
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

**PARISH RELIGION PROGRAM
YOUNG CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS, INFORMATION, AND
REGISTRATION

2010-2011

The Parish Religion

Program (PRP) at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish provides faith formation for children in grades 1-8 who attend public schools. The Parish Religion Program includes session options during the summer as well as the academic year; families choose the option that best supports parents in their role as primary influences in their children's growth in faith.

The Young Children

Program (YC) at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is a dynamic pre-school program that is offered on Sunday mornings, September – May of each year.

Both programs are dependent upon the commitment of parents and the parish family, as partners and as members of a loving community of believers.



**IMMACULATE
HEART of MARY**

We are a Roman Catholic community, centered in the Eucharist, striving to live the Good News and grow in the Lord.

As We Begin

It is exciting to begin another season of partnership in the faith formation of the children of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish community! This packet is a way to familiarize each family with many details from the Evangelization and Catechesis (Formation) Office that are important to our working together. Know that the Formation staff and the many catechists and classroom aides are anxious to help in any way we can to make your child's experience as positive as possible.

Call our office at **388-4093** with questions, concerns or suggestions. *Please keep this packet to refer to throughout the coming year.*

Sunday Mass

The most important aspect of our spirituality as Roman Catholics is the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist (Mass).

Parents should enroll their children in a PRP formation session that **embraces rather than replaces** Sunday Mass attendance for the entire family.

As parents, you are the primary source of faith development for your child. Therefore, it is vital that you keep yourselves informed and are growing in your faith as an adult!

On-going Formation

All parents of children in the PRP formation program at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish are expected to participate in at least 4 on-going adult or family formation opportunities.

These are offered numerous times throughout the year and include sacramental information and preparation, adult enrichment, family formation opportunities, and spiritual development programs.

Our experience and numerous studies tell us that any program is only effective when parents actively support their children's education.

Additionally, national studies tell us there is a strong connection between families who are actively involved in the practice of their faith and

the health and well-being of their children; when parents, especially fathers, are living and growing in faith, their children are less likely to become chemically dependent, experience depression, or develop negative social behaviors during their teen years.

Please take advantage of the many opportunities offered to get involved! We try to provide a variety of options that enable all parents to be involved in some way. Remember, too, that reinforcing what the children are learning in classes helps them retain and integrate that information better and for longer periods of time.

A Few Words About Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation is part of the instruction included in Summer, Sunday and Family option PRP for the 2nd and 8th graders and is enriched by other experiences outside the classroom.

Preparation for those seeking Confirmation includes participation in a PRP session, small faith group participation, stewardship experience, and a retreat. In addition, PRP preparation for the second graders includes a parent formation evening for Eucharist and two mini-retreat experiences for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There will be parent information evenings for both grades as part of the sacramental formation process. Questions concerning Confirmation are directed to Marilyn Cozzi 388-4188; questions concerning First Reconciliation or First Eucharist are directed to Clare King 388-4098.

Session Descriptions and Dates: Summer

Summer PRP: Now entering our sixteenth year with the Summer PRP, we know that this option provides a wonderful blend of prayer, instructional catechesis, sacramental celebrations, and community-building for children and parents. This program is a condensed, more intense experience of catechesis that covers the learning objectives that are standard for our diocese. Children who participate in Summer PRP attend ten four and one-half hour days during the summer. Families who attend Summer PRP make a commitment **for a minimum of 4 on-going faith formation activities during the remainder of the year.** The emphasis in this on-going formation is on adult faith formation, since anything a parent does to grow in faith will impact the family's life of faith. We offer many family and adult faith formation opportunities throughout the year from which families may choose to fulfill this commitment.

All parents are encouraged to help with some facet of the summer program itself and/or one of the enrichment sessions, as it is vital to the success of such a program. One of the wonderful things that

happens during Summer PRP is the community of parents that develops throughout the session! Children see their parents involved in the session and know that they care about their faith.

Many of the catechists are State of Ohio certified teachers, and are either Archdiocesan certified or very near certification. The Summer program is a wonderful option for families who often find themselves with conflicts during the academic year, yet want to provide a quality educational experience in their child's formation.

It is important that parents reinforce the concepts learned throughout the year, and that the family actively continues to grow in their faith through weekly participation in the Mass and in on-going faith formation enrichment.

>>> Check out our new **"CRHP Option"** on the *Adult and Family Participation Record* page in this registration packet. This is a great opportunity to accomplish your on-going Adult and Family Formation requirements at one great event!

2010 Summer PRP (grades 1-8) Dates and Times:

Summer PRP I: June 14 - 25 (Monday – Friday)
a.m. – 1:30 p.m. each day

9:00

Summer PRP II: June 14 - 25 (Monday – Friday)
– 8:30 p.m. each evening

5:00 p.m.

Summer PRP III: July 19 - 30 (Monday – Friday)
p.m. each day

9:00 a.m. – 1:30

We must thank all of the parents who make the Parish Religion Program possible by offering their gifts as catechists, aides, or assistants. Please offer your help whenever you are able; we look forward to meeting and working with you! We look forward to a year of partnership with you in the faith formation of your child!



Session Descriptions and Dates: **Sunday** (Grades 1-8) PRP

****PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES**

Sunday PRP: The Sunday program parallels closely the academic calendar, beginning in September and ending in May. The students meet with catechists on Sunday mornings for one and one-half hours each time. This program provides a rich classroom experience throughout the year.

Parent participation and involvement in the Sunday program is essential to its success for the most positive experience for each child. Our catechists and aides, as well as the individuals who help with classroom materials and office management are all parent volunteers. Again, without parents who are willing to offer their gifts, the Sunday program would not be possible.

Teacher input and standardized measurements indicate that Sunday PRP students are being introduced to many concepts vital to their faith formation and that the students and their families are beginning to see the relationship between what is presented in the classroom and their lived experience. ***Families who attend Sunday PRP must make a firm decision toward both class***

attendance and Sunday Mass participation! The new time change will allow PRP students and their parents to attend the 9:30 am Mass before the PRP session starts.

>>> We are excited to integrate Family Faith Festivals into the regular Sunday PRP Calendar throughout the year. These Family Faith Festivals are strategically placed to help families prepare for major Liturgical Seasons such as Advent and Lent. Regular PRP classes will be cancelled on these days so that families can participate together. Please refer to the PRP calendar for the 2010/2011 Family Faith Festival dates. These festivals count toward your 4 formation enrichment requirements.

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2010 -- 2011 Sunday PRP (grades 1-8) Dates and **** NEW Times:**

Sunday PRP (grades 1-8): Sundays, September 12 – May 1

10:45 a.m. - 12:15

p.m.

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Session Descriptions and Dates: **Family Option**

Family Option: Any family may elect to participate in Immaculate Heart of Mary's PRP Family Option. We encourage this option only for families that home school their child/ren for all subjects. Those families who do not home school their child/ren yet still desire to participate in the Family Option must meet with the Pastoral Associate of Religious Education in order to develop a catechetical plan and choose catechetical materials suitable for home-based religious education.

The Home-Based Religious Education Program option should not be considered by families with general scheduling issues, or attendance concerns due to parental custody schedules. The Evangelization and Catechesis office will work with any family with these issues to ensure appropriate catechesis within the normal Parish Religion Program.

Families choosing the home-based religious education option will be invited to attend an informational meeting at the beginning of each school year. Additionally, they are encouraged to meet periodically with the Pastoral Associate for Evangelization and Catechesis and the Children's Formation Coordinator to review the progress of their catechetical efforts.

As with the Summer and Sunday PRP options, families who select the family catechetical option will be expected to meet the **minimum of 4 family and adult enrichment activities**.

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Family Option:

Family Option: Check the appropriate box on the registration form and a staff person will call you.



Session Descriptions and Dates: Sunday PRP (Young Children)

Young Children: Younger children are also offered the opportunity to attend a Sunday program during the 9:30 Mass that provides catechesis throughout the year. While parents attend Mass, young children take part in a process that helps to form the children for a maturing understanding of God, themselves and others, and for participation in the liturgy. It is based on the liturgical seasons, and while the children have fun, they learn much! This is an excellent option for families with all young children or who have older children in PRP or the school. Parents and older children can attend Eucharist without younger family members, or the whole family can attend Mass together, with the young children being formed during the Young Children Program for fuller participation as they grow. All families of young children are encouraged to participate in this program.

2010-2011 Young Children's Program (Age 3 – Kindergarten) Dates and Times

Young Children Session I: September 12 – May 1
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (or until Mass ends)

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