



2023-2024 – Program Options

Important: The Diocese of Trenton has recently revised its Religious Education Manual, which is being sent to Pastors and Religious Education administrators this spring. Revisions to the guidelines in the manual may necessitate changes to our plans. We do not anticipate that such changes would cause major changes to our program, but we will communicate any necessary adjustments to families.

Our parish currently offers four different options within our overall program:

Weekly Traditional Program

- ⌘ Offered for grades 1st through 8th
- ⌘ Runs from the end of September or beginning of October through April (2023-2024) *Start date of classes depends on how the calendar falls; we will let families know the definitive date
- ⌘ Classes meet once a week
- ⌘ Scheduling for 2023-2024 is as follows:
 - Monday and Tuesday, 1st – 5th from 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm
 - Monday and Tuesday, 6th – 8th from 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm
 - Parents opt for either Monday or Tuesday. Late registration may affect our ability to grant the preferred class day.

*Important to note: We do our best to accommodate each family's day request and to keep all children in a family on the same day. Parents can note preferences at the time of registration, and these requests are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Volunteers receive first consideration with regard to schedule requests.

Summer Program

- ⌘ Our Summer Program encompasses 1st through 8th grades and runs for two weeks in the summer, typically around the last week of June and first week of July from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm daily. **Please note that the scheduling of the summer sessions each year depends on several factors. Some of these factors, such as the scheduling of maintenance work being done in our school, are not in our control.**
- ⌘ Families are required to attend at least six parish events throughout the year

(choices will be offered). Each student will have a “parish passport” to bring to the events/liturgies attended, where he or she will receive a stamp acknowledging attendance. This passport must be handed in to the RE Office by May 31st.

- * Children in 2nd and 8th grades will be required to attend any additional Sacramental preparation opportunities as deemed necessary by the Religious Education Office. This includes any regularly-scheduled Sacrament meetings (parents) and retreats.

*Important to note: The Summer Program is a nontraditional Religious Education model. Due to the condensed nature of the scheduling, the following requirements must be met:

Students must have successfully completed the previous year of Religious Education at St. Joan of Arc, i.e. home study work must be submitted on time, attendance must be good for students attending weekly.

All children in the summer program must be on grade level, i.e. they must enter the program having completed all prior grade requirements.

*The family **must** be committed to daily attendance during the summer and attendance at the required number of liturgies/events during the year.*

These criteria are simply required for placement and continuation in the program without exception in order to ensure the integrity of the program. Any family unable to meet the above criteria must move to the Fall Program so we may offer placement to families on the waiting list who are able to do so. Not following policies and procedures of the Summer Program may also preclude a family from choosing the summer option for the following year.

Home Study

We will offer home study as an option for 3rd – 6th graders for 2023-2024. Parents are notified of a date/time for pick-up of home study materials, which includes the textbook and a syllabus detailing when assignments are due. Assignments, which are the chapter reviews from the text, must be sent to the office in hard copy format, and are reviewed and corrected by our catechists. Families will also be required to attend 6 activities in the parish during the year; families will be given several options to choose from. (This addition to the home study model is per guidelines in the revised Religious Education manual, given to parishes in May 2023 by the Diocese of Trenton.)

Family Program

Our Family Program is an option for 1st graders and their families. This program meets once a month on a Sunday after the 10:30 Mass in Pedata Hall for an hour. The main themes of that month’s unit are presented to help families as they work through the text at

home, and a craft is included each month to help reinforce one of the topics for the unit or from the liturgical season.

RCIA Tweens*

This class is offered for children in grades 3rd-6th who may not have received First Reconciliation and First Communion, or have received Sacraments but missed multiple years of religious education. Our RCIA Tweens class is specially-designed to provide children with the necessary religious education and faith formation experience for receiving Sacraments and for preparing to move forward on grade level the following year. This class is typically held weekly on Mondays from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

RCIA Teens*

This class is for children in 7th and 8th grades/early high school who have received Religious Education in the past, but have missed multiple years of faith formation. RCIA Teens is specially designed to provide this age group with the necessary religious education and faith formation from missed years and to provide them with Sacramental preparation for Confirmation. This class is typically held weekly on Tuesdays from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, and may begin after the regular weekly classes begin.

*Registration for RCIA Tweens and RCIA Teens is permitted after approval from the Religious Education Office. Parents interested in these options should contact the office to discuss.