



OUR LADY of MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Religious Education Cover Letter, Kindergarten - Grade 8

Encounter His Love & Mentor Disciples One Child at a Time!

Dear Parents,

Our greatest adventure in life is coming to know, love, and serve our Lord Jesus. This is a lifelong journey not intended to be taken alone. Your pastoral staff and dedicated catechists are committed to supporting you in our common call: To Encounter the Love of Jesus and Mentor Disciples One Child at a Time! It's true. The gift of the Father's love is always being poured into our hearts and desires to lead us, and our children, to a lasting, deep friendship with Him.

For this friendship to thrive, each of us must find ourselves rooted in the celebration of the Sunday Mass. Nowhere else can we experience such an outpouring of love in four dramatic ways- His real presence is alive and active in the gathered community. Jesus draws near when He speaks to us personally as the Word proclaimed and preached. The person of Christ is powerfully present through our ordained leadership, and most intimately, we receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. The Mass is where the Spirit lavishes His love upon us and makes us His own. We are empowered by the same Spirit to "go forth" and live as His disciples.

Recalling the Lord's outpouring of love at Mass is such an important one. We, and our children, are created to see and experience life-changing connections between the Mass and our Religious Education programs. We become aware that *what we pray is what we learn and what we learn is what we pray!* Below are some examples of what happens when a family's participation in R.E./EDGE and Mass walk hand-in-hand.

1. At Mass we pray singing songs that used the word, *Trinity*. Because catechists explored this concept with students using images of great religious art, students could sing about the Trinity with greater awareness, wonder and awe.
2. Participating in the ritual action of the sign-of-peace at Mass has never had greater meaning once one R.E. Community studied the amazing legacy of peacemaker, St. Francis of Assisi.
3. After hearing the story of Jesus' first miracle of changing water into wine, students began to "catch the miracle" of the Holy Spirit who changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus at every Mass.
4. Once catechists taught the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, line by line, and parents kept reinforcing this prayer at home, families began praying this prayer at Mass with more conviction and felt lifted up by the power of communal prayer.
5. One group of students was led to reflect on the many willing sacrifices that their parents make on their behalf. Their homework was to attend Mass and listen closely to the words of the Sacrifice of the Mass: "This is my body, broken for you; this is my blood, poured out for you." Their assignment was to return to R.E. and share one specific way that the Eucharist strengthened them to intentionally choose to make a generous sacrifice for someone at home.

As you begin the R.E. / EDGE registration process, we encourage you to think of this action as two-fold:

1. When you register your child(ren), look for our volunteer form online and select a way on the form (or suggest another way) to be an integral part of your child(ren's) faith program(s), and
2. Consider choosing the same Mass each weekend when possible. Such a family routine can strengthen our desire to worship together and be filled with His love.

For your convenience, here is a listing of our Mass times:

Saturdays at 4PM / Sundays at 7:30AM, 9AM, 10:45AM, 12:30PM, & 5:30PM

The active involvement of staff, students and parents in R.E./Edge and the Mass will bless our partnership with countless opportunities to encounter His life-changing love. Such a love empowers us to make and mentor disciples, one child at a time!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Jo Trapani
Director of Religious Education

Candy Rice
Middle School Youth Ministry

R.E. and Edge Class Offerings for 2019-2020

Registration is now open for all Religious Education classes for Kindergarten - 8th grade. ALL Religious Education classes are held in the Parish Life Center. Our K - 8 Registration form may be obtained from the R.E. Office or from the parish website: www.olmercy.com

Religious education classes are offered to registered members of the parish. If you would like to learn about how to become a member of the parish contact Mary Jo Trapani at 331-707-5378.

Combined Kindergarten & Grade 1, Class Options:

Mondays: 4:30 until 5:45pm
Tuesdays: 4:45 until 6:00pm
Wednesdays: 6:30 until 7:45pm
Sundays: 8:20 until 8:50am, *In time for the 9:00AM Mass with Children's Liturgy of Word*
Sundays 10:05 until 10:35am, *In time for the 10:45AM Mass with Children's Liturgy of Word*

Two New Sunday K-1 Options: Explanation & Goals

Choosing one of the K-1 Sunday options means a parent or grandparent has the opportunity to fully share with their Kindergartener or First Grader during the session.

Additionally, with the hope of having plenty of Sunday volunteers, the nursery will be staffed for "Parents of K-1 students" who have children younger than Kindergarten. Also, the MPR will be open and staffed for "Parents of K-1 students" with children older than first grade.

The Sunday options for K-1 students provide a break between their M-F school week and their R.E. faith experience. It's also a model that supports parents who desire more opportunities for their whole family to be at Mass together at either the 9:00AM or 10:45 Mass. These Masses include the Liturgy of the Word for Children in K thru 5.

Students in Grades 2 - 5

Mondays: 4:30 until 5:45pm
Tuesdays: 4:45 until 6:00pm
Wednesdays: 4:45 until 6:00pm
Wednesdays: 6:30 until 7:45pm

R.C.I.C. Classes: Students in Grades 3 - 8

R.C.I.C. is for non-traditional age students who need to prepare for Baptism, Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist.

Sundays: 10:05-11:45am

New Day and Time for R.C.I.C. Classes: Explanation & Goals

This R.E. Sunday Session is for students in **Grades 3-8** who need to prepare for Baptism, First Reconciliation and/or First Communion. Students will grow in faith by being placed in a group of peers, grades 3, 4, and 5, or in a group of fellow junior high students, grades 6, 7, and 8. The uniqueness of these classes is that a parent or grandparent attends the first half hour of these sessions with their child who is preparing for sacraments. During this first half hour, 10:05-10:35, parents and youth are guided to encounter Jesus in the Sunday Gospel story and become aware of their personal response to the Lord and His message.

Following this half hour segment, parents' transition to the 10:45 Mass while the children study what the Church believes and teaches based on the Gospel they just explored with their parents. At 11:10AM (approximately), students in the special sacrament classes will join their parents at the 10:45 Mass for the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Dismissal Rites. By the end of March, the special sacrament students will participate in the entire 10:45 Mass with their parents with a greater depth of awareness and understanding before they make their First Communion in May.

Students in Grades 6 - 8 (EDGE) will meet from 6:30 until 8:00 PM on Mondays only.

*EDGE First Class is **Monday, September 23, 6:30-8:00PM***

****EDGE Parent Meeting will be held on Monday, September 23 from 7-8PM in our church.****

SUMMARY OF R.E. & EDGE START DATES:

1. **Saturday, Sept. 21:** R.E. /EDGE FAMILY KICK-OFF, **4PM Family Mass**, Picnic to follow
2. **Week of Sept. 23:** Start of WEEKDAY Sessions for Grades K-8 (*See times listed above*)
3. **Week of Sept. 23:** Parent Meetings for K-5 Students (*Held during student sessions*)
4. **Sunday, Oct. 6:** Parent & Student, R.C.I.C. Gathering, MPR, 11:55-1:15PM
5. **Sunday, Oct. 20:** Start of Combined K-1 Sunday Classes & R.C.I.C. Classes

2019-2020 Yearly Tuition and Fees for Kindergarten - 8th Grade

NO TUITION INCREASE SINCE 2014!

Paid by August 6

\$170 for one child

\$245 for two children

\$290 for three or more children

Paid after August 6

\$200 for one child

\$275 for two children

\$320 for three or more children

\$50. Sacrament Preparation fee for students preparing for Reconciliation & First Eucharist

STARTING NEW THIS YEAR

A Catechist or Co-Catechist will receive a tuition credit for his or her first child of **\$170.**

Volunteers who come to every session as Aides, Nursery Caretakers, Information Desk and R.E. Office Volunteers receive a tuition credit of **\$100.**

[See the 2019-2020 Registration form for Payment options](#)

HOW TO REGISTER:

Please complete the Registration form (found online or in the R.E. Office) and return it to the R.E. Office in person or via mail—701 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504. You may include all of your children in grades K-8 on one registration form. For grades K-5, please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice for their class day/time. Registrations will be processed on a first come, first served basis. If you have a special request for a student classroom placement, please contact Mary Jo Trapani, 331-707-6378.

Registration deadline is Friday, August 31st

HOW YOU ARE NOTIFIED ABOUT YOUR STUDENT'S CLASS

A letter will be mailed to each family in early September with your student(s) class day and time as well as additional information for the start of the year. Please contact us if you do not receive your letter before the first scheduled class session. The exact classroom and teacher will be posted at the first class/session.

CHANGES IN SCHEDULE OR CANCELLATION

Changes in a schedule will be accepted before noon on **Friday, September 6th** provided there are openings available. Changes can be made in person or over the phone.

Rare circumstances may result in a class change once classes start.

If you choose to cancel your registration once it has been processed, your fees will be returned minus a \$25 non-refundable registration fee.

We are so grateful and excited you have chosen Our Lady of Mercy Parish!

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
2019-2020 Religious Education Registration Form
Kindergarten through 8th Grade

2019-2020 Yearly Tuition for Kindergarten – 8th Grade

NO TUITION INCREASES SINCE 2014!

Paid by August 6

\$170 for one child
 \$245 for two children
 \$290 for three or more children

Paid after August 6

\$200 for one child
 \$275 for two children
 \$320 for three children

\$50 Sacrament Preparation fee (*For Baptism, Reconciliation and First Communion students*)

Registrations should be returned to the R.E. office in person or postal mail: *Our Lady of Mercy, 701 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504.*

Payment Options: *Checks may be made payable to **Our Lady of Mercy**. Credit or Debit Card payments may be done online or processed in person at the R.E. office.*

Registrations will NOT be processed unless the Payment Form accompanies the registration forms. THANK YOU!

For Office Use Only:

FAMILY LAST NAME: _____
 Date _____
 Tuition Due _____ Amount Paid _____
 Sac Prep Fee Due _____ Check No. _____
 Catechist or Volunteer Credit _____
 Balance Due _____

Class assignments are made on a first come, first served basis. Please submit this form with payment by the August 30 deadline. ***If payment presents a hardship, please speak with either Candy Rice, EDGE Director at 331-707-5376 or Mary Jo Trapani, K-5 RE Director at 331-707-5378.***

Family Information

MOTHER First _____ Last Name _____ FATHER First _____ Last Name _____

Mother's Occupation: _____ Father's Occupation: _____

FAMILY ADDRESS _____
 Street _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Home PHONE _____ Mother's CELL _____ Father's CELL _____

PLEASE PRINT E-mail addresses as CLEARLY as possible; it is the most efficient, and often, the most helpful way, to communicate with you.

E-MAIL Mother _____ E-MAIL Father _____

Is this your first year in the Religious Education program? Yes [] No []

Because we are created to belong to God and one another as a Christian community, it is expected that all families become registered parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy. If you have not completed your family's registration with the parish, please do so before submitting this form. Call Jean Rehmer at 331-707-5375 for information about parish registration.

Kindergarten – Grade 8 Session Codes: M1, E1, T1, W1, W2, S1, S2, and S3

M1 = Kindergarten - Grade 5: Mon., 4:30 - 5:45 PM

E1 = Grades 6th – 8th, EDGE: E1 Mon., 6:30 – 8:00 PM

T1 = Kindergarten - Grade 5: Tues., 4:45 - 6:00 PM

W1= Grade 2 – Grade 5, RE: Wed., 4:45 – 6:00 PM

W2 = Kindergarten - Grade 5: Wed., 6:30 - 7:45 PM

S1 = Combined Kindergarten/ Grade 1: Sun., 8:20-8:50AM

S2 = Combined Kindergarten/ Grade 1: Sun.,10:05–10:35AM

S1 or S2: *This is a combined session of kindergarten and first grade students on Sundays, S1= 8:20 and S2 = 10:05. A parent, grandparent or godparent attends each session with the child(ren). S1 & S2 sessions allow the entire family to be at OLM during the session time AND attend the 9:00 or 10:45am Mass. The 9:00 & 10:45 Masses offer Children’s Liturgy of the Word for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5.*

S3 = Grades 3 – 8, Special Sacraments: Sun., 10:05 – 11:45AM **S3 is ONLY for students in Grades 3-8 preparing for Baptism, Reconciliation and/or Holy Eucharist.** *This Sunday program is designed for parents to attend the first part of every session with their child(ren), from 10:05- 10:35 AND then attend the 10:45 Mass.*

<u>Student Information</u>	Sex	Birth date	Last Grade of RE	R.E. Grade in Fall 2019	Circle Y or N to indicate if a sacrament has been received.				School District (i.e. 204, 308, etc.)	<u>K – Grade 8 Indicate Session Codes</u>	
					Baptism	1 st Rec. Penance	1 st Eucharist	Confirmation		EDGE = E1 (only choice)	Special Sac. = S3 (only choice)
Child’s First & Last Name					Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N		K-5 = Indicate a 1 ST & 2 ND choice using above codes	
					Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N		1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
					Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N			
					Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N			

A Copy of a Baptismal certificate is required at registration for each child unless baptized at OLM or currently on file.

If your child has NOT been baptized, please contact Mary Jo Trapani, Director of Religious Education at 331-707-5378.

Confidential Information: *To best support you and your child(ren), please let us know of any allergies, physical limitations, learning challenges, special needs and/or family circumstances (recent separation, divorce, death or illness). Please contact Mary Jo (331-707-5378) or Candy (331-707-5376) prior to the start of classes so we may learn how to support you in the care of your child(ren)’s needs and faith development. Thank you!*

Insurance Information:

Policy in the name of: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy/Identification Number: _____

Authorized Physician: _____ **Phone:** _____

As a parent and/or guardian, I authorize the treatment of my minor child(ren) by a qualified and licensed medical doctor in the event of a medical emergency, which, in the opinion of the attending physician, may endanger his or her life, cause physical disability or undue discomfort if I am delayed. I authorize the Parish authorities to send my child (properly accompanied) to an available hospital or physician. This consent is granted only after a reasonable effort has been made to reach me. I understand that video and still photographs may be taken and used for future promotional efforts, but NO CHILD WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Our Lady of Mercy Religious Education Grades K-8

Payment Form

2019-2020

Family Name: _____

ID No. _____
(Envelope No.)

Student Name: _____

2019-2020 Tuition and Fees

Paid by August 6

\$170 for one child
\$245 for two children
\$290 for three or more children

Paid after August 6

\$200 for one child
\$275 for two children
\$320 for three children

\$50. sacrament preparation fee (for Baptism, Reconciliation/First Communion students)

Payments may be made with cash or written check, payable to Our Lady of Mercy
Credit Card or Debit payment may be completed on our website,
<https://olmercy.com/formation/>

Note: If you choose online payment, **make sure we receive your child(ren's) registration form!** You may wish to scan it and send it to maryjot@olmercy.com. Feel free to mail the form to Our Lady of Mercy, 701 S. Eola Rd., Aurora, IL 60504. Dropping the form off at the R.E. office or drop box are two more options. Thank you!

Please indicate (✓) the payment schedule you wish to follow.

Full Payment

Full Payment (plus the sacrament fee if applicable) due with registration. Checks made payable to Our Lady of Mercy.

Semi Annual Payments - Payments divided in half

First half payment due with registration.
Second half payment is due January 11, 2020.

Quarterly Payments - Payments divided in quarters

First payment due with registration.
Second payment due November 16, 2019.
Third payment due January 11, 2020.
Fourth payment due March 15, 2020.

This page must be submitted with the Registration Form.

For Office use Only: Payments

Date: _____

Check No: _____

Amount paid: _____

Date: _____

Check No: _____

Amount paid: _____

Date: _____

Check No: _____

Amount paid: _____

Date: _____

Check No: _____

Amount paid: _____