

April 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian,

Attached please find registration forms for the 2023/2024 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.

- **The 2023/2024 class schedule:**

Grade 1 -	Home Program –	parent & child meet five (5) Sundays October-March
Grade 2 –	Tuesdays –	3:30pm-4:30pm
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 –	Mon/Wed/Thurs –	3:30pm-4:30pm
Grades 7 & 8 –	Mondays/Tuesdays –	7pm-8pm

- 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. **There is no guarantee your child will 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 even if they are already in our program. The Family Registration 2023/2024 form must be used to register all of the children in the family. First grade or new students to the program are to have a New Student Registration form attached to the Family Registration 2023/2024 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>, 2023. After this date, no special requests will be made and the Registration fee will increase to \$225.00. **A change of class fee (\$50.00) after Religion classes have begun will be implemented this year.**
- The following are the 2023/2024 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)** **\$ 200.00**
  - **EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD IN GRADES 1-8** **\$ 75.00**
  - **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 2023 CONFIRMATION FEE** **\$100.00**
  - **2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE STUDENTS 2023 COMMUNION FEE** **\$100.00**
  - **REGISTRATION FEE IF REGISTRATION RECEIVED AFTER JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2023** **\$225.00**
- **Full payment including additional fees** must 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.

- 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. Please be prepared to fully participate in your child's faith journey which includes attending Mass every Sunday.
- Students in grades 2-8 are required to write and submit 6 age-appropriate Mass reflections throughout the Religious Education school year. The Mass reflections will be collected on a monthly basis – students that do not fulfill this requirement will be at risk of repeating the year and will need to meet with the DRE and parent(s).
- 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 during the Religious Education School year, the child is at risk of repeating 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.
- Our catechists have enjoyed having fewer students in their classroom, therefore, we are going to keep the classes small (assuming we have enough catechists). If you're not sure of your child's schedule, please register anyway – it is easier to remove a child from a class than to try to squeeze them into an already established class.
- **FIRST GRADE PARENTS** – The parents will be given a student book and will teach their child at home. A parent and their child are to attend five (5) 45-minute mandatory Sunday morning meetings plus one orientation meeting. At the orientation meeting parents will pick up their book and receive further information about the first grade program. Parents will be responsible to teach their child the chapters that will be assigned at each meeting. The completed book will be collected at the end of the Religious Education school year. **The 2023/2024 meeting schedule is attached to this letter, however, the dates may change. The First Grade Curriculum requires parent and child to attend the 5 meetings plus attend the 12Noon Mass that follows the meeting. Please make these five meetings a priority. Attending these meetings as well as the 12Noon Mass are not optional. This schedule is the First grade curriculum and we are asking that you make all efforts to participate fully as you begin your child's faith journey.**
- 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.

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. *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, attending the First grade parent/child meetings and taking him/her to Mass on Sundays.*
4. *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

### 2023/2024 FIRST GRADE HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM

The parents will be given a student book and will teach their child at home. Parent(s) and their child are to attend five (5) 45-minute mandatory Sunday morning meetings AND ATTEND THE 12NOON MASS AFTER THE SESSION. Parent(s) will be responsible to follow the syllabus that will be given out at each meeting and teach their child the chapters that will be assigned. The completed book will be collected at the end of the Religious Education school year. ALL ACTIVITIES (THAT FOLLOW THE WORK ASSIGNED IN THE SYLLABUS) IN THE BOOK MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHOOL YEAR (SEPTEMBER 2023-APRIL 2024) IN ORDER FOR THE CHILD TO GO ON TO SECOND GRADE.

At the time of print, these are the meeting dates – they could be subject to change. If that is the case, parents will be notified immediately.

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Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

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Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

11am-11:45am ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S WORKBOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL.

After close, parent(s) and child attend 12Noon Mass in St. Raymond Church.

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Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

11am-11:45am ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S WORKBOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL.

After close, parent(s) and child attend 12Noon Mass in St. Raymond Church.

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Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

11am-11:45am ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S WORKBOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL.

After close, parent(s) and child attend 12Noon Mass in St. Raymond Church.

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Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

11am-11:45am ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S WORKBOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL.

After close, parent(s) and child attend 12Noon Mass in St. Raymond Church.

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Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

*Changed*

11am-11:45am ST. RAYMOND SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD'S WORKBOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL.

After close, parent(s) and child attend 12Noon Mass in St. Raymond Church.

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Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 *Changed*

**BRING COMPLETED BOOKS TO CAFETERIA - CELEBRATION**

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- PLEASE COME TO THESE MEETINGS. IF YOU HAVE OTHER CHILDREN, ONLY ONE PARENT NEEDS TO ATTEND. IF NEITHER OF YOU CAN MAKE ONE OF THE MEETINGS, PLEASE HAVE A GRANDPARENT OR RELATIVE BRING YOUR CHILD. YOUR CHILD SHOULD NOT BE ATTENDING WITH A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND.