* portal. Parents will be responsible with the help of the *Christ in Us* ebooks and online resources to make sure that their child completes the lessons. There will be occasional online meetings and a catechist will be checking on each child's progress. Students will move to in person classes in January. In the second year of the WCC program parents and students will need to attend addition sacrament preparation classes for the sacraments of Reconciliation/Confession and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

Option 2 – This option will be for families that do not have access to a computer and reliable internet. Parents will pick up a *Christ In Us* textbook and work with their child on the assigned chapters. A catechist or DRE will be checking in with families. Students will move to in person classes in January.

Option 3 - This option is for families who want to home school for the entire year with only a check in from a catechist at the start of the program and then once a month. Families will be given the Sadlier *We Believe* textbook to work on at home. Families would have access to online resources. Students in their first year of sacrament preparation will be required to turn in their completed textbook in order to enter the second year of WCC sacrament preparation next year. This option is not available for second year WCC students.

(Please note – Preparation for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion is a two year process. For students that begin their preparation in grades 1-6, they will celebrate the sacrament the following year. In the second year of preparation there gatherings for Reconciliation and for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion that parents and students are required to attend. )

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/1<sup>st</sup> year Confirmation Preparation Sundays, 10:45am – 12:10pm** – This is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of preparation for Confirmation.

Option 1- For students with a computer and internet availability there will also be an online meeting with a catechist twice a month until in person classes start. There will also be online assignments each week.

Option 2 - For students unable to connect to the internet, students will be given a textbook and parents will be fully responsible for making sure their child understands the material and completes the lessons. This would also be available to families who want to home school for the entire year with only a check in from a catechist once a month. Completed assignments for each lesson would be turned in before students would be admitted next year to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/2<sup>nd</sup> year Confirmation Preparation.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade/2<sup>nd</sup> year Confirmation Preparation Sundays, 10:45am – 12:10pm** - Admission into this class requires that the student attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Preparation. Service projects, retreats, and parent gatherings are some of the requirements for Confirmation candidates and their parents.

Option 1 –Students will have an online class with a catechist twice a month and assignments to complete every week.

Option 2 – We do not offer a homeschooling option for a sacrament year, however, if computer and internet access is unavailable a textbook and assignments will be provided for parents and they will be responsible for making sure their child has a good understanding of the material. Students will attend in person classes beginning in January.

#### **1-6 Bilingual Program Sunday, 2:00 – 3:45pm**

This is a sacrament preparation program for children, in grades 1-6, whose primary language is Spanish. During the second year of instruction, the sacraments of Reconciliation/Confession and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion are celebrated. Parents and students are required to attend scheduled sacrament meetings during the second year of sacrament preparation. For additional information please contact Rocio Zamora email: [rzamora@omosparish.org](mailto:rzamora@omosparish.org) (español)

Option 1 – Families in our Bilingual program will use the Sadlier *Bilingual We Believe* series. Catechists will be working with families online, through email and by phone. Parents with internet availability will be encouraged to join the Strong Catholic Family Spanish group.

**High School Confirmation Preparation Thursday, 4:00-5:30pm** - The Youth Minister will have virtual meetings for High School Confirmation students on Thursdays from 4:00-5:30pm. The first Thursday of every Month will be a virtual parent meeting, the other three Thursday's will be with the Teens. There will be three times throughout the year that sponsors will need to attend. Active participation in class, service projects, and retreats are some of the requirements. Participation in Youth Group is strongly encouraged. Please contact Kim Sisson, [ksisson@omosparish.org](mailto:ksisson@omosparish.org) or 747-1321, for additional information about High School Confirmation.

**Special Education** – For students that require extra support staff or have needs that require a self contained classroom we offer a home school Special Education program. Families will be given sacrament preparation materials or ongoing faith formation materials depending on where they are in their faith journey. Families with a child in their second year of sacrament preparation will join with families in our other programs for family sacrament gatherings.

**R.C.I.A. Sundays, 9:00-10:25am** – A process for students in grades 2-12 that have never been baptized to prepare for full reception into the church at Easter (Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, and Confirmation). This program will be a combination of virtual classes and assignments until in person classes start in January. Please contact Laura Stehle for additional information.

**Teen Sacraments** – This class is for students in grades 7- 12 that have not celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation/Confession and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. **Students needing to celebrate these sacraments are required to attend this class which meets once a month at 9:00am in addition to their Confirmation class.** Confirmation cannot be celebrated without attending this class to prepare them for their Reconciliation/Confession and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.