

Youth Faith Formation

Parent Booklet





“I would like to propose a sober yet demanding program of Christian life with which we can navigate this epochal change in the light of the Gospel. This avenue emerges through contemplating God’s plan, living ecclesial unity by partaking of the Eucharist, building a world centered on the common good and praying in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

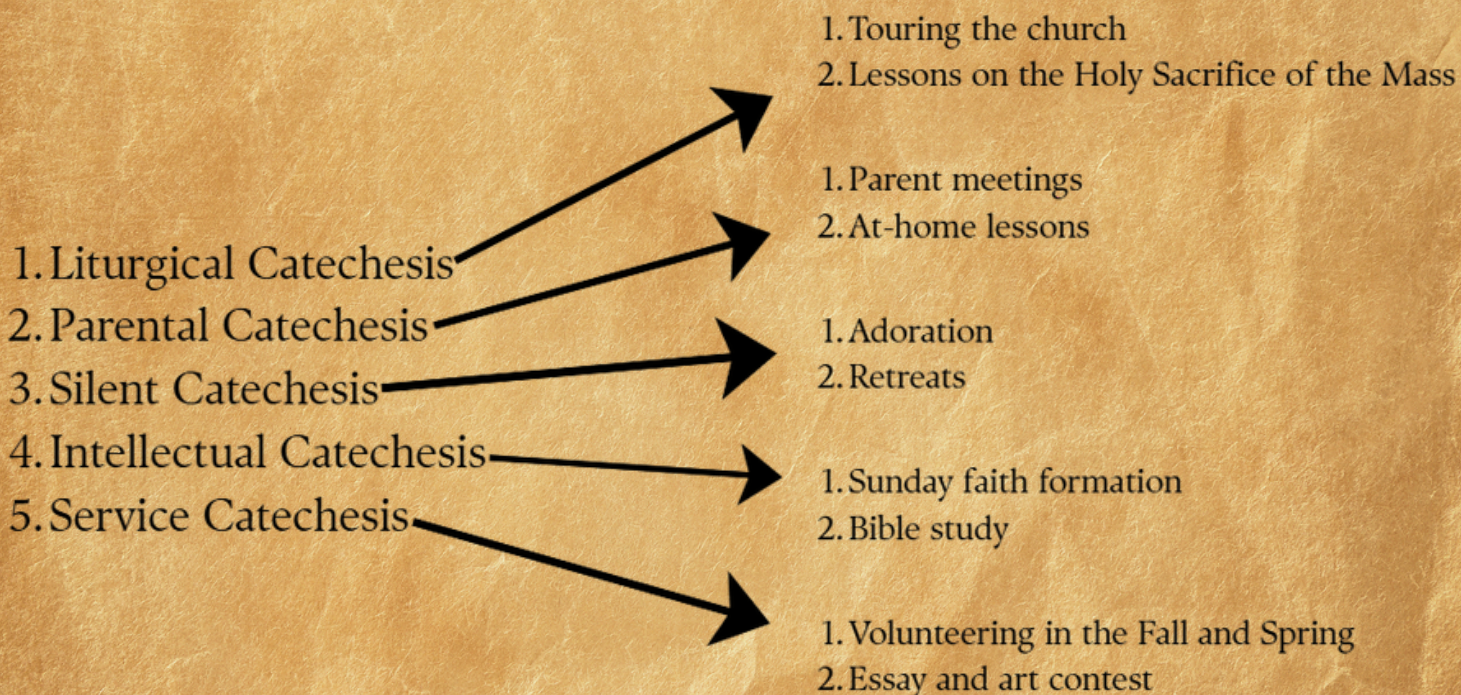
— Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*, ¶229



Youth Faith Formation at Mary Queen bases its catechesis on 5 core tenets:

1. Because all grace flows from Christ's sacrifice on the Cross — of which the Mass is a re-presentation — youth catechesis is inherently liturgical and sacramental.
2. Because parents have the greatest duty in teaching their children the Faith, youth catechesis is inseparable from parental catechesis.
3. Because entrance into the Kingdom of God is the result of personal conversion, youth catechesis is rooted in the interior life, prayer, and the pursuit of holiness.
4. Because natural and divine law are based on objective truth, youth catechesis works to train the intellect and will — through study and reflection — to be more open and receptive to reality.
5. Because the Church promotes a universal call to holiness, youth catechesis teaches that every vocation (lay, priestly, religious, etc.) stems from our shared baptismal vocation to serve others and build the Kingdom of God.

Our 5 core tenets are specifically carried out through (1) liturgical catechesis; (2) parental catechesis; (3) silent catechesis; (4) intellectual catechesis; and (5) service catechesis. These 5 principles are specifically ordered so that everything flows from “the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, ¶1324).



Confirmation preparation involves much prayer, study and reflection, and service. Through these three activities, one comes into a closer union with God — which is the goal of the Christian life. The objective of our catechesis is that youth are instilled with *the habit of prayer, a love for study and reflection, and a lifetime desire to serve.*

The earliest stages of high school catechesis involve knowing the relationship between faith and reason, as well as the basic theology of the Church. Later on, teens begin learning how to defend the truth — the truth that has now become a part of their daily lives through prayer, study and reflection, and service. By the time teens transition into young adulthood, the hope is that they are spiritually mature and ready to witness to Christ in the midst of the world.





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: Mon-Friday (8:30-5:30 pm)

Priests:

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Vellappallil, M.S. (x312)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Paul Mandziuk, M.S. (x314)

Youth Faith Formation Team:

Trey Brock, Director of Youth Faith Formation

Email: tbrock@maryqueenchurch.org (x317)

Sarah Kennepohl, Jr. High Coordinator

Email: skennepohl@maryqueenchurch.org (x100)

2026-2027 General Calendar

Sunday: High School Faith Formation

- 5:45-7:00 PM (Youth Center)
- For any high schooler preparing for Confirmation, and for anybody in our post-Confirmation program *The Deep*

Monday: Makeup Lesson

- 5:30-6:30 PM (Youth Center)
- For anybody preparing for Confirmation, and for anybody in youth OCIA

(Every other) Wednesday: Jr. High Catechesis

- For any jr. high students who have received First Communion

Thursday: Youth OCIA

- 5:30-6:30 PM (Youth Center)
- This is for anybody in jr. high or high school who has not been baptized (catechumens), who has been validly baptized but was not raised Catholic (candidates), or who has been baptized and was raised Catholic but has not yet done his or her First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

**There is also a weekly Bible study, as well as Open Hours and monthly Youth Council meetings (schedule TBD)*

2026-2027 Schedule





Schedule for Catechist Preparation

High School Faith Formation (catechist meetings are in Youth Center from 5:30-6:30 pm)

08/16: First catechist meeting

08/23: Second catechist meeting

08/30: Third catechist meeting

09/06: Fourth catechist meeting

09/13: Fifth catechist meeting

09/19: Day to set up rooms

09/20: First day of high school faith formation

OCIA (meetings are in Youth Center from 5:30-6:30 pm)

08/20: First catechist meeting

08/27: Second catechist meeting

09/03: Third catechist meeting

09/10: Fourth catechist meeting

09/17: Youth OCIA parent meeting

09/24: Day 1 of OCIA

Schedule for High School Faith Formation (5:45-7:00 pm)

09/16: Confirmation Parent Meeting (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

09/20: Lesson 1 for year 1, lesson 25 for year 2

09/27: Lesson 2 for year 1, lesson 26 for year 2

10/04: Lesson 3 for year 1, lesson 27 for year 2

10/11: Lesson 4 for year 1, lesson 28 for year 2 — *Church Tour*

10/25: Lesson 5 for year 1, lesson 29 for year 2

11/01: Lesson 6 for year 1, lesson 30 for year 2 – *All Saints Day Adoration Night*

11/08: Lesson 7 for year 1, lesson 31 for year 2

11/09: Parent Catechesis Night (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

11/15: At-home lesson (lesson 8 for year 1, lesson 32 for year 2)

11/29: Lesson 9 for year 1, lesson 33 for year 2

12/06: Lesson 10 for year 1, lesson 34 for year 2 — Last class of 2026

12/12-13: Confirmation Year 2 Retreat at the Christian Renewal Center
(Dickinson, TX)

Christmas Break

01/10: At-home lesson (lesson 11 for year 1, lesson 35 for year 2)

01/11: Parent Catechesis Night (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

01/17: Lesson 12 for year 1, lesson 36 for year 2 (Circle of Grace)

01/24: Lesson 13 for year 1, lesson 37 for year 2

01/31: At-home lesson (lesson 14 for year 1, lesson 38 for year 2)

02/07: Lesson 15 for year 1, lesson 39 for year 2

02/15: Parent Catechesis Night (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

02/21: Lesson 16 for year 1, lesson 40 for year 2

02/28: Lesson 17 for year 1, lesson 41 for year 2 (Everybody attends 4:30 Mass together, and SPONSORS JOIN their Year 2 candidates on this day)

03/14: Lesson 18 for year 1, lesson 42 for year 2

03/21: Lesson 19 for year 1, lesson 43 for year 2 (Everybody attends 4:30 Mass together)

04/04: Lesson 20 for year 1, lesson 44 for year 2 – *Divine Mercy Sunday Adoration Night*

04/11: Lesson 21 for year 1, lesson 45 for year 2

04/18: Lesson 22 for year 1, lesson 46 for year 2

04/25: Lesson 23 for year 1, lesson 47 for year 2 (Last formal class before Confirmation)

06/13: Lesson 24 for year 1, lesson 48 for year 2 (Confirmation *Mystagogy*)

***Makeup days for Confirmation and all of OCIA:
Mondays from 5:30-6:30 pm.**

****All confirmed students are welcome to participate in our post-confirmation catechesis program, *The Deep*, which is at the same time as Confirmation (every Sunday from 5:45-7:00 pm).**

*****All youth looking to become Catholic are invited to join our OCIA program, which is every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm. Those seeking baptism and full initiation into the Catholic Church are also welcome. All youth (high school or jr. high) who still need to prepare for First Holy Communion will meet at this time as well.**

Schedule for Youth OCIA (5:30-6:30 pm)

09/17: Youth OCIA Parent Meeting (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

09/24: Lesson 1 for year 1, lesson 25 for year 2

10/01: Lesson 2 for year 1, lesson 26 for year 2

10/08: Lesson 3 for year 1, lesson 27 for year 2

10/15: Lesson 4 for year 1, lesson 28 for year 2

10/29: Lesson 5 for year 1, lesson 29 for year 2

11/01: *All Saints Day Adoration Night*

11/05: Lesson 6 for year 1, lesson 30 for year 2

11/09: Parent Catechesis Night (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

11/12: Lesson 7 for year 1, lesson 31 for year 2

12/03: Lesson 8 for year 1, lesson 32 for year 2

12/10: Lesson 9 for year 1, lesson 33 for year 2 — Last class of 2026

**12/12-13: Confirmation Year 2 Retreat at the Christian Renewal Center
(Dickinson, TX)**

Christmas Break

01/11: Parent Catechesis Night (5:30-6:30 PM in the Youth Center)

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03/18: Lesson 18 for year 1, lesson 42 for year 2

03/25: Lesson 19 for year 1, lesson 43 for year 2

04/04: *Divine Mercy Sunday Adoration Night*

04/08: Lesson 21 for year 1, lesson 45 for year 2

04/15: Lesson 22 for year 1, lesson 46 for year 2

04/22: Lesson 23 for year 1, lesson 47 for year 2 (Last formal class of the year)

Scrutinies for catechumens are Feb. 28, March 7, March 14 (all other Rites, as well as *mystagogy* are TBD)

***There will be a period of *mystagogy* after Easter Vigil, which ends at Pentecost. This will consist of 3 extra classes open to anybody in OCIA.**

****For year 2 Catechumens or Candidates: The Rite of Welcome & Acceptance is TBD, and the Rite of Election & Sending is TBD.**

*****For First Communicants: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are TBD.**

Catechumens: Unbaptized persons who desire to be fully incorporated into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist.

Candidates: Those who have been baptized in the Christian faith and are seeking full communion in the Church through Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

First Communicants: Those who have been baptized and raised Catholic and are seeking to enter into deeper communion with Christ through the reception of the Eucharist. Well before reception of Holy Communion, First Communicants are prepared for First Reconciliation (the sacrament of Penance or Confession).

The below documents, along with their due dates, are for year 2 Catechumens:

- **Copy of birth certificate (due by Dec. 10th)**
- **Godparent Form (Due by Feb. 25th)**
- **“Profession of Faith” Letter including Saint Name (due by Feb. 25th)**

The below documents, along with their due dates, are for year 2 Candidates:

- **NEW copy of baptismal record from church of Baptism (due by Dec. 10th)**
- **Sponsor Form (Due by Feb. 25th)**
- **“Profession of Faith” Letter including Saint Name (due by Feb. 25th)**

The below documents, along with their due dates, are for those youth who are baptized/raised Catholic and preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion:

- **If not Baptized at Mary Queen – NEW copy of baptismal record from church of Baptism (due by Dec. 10th)**
- **If baptized at Mary Queen – Baptismal Verification Form (due by Dec. 10th)**

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

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.

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.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Admission Policies: Regular registration cost for parishioners is \$80.00 per student with a family maximum of \$240.00. Regular registration cost for non-parishioners is \$100.00 per student with a family maximum of \$300.00. 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. For assistance with fees due to financial hardship, please contact the Youth Ministry Director.

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.