

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Moorestown, New Jersey



Religious Education Program
Parent Handbook
2024-2025

Administration / Contact Information

Father Jim Grogan, Sr., Pastor
Father Jack Bogacz, Associate
Cynthia Robinson, Parish Catechetical Leader

Office of Religious Education

122 W Main Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057
856-235-7136

Email: reprogram@olgcnj.org

Website: www.olgcnj.org

Emergency Contact during class hours:

Preferred contact: reprogram@olgcnj.org.

Parents may reach out to the Parish Office
(856) 235-0181 before 5:00pm.

Registration

Children are registered each May for the upcoming religious education year. Registration is handled through *Parish Giving*. Parents are asked to give prayerful consideration to volunteering to teach in the program so classes for each grade level in each session may be offered for your child.

Religious Education Classes

- Summer Intensive Program / Plus Six Parish Activities
- Year-Long Program / Traditional Classes
- Home Study / Recorded Lessons / Family Catechesis
- Special Needs Program
- Sacramental Intensive (Initiation) Classes

Tuition / Fees / Tuition Assistance Fund

- Tuition and special fees are collected by *Parish Giving* at registration.
- Parents are asked to consider contributing in any way to the Tuition Assistance Fund.
- Please reach out to the Religious Education Office. Payment plans, opportunities to volunteer, or waived tuition is made on an individual basis.

Medical Concerns

Parents indicate medical concerns at registration. Any requested forms and medications must be received before a child will be admitted to class.

Emergency Notification – *Dial My Calls*

The primary contact will be notified by our instant alert system of any weather related or emergency closings. Parents may contact the RE Office to add secondary contact information.

Custody Rights

It is the parent's obligation to deal with rights being violated by the other parent. It is not the place of the parish staff to interpret or to enforce those rights.

Safety and Security Issues

Staff / Volunteer Screening

OLGC maintains a thorough screening and background check of adults working on a regular basis with children in parish ministries.

Building safety

- Staff oversees student drop off / pick up. The building is locked during class sessions.
- Only authorized adults are to be in the building during Religious Education class time.
- A security camera system is in place and monitored during class time.
- Pets are not permitted on the school campus.

Crossing Guards

Crossing Guards are provided by Moorestown Police Department for student and parent safety, on Main Street and Prospect Avenue.

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival

- Students enter the building through the main parking lot / ramp entrance.
- Parents are not to leave children until they see staff members are present.
- **Doors open 5 minutes before the start of classes. Doors are locked at the start of class.**
- **Any student arriving after the start of class is to ring the bell and report to the school office.**
- Snacks are to be finished before entering the building.

Dismissal

- Parents are to park in designated parking spots and wait for children at the top of the ramp.
- Please exercise extreme caution walking with children in the parking lot, and when pulling in and out of parking spaces.

Early Dismissals

- Parents are to notify the RE Office ahead of time by email.
- Parents ring bell and await instructions.
- **ID will be required for all early dismissals.**

Classes

Student Absence

Every student absence must be reported by emailing the RE Office. Children must be free of fever and stomach ailments for 24 hours before returning to class. Outline of lesson plans are on the parish website. Parents cover the missed lessons at home.

Textbooks

Students need to bring their textbook, and any requested supplies, to each class.

Cell Phones / Entertainment Devices: Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other personal electronic devices during class time.

Behavior: Children are to be respectful of others and property at all times. Continuous inappropriate actions will result in a transfer to home study.

Liturgical Experiences / Parish Life

- Students participate in class-time prayer services and special presentations throughout the year.
- Families are encouraged to attend various parish and diocesan prayer services and special events throughout the year.

Special Programs

Special Needs Program

Classes geared to the specific needs of children and young adults with autism, and those who have special learning differences. Classes held on Saturday mornings.

Sacramental Intensive Preparation Program

Children above the usual age for sacramental reception participate in the initiation process by attending weekly sessions on Tuesdays, 7pm to 8pm.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation / First Eucharist

First Reconciliation / Eucharist is a two-year preparation process. The sacraments are celebrated in second grade. Preparation includes:

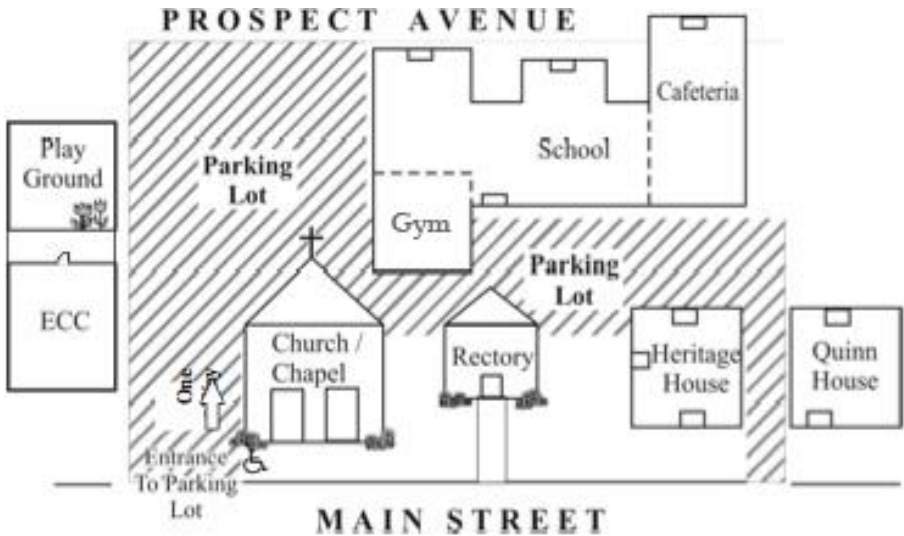
- Religious Education formation
- Immediate sacramental preparation
- Practices
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Sacrament of Eucharist

Confirmation

Confirmation is a two-year preparation process. The sacrament is celebrated in Spring of the eighth grade year. Preparation includes:

- Religious Education formation
- Immediate sacramental preparation
- Choosing a sponsor
- Saint Research
- Acceptance of Candidates
- Retreat
- Practices
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Sacrament of Confirmation

OLGC Campus Map



Early Childhood Center (ECC):

- OLG PreK
- Afterschool Care Program, including playground

Church / Chapel

- Daily and weekend masses

Parish Office (Rectory):

- Parish family records, parish business (baptisms, priests)

Heritage House:

- Religious Education Office
- Meeting rooms for parish ministries

Quinn House:

- Meeting rooms for parish ministries

OLGC School:

- OLG School
- Religious Education Classes