

A Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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Dear Families,

Welcome to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Children and Family Faith Formation Processes. One of the goals is to make Faith Formation a positive experience for your family. Here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel there are ample opportunities to continue to experience and grow in the knowledge of the faith.

I look forward to serving and working with each of you.

Blessings,

Pam Myskowski
Children and Family
Faith Formation Coordinator
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Parish Mission Statement

The Mission of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is to nourish our love of God through Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Centered in the Eucharist we are developing a faith community through prayer, education, worship, and Christian fellowship.

As stewards of God's love, we strive to share our gifts and talents for the service of God and all His People.

Faith Formation Goals *(National Directory of Catechesis)*

1. To provide a process of formal religious formation for the families of the Parish.
2. To support parents in their role as primary catechists of their children.
3. To offer sacramental preparation to children as they become ready to receive the Sacraments of Penance (confession), Confirmation and Eucharist.
4. To help the children and families to discover the richness and challenges of scripture and teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.
5. To build a strong Catholic identity among the children and families of the parish.
6. To give the children and families an experience of the Church as community.
7. To deepen prayer life of the children and families.
8. To motivate the children and families to live life rooted in charity and social justice based on the moral teachings of the church.
9. To expose the students and families to the liturgical and sacramental richness that is part of Catholic tradition.



Sessions offered Weekly

Sunday:

“Big Sunday” Children’s Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00 a.m. Mass
(ages: Kindergarten – 4th grade)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for ages 3-5 in the atrium located in the
Preschool building sessions times are 9:00 – 10:15 am and 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Monday:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ages 3-5 sessions meet in the atrium located in the
Preschool Building. Time is 9:00 – 10:15 a.m

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ages 6-9 sessions meet in the atrium located in the
Preschool Building. Times are 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Bible Club for 4th – 6th Grade sessions meet in the Fine Arts Room located in the
Preschool Building. Time is 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ages 6-9, sessions meet in the atrium located in the

Preschool Building. Time is 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ages 6-9, sessions meet in the atrium located in the Preschool Building. Times are 2:30 – 3:30 and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sacramental Preparation Sessions

A parent(s) are to attend with their child.

First Reconciliation(confession) Prep are six (6) weekly sessions on Sunday afternoon Sunday time is 12:30 – 2:00 p.m Mid October –November.

Confirmation & First Communion Prep are eight (8) weekly sessions and a Retreat Sunday time is 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. late February – May.

Confirmation and First Communion Mass: TBA

Home Study

Grade Level Faith and Life Internet series is provided by My Catholic Faith Delivered OR Parent's choice of text (needs to be approved by the coordinator or pastor) and preparation is done at home.

For Sacramental Preparation the materials are provided by Our Lady of Mount Carmel OR Parent's choice of text (needs to be approved by the coordinator or pastor) and preparation is done at home.



Mary's Club

Mary's Club meets the third Thursday of each Month from September – April. Open to all Parish Girls Kindergarten -6th Grade.

Time: 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Place: Fine Arts Room located in the preschool building.

Each month's activities will include a teaching on a virtue, saint, craft and regular Service Projects

Expectations

From Parents:

1. Attend Mass regularly as a family.
2. Ensure that your children attend sessions regularly and on time
3. All children in all sessions must be signed in and out (person signing out must be listed on the Emergency card and at least 16 years old)
4. Communicate any special needs or circumstances that may affect their child within the classroom.
5. Be an active part of your child's faith learning and be involved.
6. Notify the Coordinator of Faith Formation if your child will be absent by email: pam@olmctempe.com or 480-344-5226.

From the Students:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Behave in a Christian manner at all times showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other children.
3. Actively participate in classroom discussions and activities.

From the Catechists:

1. Welcoming and helpful to all faith formation families.
2. Provide a Safe and Christian atmosphere within the learning environment so that children will be able to grow in their faith.
3. Prepare and teach designated curriculum.
4. Be a positive Christian role model.
5. Communicate regularly with and involve parents in the faith development of their children.

Text

For First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion TBA. Supplement Material: Growing Up Catholic.

4th – 6th grade Bible Club the text used is Bible Study Guide, Pflaum Venture weeklies and, the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd uses prepared weekly presentations that cover the Liturgy, Liturgical Seasons of the church, Parables, History of the Salvation of God, and Morality that are presented by a trained Catechist.

Location of Sessions

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place on the North end of McCready Hall during the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the Atrium located in the Preschool Building.

4- 6 Bible Club is in the Fine Arts Room located in the Preschool Building.

First Confession Prep is in the Fine Arts Room and Atrium located in the Preschool building.

Confirmation and First Communion Prep is in the Fine Arts Room and Atrium located in the Preschool Building.

Sacraments

This is an especially sacred time in a family's life as well within the parish. Children in second grade celebrate **First Reconciliation** (Confession). Children in grades third celebrate **Confirmation and First Eucharist** (Communion). Our Sacramental process is in partnership between the church and family. First Confession Prep, the catechists discuss and teach the sacrament of penance (confession).

Confirmation and Eucharist Prep (communion) help further familiarize your children in the church, Mass and the church teachings on these two sacraments. Home activities materials will be provided. In addition parents need to attend all sessions with their child and attend Mass with your child on a regular basis, complete any home assignments with your child and attend the family retreats. For children **not baptized** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel a copy of baptismal certificate is to be turned in the faith Formation coordinator **before** the sacramental sessions begin.

RCIA for Children

The Christian Initiation of Children helps families prepare their child 3rd – 6th grade for sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, and or Confirmation and First Communion Please Contact the Pam at pam@olmctempe.com pr 480-344-5226.

Children's Stewardship

Children's Ministry:

Monthly Children's Mass: The First Sunday of each month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass Need Lectors, Greeters/Ushers, Gift Bearers and children that enjoy singing for the Children's Choir.

Children ages 1st - 8th grade are encouraged take part in this ministry.

To Volunteer for the: **Children's Choir** contact Kim at kim@olmctempe.com.

For **Lectors, Greeters/Ushers, or Gift Bearers** contact Pam at pam@olmctempe.com.

Children's weekly Tithing envelope: even if they have no money to place inside it. All children have the gifts of time and talent they can share each week. **The children's envelopes are found by the entrance of the back doors of the church and behind the last pews in the church and in the Atrium.**

Monthly Service Project TBA to provide help for; St. Vincent de Paul, the community, State and World.

Attendance

Attendance is taken at every session. If your child will not be present, please contact the Faith Formation office email: pam@olmctempe or 480-344-5226.

Arrival/Dismissal

For the safety of the students please do not bring your child more than **10 minutes prior** to class time. Please pick up your child immediately following the end of class.

Health/ Special Needs Concerns

Health Concerns should be brought to the attention of the Faith Formation Coordinator during registration. Special attention is given to ensure that confidentiality is maintained.

Snacks

We welcome donations of healthy, low sugar snack items for the children each week. Examples of acceptable donations are; goldfish crackers, whole wheat crackers, animal crackers, pretzels, etc. and 100% fruit juice.

Newsletter

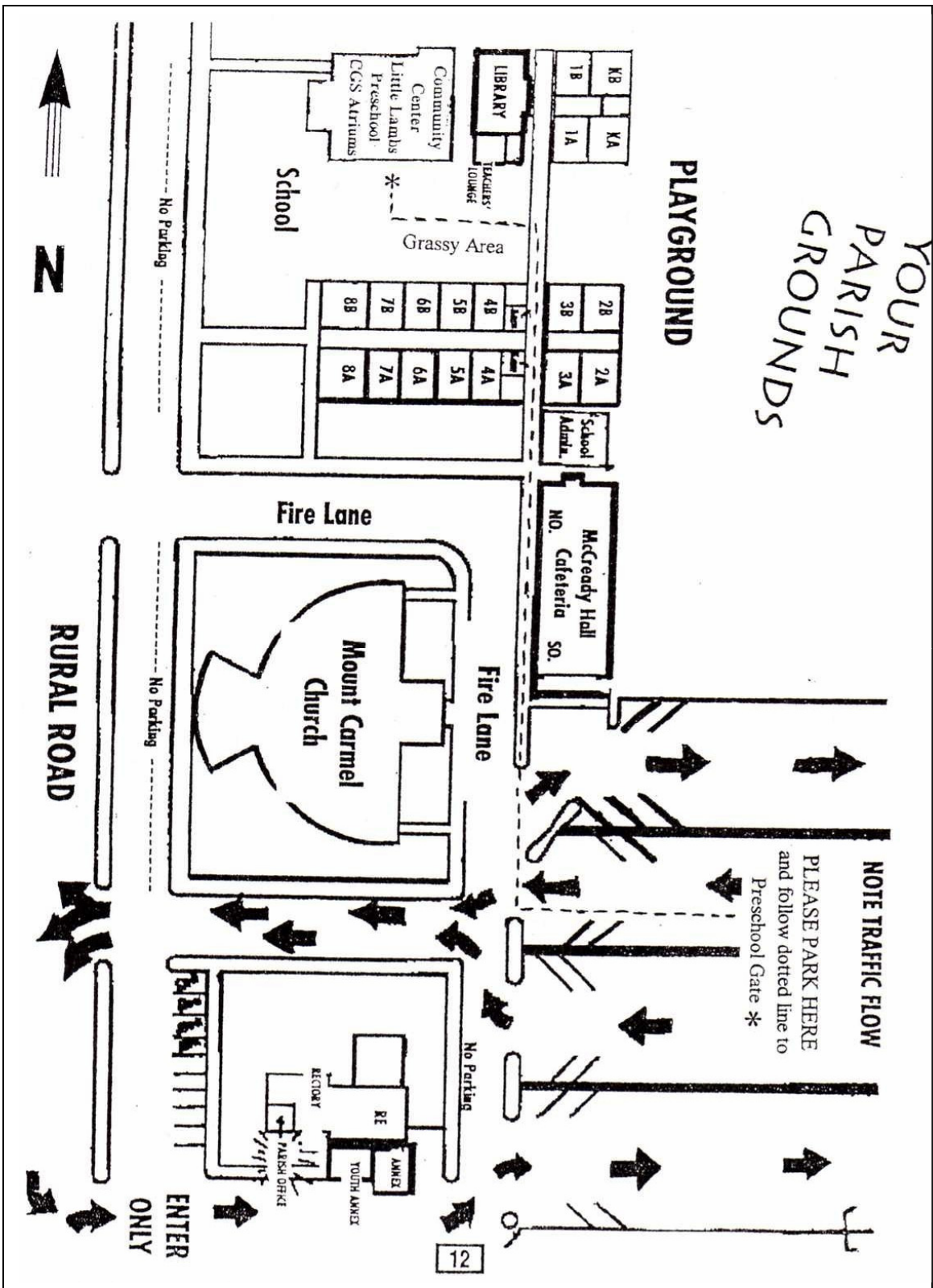
A monthly newsletter will be sent home by e-mail (for those who have provided an e-mail address) or given out the first of the month each month, November – April. Please take time to read it each month as it will have information on upcoming events, etc.

Volunteers

Parent participation is welcomed and needed in various areas of the Faith Formation Process. Anyone interested in volunteer service as catechists, assistant, or special projects please contact Pam.

Final Note

This handbook is primarily a means of communication. It is meant to provide you the parent/guardian with helpful information on how we intend to go about our work. The Pastor or Faith Formation Coordinator reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary.



Map of the Parish Grounds