

April 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian,

Attached please find registration forms for the 2025/2026 Religious Education school year. Please read this letter in its entirety as it contains information that is important to this upcoming year's registration, including some policy changes.

**FOR 2025/2026 WE HAVE RE-ORGANIZED THE CLASS SCHEDULE. CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF 9/29/2025 AND END THE WEEK OF 4/20/2026.**

MONDAYS 3:30PM-4:30PM  
GRADES 3 (3 CLASSES), 4 (3 CLASSES), 5 (2 CLASSES), 6 (3 CLASSES)

MONDAYS 7PM-8PM  
GRADES 7 (4 CLASSES) & 8 (4 CLASSES)

TUESDAYS 3:30PM-4:30PM  
GRADES 2 (7 CLASSES), 3 (1 CLASS), 4 (1 CLASS), 5 (1 CLASS), 6 (1 CLASS)

TUESDAYS 5PM-6PM  
GRADES 7 (2 CLASSES), 8 (2 CLASSES)

WEDNESDAYS 3:30PM-4:30PM  
GRADES 3 (3 CLASSES), 4 (2 CLASSES), 5 (2 CLASSES), 6 (2 CLASSES)

GRADE 1 REQUIRED MEETINGS/CLASS DATES: 9/30/2025 (PARENT MEETING).  
SUNDAY CLASS DATES WITH CHILD: 10/26/2025, 11/23/2025, 12/21/2025,  
2/1/2026, 3/1/2026, 4/19/2026 – 10:30AM-1PM (INCLUDES ATTENDING REQUIRED 12NOON  
MASS).  
GRADUATION MASS/BREAKFAST: SUNDAY 5/3/2026  
THESE DATES ARE GIVEN EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR ATTENDANCE. PARENT/CHILD  
CANNOT MISS MORE THAN 1-2 SUNDAY CLASSES. MORE THAN 2 MISSED, CHILD GOING  
ONTO 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE WILL BE EVALUATED.

- All Religious Education families must be formally registered parishioners – if unsure, check with the Rectory for verification
- Choice of days is being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. **Your child will not have the same teacher year after year.** Some teachers have advised that placing friends together in the same class can result in more distractions and/or disruptive behavior in the classroom. Requests from parents asking that their child be placed in a class with friends – or certain other students – will be carefully reviewed, in conjunction with recommendations from the child's prior teacher.
- All students require registration paperwork. The Family Registration 2025/2026 form is to be used to register all of the children in the family – new to the program or not. First grade or new students to the program are to have a New Student Registration form attached to the Family Registration 2025/2026 form. In addition to the New Registration form, new students require a copy of the child's baptismal certificate (unless baptized at St. Raymond Church).
- Registrations are asked to be in no later than July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. After this date, no special requests will be made and the Registration fee will increase to \$250.00.
- Students in grades 1-8 are required to attend Mass each Sunday. Parents are the primary educators in their children's faith and attending Mass on Sundays is part of the promise that you as parents made at your child's Baptism. Please begin the practice (if you aren't already doing so) to take your child to Sunday Mass.

- The maximum number of absences is four (4) times for the Religious Education School year. If a child is absent, homework may be requested by the parent from the teacher. However, homework does not negate the absence. The Superintendents of both Lynbrook and East Rockaway schools have confirmed the following: If a child is instructed to attend a 'mandatory' drama rehearsal, sports event or any other after-school activity, the child is excused from such 'mandatory' after-school activities to attend Religion class.
- Please note that upon reaching five (5) absences or more during the Religious Education School year, the child will need to repeat the year. Excessive absenteeism interferes with the process of properly catechizing the students each year as they work toward Confirmation. In this event, a meeting will be required with the child's parents and the DRE. If a child is suffering from a severe or chronic illness, please provide a doctor's note and we will work with the parents and student to accommodate these special circumstances.
- The following are the 2025/2026 Religious Education fees. These are non-refundable fees. Overdraft bank charges will be paid by the payee.
  - **REGISTRATION & BOOK FEE FOR ONE CHILD IN FAMILY (GRADES 1-8)** **\$ 225.00**
  - **EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD IN GRADES 1-8** **\$ 100.00**
  - **CHANGE OF CLASS FEE IF REQUESTED AFTER CLASSES BEGIN** **\$ 50.00**
  - **ADDITIONAL FEES MUST BE PAID ALONG WITH THE REGISTRATION FEE:**
  - **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS 2026 CONFIRMATION FEE** **\$100.00**
  - **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE STUDENTS 2026 COMMUNION FEE** **\$100.00**
  - **REGISTRATION FEE IF REGISTRATION RECEIVED AFTER JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025** **\$250.00**
- **Full payment including additional fees** is to be submitted along with the Registration forms. Please make your check payable to St. Raymond Religious Education. We do not accept debit cards, credit cards, Venmo or PayPal.
- If you're not sure of your child's schedule, please register anyway – it is easier to remove a child from a class then to try to squeeze them into an already established class. We will not overload classes.
- All families in our Religious Education program are asked to please register for FORMED. FORMED is a digital platform that enables parishioner's access to video-based study programs, films, audio presentations and e-books. There is no charge for your registration. Throughout the school year, you and your child may be asked to view assigned episodes from this website that are pertinent to your child's class or parent meetings. Go to [www.saintraymonds.org](http://www.saintraymonds.org) to register.

### **FIRST GRADE PARENTS**

Please read the attached parent reflection questions and details regarding our First Grade Program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Lucy Ostermann  
Director of Religious Education

# **1<sup>st</sup> GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

## **PARENT REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

**Religious Education is not mandated by the state to attend as is grammar/high school. We welcome you and your family enthusiastically into our program and we hope that you will wholeheartedly join us to become part of our Parish family as we travel your child's faith journey together.**

**To help with your decision, please read and reflect on the following questions before you register your child for Religious Education.**

1. *Why do I want my child to be part of the Catholic Church?*
2. *Do you understand that you are your child's first Catechist (Religion teacher) and that when you baptized your child, your home became the Domestic Church?*
3. *Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade curriculum consists of six classes on select Sunday mornings for both the parent and child to attend. Are you ready to participate fully and commit to the entire morning (10:30am – 11:30am class – 12Noon Mass) each of these Sundays? Are you ready to choose attending class over your child's extracurricular activities scheduled for this same time?*
4. *Are you ready, willing and able to fully participate in your child's faith journey? This includes teaching your child their prayers, learning how to do the sign of the cross and attending Mass with him/her on Sundays.*
5. *Are you and your family ready and prepared to become members of  
  
The Parish of St. Raymond – A Eucharistic Community of Faith, Love and Friendship?*

# ST. RAYMOND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## 2025/2026 FIRST GRADE

Our First Grade Religious Education program is a combined traditional in-class and at-home instruction model. Parents are the domestic church and it is the parents who are the actual teachers of their child. Our program is to guide both you and your child on their faith journey.

Before you register your child for our First Grade Religion program, please understand that both the child and parent(s) are to be present for all of the meetings with the exception of the Parent Orientation meeting. For that meeting only parents are to attend. We provide these dates as early as possible so that you can mark your calendars. Parents and their child are to attend the meeting and then attend the 12Noon Mass immediately following. At this Mass, Fr. Chuck continues the lesson. Attending this Mass is not an option – it is part of the curriculum. In addition, it is important to your child's faith development that he/she attend weekly Sunday Mass.

*THESE DATES ARE GIVEN EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR ATTENDANCE. PARENT/CHILD CANNOT MISS MORE THAN 1-2 SUNDAY CLASSES. MORE THAN 2 MISSED, CHILD GOING ONTO 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE WILL BE EVALUATED.*

Tuesday 9/30/2025

Parent (only parents) meeting - 7:30pm-St. Raymond School auditorium  
Home School orientation parent meeting – Book pick-up

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### FORMAT FOR SUNDAY MEETINGS:

- 10:30am Parents and child meet in the auditorium.
- Students go to their respective classrooms with their catechist for instruction.
- Catechist will cover the first session in each unit of the book with the children.
- 10:30am – 11:30am– Master Catechist will introduce each unit and instruct parents on how to teach their child the remaining sessions in the unit.
- 11:30am – children will be brought back to the auditorium (opportunity to have children stretch their legs, enjoy a snack provided by parent, use the bathroom, etc. before attending Mass).
- 12Noon- all parents and children attend the 12Noon Mass.
- At Mass, please attend with respect and reverence. No food or drinks allowed. No cell phones. Please sit next to your child and guide him/her throughout the Mass.

First meeting – Sunday 10/26/2025

Second meeting – Sunday 11/23/2025

Third meeting – Sunday 12/21/2025

Fourth meeting- Sunday 2/1/2026

Fifth meeting – Sunday 3/1/2026

Sixth meeting - Sunday 4/19/2026

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*Final Meeting – Sunday 5/3/2026*

*For this meeting, we will meet in the Church for the 9am Mass. After Mass, the children and their families are invited to attend a Pancake Breakfast in the cafeteria. After breakfast, the children will present their completed workbooks and we will in turn give them their Certificate of Completion for First Grade.*