



**Mary Queen Youth Ministry
Information
2023-2024 School Year**

6th – 12th Grade

Mary Queen Contact Information

Mary Queen Catholic Church
606 Cedarwood Drive
Friendswood, TX 77546

Phone: 281-482-1391

Fax: 281-482-4886

Website: www.maryqueenchurch.org

Parish Receptionist Hours: Monday thru Friday—8:30-5:30 pm

Priests:

Pastor: Fr. Jim Kuczynski, M.S., x312

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Trey Crespo, M.S. x314

Youth Ministry Team:

Terri Ryan—Director of Adolescent Catechesis and
Evangelization

Email: tryan@maryqueenchurch.org x317

Tino Quiocho – Jr High Coordinator

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Parish Mission Statement

Our Mary Queen community, inspired by faith and love, will live, worship, teach, welcome and support one another in the imitation of Christ.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **Communication:** We are here to serve the religious educational needs of our youth. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, contact the Youth Ministry Office. Contact the Directors of Youth Faith Formation for inquiries concerning the Junior High, High School, and Confirmation programs. Contact the Faith Formation Director for registration and general information. Contact information can be found on page 2.

Communication is made in the following manner:

- **Phone & Email:** Information is sent to parents primarily by e-mail and flocknote. Parents should also check for notices in the Sunday bulletin. All e-mail and telephone communications made by the parish or core team will conform to the Archdiocesan confidentiality policy. See section on Safe Environment Program (page 5) for further details.
- **Websites:** Parents/Guardians and students are encouraged to visit the Mary Queen's website (and Religious Education page): www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org. This website contains helpful information about each of our Youth Ministry programs which will assist you with upcoming events, workshops, calendars and volunteer opportunities.

Social Media: The Junior High & High School programs will also Mary Queen's Facebook as a mass communication resource. It will contain updates and resources for both students and parents of both programs.

- B. **Safe Environment Program:** The Core Team and assistants will provide a loving Christian atmosphere within the classroom so that youth will be able to learn and recognize they are special children of God. The Core Team are also positive Christian role models who are prepared to teach and discuss the designated curriculum. All Core Team and their Assistants have completed the CMG Safe Haven Online Training as required by the Archdiocese of

Galveston-Houston, USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) and Mary Queen Parish. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will be provided to the Core Team and Aides. They will be used strictly for Youth Ministry communications and be done in conformity with the Archdiocesan confidentiality policy as outlined in the CMG Safe Haven Program.

CMG Safe Haven Online Training is a required course within our Archdiocese and Parish. It must be completed by anyone having regular, on-going contact with children in our Youth Ministry programs, or Youth Ministry socials, events, and activities. Individuals must have taken the CMG Safe Haven Training Program, as well as completed the required paperwork which includes a Code of Conduct, Volunteer Information Sheet, and Background Check Authorization Form.

II. PROGRAM GUIDELINES

A. **Admission Policies:** Regular registration cost for parishioners is \$65.00 per student with a family maximum of \$195.00. Regular registration cost for non-parishioners is \$95.00 per student with a family maximum of \$285.00. The pastoral policy of Mary Queen Parish recognizes that each student has the right to Catholic formation and guarantees each student enrollment in the faith formation program regardless of financial limitations. No student will be denied due to funding. See the Director for the Youth Office for information.

- **Youth Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation:** 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who will be preparing for this year's Confirmation needs to consult the Sacramental Preparation section (page 7-8) of this handbook for further guidance. A current Baptismal Certificate with the church seal and all associated faith formation and Confirmation fees (\$200 total per Candidate) is required to help cover the additional costs incurred for preparation. For assistance with fees due to financial hardship, please contact the Youth Ministry Director.

- B. **Registration Forms:** Faith Formation Registration forms are now **AVAILABLE ONLINE**. When filling out the registration form, mark the grade your child will be **ENTERING** in the **FALL**, as well as the Sacraments he/she wants to/ is eligible to receive this faith formation year. Registration is required for all Junior High and High School youth.

- Registration is offered beginning in the spring. Check the bulletin for registration times and registration deadline.
- Registration form must be complete and accurate.
- All forms are dated upon arrival, and are processed on a **FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS**.
- Incomplete registration forms will delay entry of your children into the Faith Formation programs.

C. Classroom Locations and Times:

All Junior High & High School and Confirmation religious education classes are held on campus in either the Parish Center or St Charbel Youth Center. During the class, students meet in a large group for the teaching, then are broken up into small groups with their Core Team leaders and meet for a short time in classrooms.

High School Year 1, Confirmation, and Confirmed Juniors and Seniors	Junior High Youth 6-8 th grade
Alternating Sundays 3:45-6:45 PM (This includes attending 4:30 PM Mass with their Small Group)	Alternating Sundays 3:45-6:30 PM (This includes attending 4:30 PM Mass with their Small Group)
St Charbel Youth Center/Parish Center	St Charbel Youth Center

D. Attendance Policy: Regular attendance at faith formation is an important factor in helping your child deepen their understanding of church teaching, scripture, prayer, and community. CAST and Ark are doing a Trial Year with extended hours but less frequent meetings in the 2023-2024 Faith Formation Year. This means that the 4:30pm Youth Mass is now included in the CAST and Ark Curriculum and is therefore Mandatory. Full attendance credit is only give to those who arrive on time at 3:45pm and stay until 6:45pm.

E. Arrival and Departure: All students are expected to arrive promptly at class time. Refer to class locations and times above.

☒ **Late arrival is discouraged.** It is disruptive to class. Parents and/or guardians of the students who are consistently late will be notified.

☒ **Early pick-up is also discouraged.** Frequently missing all or part of weekly classes does affect your child's religious education.

☒ If you need to pick up your child before the scheduled dismissal, the parent/guardian must send a brief note (stating time, date, and signature). Parents must come to the meeting location to pick up your child.

F. **Emergency Cancellation:** If FISD, CCISD, PISD and/or local schools have closed due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, faith formation classes will be canceled for the day. (We do reserve the right to cancel class even if FISD, CCISD or Pearland is still in session.) If you have any questions about cancellations, please call the Youth Ministry Office at one of the extensions listed in front of the booklet before bringing your child to class. Please use your best judgment about whether or not to bring your child(ren).

III. SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

A. **All students preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation MUST submit a NEW Baptismal Certificate in order to be eligible to be confirmed.** If your child was baptized at Mary Queen Church, you will need to fill out the request of verification form given in the Confirmation packet. If they were Baptized elsewhere, you will need to contact the church of baptism and request the new certificate. All Candidates are required to pay the normal faith formation registration fee of \$65 PLUS an additional \$135 fee for Confirmation registration, which covers the additional costs incurred by the Parish for preparation materials, Confirmation Retreat, and the Rite of Confirmation Mass. This fee is due upon registration for Faith/Confirmation formation. Note: The pastoral policies of this parish recognize that each student has the right to Catholic formation and no student will be denied participation due to funding. Please contact your program director for more details.

B. **Confirmation Requirement/Pre-Requisite:** For your child to be considered a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation, they must have attended a minimum of 70% of faith formation classes offered in the immediate previous year (Year 1). Teen must be baptized and able to renew Baptismal promises or have

been put into confirmation formation through the RCIA if unbaptized/has not received First Communion. They should exhibit an active faith life and knowledge of the Church by participating in the Sacramental life of the Church especially the Eucharistic liturgies. Youth should also be involved in youth events and activities. Attendance at Faith formation/Confirmation classes are required and missed classes will have to be made up. Teens will also be required to attend the Mary Queen Confirmation Retreat and at least one additional Catholic retreat, Summer Camp or Conference. The Youth Ministry Team will provide the dates of various opportunities to fulfill this requirement as soon as the dates are available.

- C. **Expectations:** Readiness Interview: There will be an interview with the child at the beginning of preparation within small groups to ensure full understanding and preparation of the sacrament, and a final individual interview at the end of the Confirmation classes.

Catholic education does NOT end with Confirmation!

It is expected that all Confirmed Teens will continue attending Youth Group and participate in the life of the Church through their Senior year in High School.

IV. EXPECTATIONS

- A. **Parents:** Parents are to see that their children attend classes regularly and on time, as absences and tardiness disrupt the continuity of learning. They should communicate with the Youth Ministry office about any special needs or circumstances that may affect their child during faith formation meetings/classes. *Parents are encouraged to be an active part of their children's learning and will be required to attend Parent Sessions during their Teen's Immediate preparation for Confirmation year.*
- B. **Students:** Students are to behave in a Christian manner at all times, and to be respectful and cooperative with any adults assisting within the program. They should actively participate in classroom discussions and activities. Students should attend class regularly, and complete all assignments given. Students should honor the program's Dress Code, Code of Conduct and Policy regarding use of cell phone. Failure to adhere to the dress code or code of conduct could result in a removal from in-person Catechesis.
- ☑ **Dress Code:** All dress should be modest and appropriate for

Mass. No undergarments should be visible, no shorts are allowed please, nor should bellies or lower backs be visible. If your child cannot wear it to school (shorts, inappropriate logos, words, etc) they cannot wear it to Mass or to Ark and CAST meetings.

▣ **Code of Conduct:** Students will follow classroom rules, respect others and their property, as well as respect church books and church property. Failure to follow the policies and procedures set forth by Mary Queen, the Archdiocese, and it's Directors could result in your child being removed from in-person Catechesis.

▣ **Use of Cell Phones/Air Pods:** Upon entering the Main Hall or Youth Center for class students will turn off /silence their cell phones and leave them alone until the program concludes. If a Core member sees a student texting or using a cell phone in any manner during the evening, the Core member will take the phone and the student's parent will be required to retrieve the cell phone from the Director of Youth Ministry and Formation at the end of the night.

V. RIGHT TO AMEND

Mary Queen Catholic Church Youth Ministry Program reserves the right to amend this handbook as necessary. Parents will be notified in writing if changes are made to any procedures or information contained in this handbook.

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM – GRADES 6-12

Parish youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to the Youth Ministry Program. This program consists of classes and activities which focus on the following components:

---Catechesis

- Religious Education
- Sacramental Preparation
- Sexuality Catechesis
- Retreats

---Community Life

- Social and Recreational Activities
- Focal Topics of Interest to Youth

---Worship and Prayer

- Liturgies
- Adoration
- Prayer Services
- Justice and Service
 - Community Service Projects
 - Parish Service Projects
- Guidance and Dialoguing
 - Sessions with Special Topics
 - Communication Skills
- Enablement and Advocacy
 - Ministry Training
 - Leadership Training-such as worship and retreat team leaders
 - Awareness of Issues Concerning Youth



MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ARK JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP
6TH - 8TH GRADE

"And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood." (Gen 7:7)

The Jr. High school youth ministry program, *Ark*, is designed to be a safe place for youth in grades 6th-8th to be in our ever-changing world, and can confidently learn the truth, beauty, and goodness of Jesus Christ and His Church. Classes and activities will focus on the weekly Gospel readings found in the Sunday Liturgy.

Ark Junior High Youth Group Fall/Spring 2023-24 Schedule
Sundays from 3:45 – 6:45 pm.

Oct 1st – Ark

Oct 15th – Ark

Oct 29th – Ark

Nov 19th – Ark Family Meet Me at the Pew 4:30 mass / Pizza in Main Hall after

Dec 10th - Ark

Jan 7th – Ark

Jan 28th – Ark Family Meet me at the Pew 4:30 mass / Pizza after

Feb 25th – Ark

March 24th – Ark

April 14th – Ark – End of Year!

ARK YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Fall Extreme Challenge – Date TBA
Summer – Camp Expedition at Forest Glen – Date TBA
Summer – Youth Center Events TBA

ARK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Core Team Leaders Needed
Spring Parish Festival Volunteers Needed
Social Ministry Events – as Needed
Vacation Bible School

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Cardinal DiNardo has directed that all parishes participate in **Circle of Grace** (Archdiocesan Annual Requirement), which is a safe environment education program for all children in grades K-12. The focus of **Circle of Grace** is to help children and their parents develop the knowledge and skills needed to keep children and young people safe and protected from sexual abuse. **Circle of Grace** lessons will be offered in the faith formation classes, Junior High and High School youth using age-appropriate materials, along with take-home parent resources to reinforce the lesson at home.



Mary Queen Catholic Church

CAST

Catechesis, Adoration, Scripture, Tradition

High School Faith Formation

**CAST Program is designed for All Year 1 and Year 2
Confirmation Teens, and those already Confirmed**

MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
CAST High School Faith Formation

Catechesis, Adoration, Scripture, Tradition

Sunday nights
from 3:45 – 6:45 pm

2023-2024 CAST SCHEDULE:

DATES:

***Aug 27th** – Confirmation-Year 2 ONLY Parent-Candidate Meeting **2:30pm** @St Charbel Youth Center

****Aug 27th** – Year 1 ONLY Parent Information Meeting **5:45pm** @St Charbel Youth Center

*****Sept 13th** – Confirmation-Year 2 ONLY Parent-Candidate *Make-Up* Meeting
6:00-8:00pm

Sept 24th –CAST All Groups

Oct 8th –CAST All Groups

Oct 22nd – CAST All Groups

Nov 5th – CAST All Groups

Nov 11-12th – Confirmation Candidate Year 2 Retreat Weekend

Dec 3rd – CAST All Groups

Dec 17th – CAST All Groups

Jan 21st – CAST All Groups

Feb 4th – CAST All Groups

March 3rd – CAST All Groups / ***Mandatory Parent Night***

March 17 – CAST All Groups - Meet Me at the Pew – Pizza After at St Charbel Youth Center (Optional – Roll will not be taken)

April 7th – CAST All Groups

April 21st – ****Year 2/Confirmation Candidates only - Final Confirmation Interviews

MARY QUEEN CATHOLIC CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 2 - CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation by instruction of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo is separate and distinct curriculum from Year 1 curriculum for a minimum of six lessons. Confirmation may be celebrated during the high school years for any student in 10th, 11th, or 12th grades who are in compliance with the Confirmation **requirement/pre-requisite on page 8-9**

Checklist of Year 2 Confirmation Candidate Requirements:

- ✓ Waiver Filled out and signed waiver for Retreat Due at Parent Meeting
- ✓ Form C-2021 Signed “Confirmation Requirements” Due at Parent Meeting
- ✓ Baptismal Record ***NEW*** copy from Church of Baptism Due Dec 31st
- ✓ Form D-2021 Baptismal Verification Form if at MQ
- ✓ Form E-2021 “Sponsor Form”
- ✓ Form G-2021 “Letter to the Pastor”
- ✓ Form H-2021 “Work of Mercy and 3.0 hours of Service to the Parish”
- ✓ Attend 2 Mandatory Parent-Candidate meetings – see schedule
- ✓ Attend at least one High School Catholic retreat prior to Confirmation Year.
- ✓ Attend Mandatory Confirmation Retreat during Candidate Year

(See website for more details and Forms)

MARY QUEEN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Mary Queen Youth Council is a contributing member of the youth ministry of Mary Queen. The council meets to brainstorm and facilitate events that will foster community, growth, and formation in the young church of Mary Queen. The members of the Youth Council serve as models of the faith formation program at Mary Queen, and work as servants wherever there is a need.

All High School students are invited to participate in the Mary Queen Youth Council planning meetings and events. The Youth Council leadership team is discerned by the Teens, their families, and the Youth Ministry office and help foster the growth and leadership skills of the younger teens.

Youth Council Meeting dates – TBD

SERVICE AND/OR FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES:

Trivia Night Clean up

Women's Ministry Luncheon—Date TBD

Mary Queen Christmas Bazaar Date TBD

Serra Club Dinner – Date TBD

Hispanic Ministry Guadalupe Celebration – Date TBD

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry – Date TBD

High School Stations of the Cross—Date TBD

Mary Queen Parish Festival—TBD

Vacation Bible School Volunteer - TBD

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS & CONFERENCES

June, July & August 2023

Year 1 Retreat – June – Date TBA

Archdiocesan Youth Conference (AYC): Dates TBA

Summer Camp - TBA

Other Opportunities - TBA

All information (including cost) is subject to change

Drop off pick up information:

Ark Jr High School

Jr High Youth may arrive as early as 3:30 pm for the 3:45 pm class in the St Charbel Youth Center. Drop off can take place in the front parking lot along Cedarwood Drive at the Youth Center Front door or in the back by the Parish Center. Please note that if you drop off by the Parish Center, it **is not** being monitored by an adult. The youth will be responsible for walking through the Parish Center over to the Youth Center on their own.

Youth will be released from the St Charbel Youth Center promptly at 6:30 pm on Sundays to give everyone time to get to mass. ***Please be on time out of respect for volunteers.*** It is your (the parent/guardian's) responsibility to communicate with your child on where you will be picking them up (either in the Cedarwood parking lot in front of Youth Center, the back parking lot outside the Parish Center, or meeting them in the Main Sanctuary for Mass.)

CAST High School

High School Youth may arrive as early as 3:30 pm for the 3:45 pm class in the St Charbel Youth Center. Drop off can take place either in the front parking lot on Cedarwood Drive at the Youth Center Front door or in the back by the Parish Center. Please note that if you drop off by the Parish Center, it **is not** being monitored by an adult. The youth will be responsible for walking through the Parish Center over to the Youth Center on their own.

Youth will be released from the St Charbel Youth Center promptly at 6:45 pm on Alternating Sunday's.

LINKS OF INTEREST:

NET Ministries

www.netusa.org

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

www.usccb.org

Catholic Answers

www.catholic.com

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

www.archgh.org

Mary Queen Catholic Church

www.maryqueencatholicchurch.org