

**Mater Ecclesiae Roman Catholic Church
Berlin, New Jersey**

www.materecclesiae.org

**Religious Education Program
Policies and Procedures**

Maria, Mater Ecclesiae - Oro Pro Nobis



Rector

Fr. Robert C. Pasley, KHS

DRE

**Mrs. Mary Spooner
dre@materecclesiae.org**

Parish Secretary

**Ms. Barbara Rodio
856-753-3408**

Dear Parents,

Before Our Lord's Ascension into heaven He said to His Apostles "*Data est mihi omnis potestas in caelo et in terra, euntes ergo docete omnes gentes.*" ["All power in heaven and earth has been given to me, go therefore and teach all nations."] (Matthew 28, 18 & 19). In the Gospel of Saint John, in chapter 14, verse 6, Our Lord says, "*Ego sum via et veritas et vita.*" (I am the way and the truth and the life.) Finally in Saint John, 14:15, Our Lord states, "*Si diligitis me mandata mea servate.*" (If you love me, obey my commandments.)

How can we love Christ, how can we obey his commandments, how can we know that He is the way, the truth and the life, unless someone teaches us? To teach Christ is to open the door to eternal life. My dear parents, **YOU MUST TEACH THE FAITH TO YOUR CHILDREN.** It is your solemn and profound duty. You teach by words – the catechism, prayers, and charitable speech. You teach by actions – going to Mass **EVERY SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY**, kneeling in prayer with your child, saying grace before meals, praying the Holy Rosary together, praying before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, doing good works.

Our Religious education classes (CCD) meet once a month. They are homeschool based and presume that every child is being taught **EVERY DAY** at home. The once a month class is not supposed to be the only day that a student is taught his or her religion assignment. No, it is merely a review of what they have learned well at home, and a prelude to what will be studied in the up coming month.

Attendance at class is mandatory, but it is only the starting point. If a child does not know his or her lessons and prayers and does not go to Mass every Sunday their reception of the Sacraments (Confession, Holy Communion, and Confirmation) will be delayed and they will not pass to the next level. We are not here to pass children through grades but to make sure they know their Catholic faith, practice it and love Our Lord with their whole heart, mind, soul and strength.

Mater Ecclesiae is a very special, faith filled place. We exist because we want to uphold the traditions of the Faith. If you are here because it is more convenient to meet once a month and you are not ready to make the faith the central aspect of your child's life, I would gently suggest that this is not the parish for you. If, however, you want us to help you hand the Faith on to your children, we are ready to work with you in every way.

Oremus pro invicem
(Let us pray for each other),

Fr. Pasley

Reverend Robert C. Pasley
Rector

General Information

Registration ~ Students must register each April for the following academic year. All students are welcome to register however, if your family isn't registered with Mater Ecclesiae you must have written permission from your Parish to register in our religious education program. All children registering for Kindergarten must be 5 years of age by September's class.

Attendance ~ Classes only meet for one hour and a half each month. **REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS A MUST!** If the Faith is to be learned and practiced, then faithful attendance is expected. More than two absences during the academic year is considered serious and most likely will prevent a student from advancing to the next level.

Tardiness ~ It is unfair to the teacher and other students to be interrupted by children straggling into class. If a child is late for class twice it will count as one absence.

Exceptions to the rules above will only be made for very serious reasons, subject to the discretion of the DRE.

Concerns, Comments and Suggestions

Any concerns or suggestions regarding the religious education program should be addressed to the DRE and not the Rector. The DRE will relay to Father anything that needs his attention. Any issues not resolved, may be addressed with the Rector during a formal appointment scheduled through the church secretary.

Teachers ~ Our teachers are all members of Mater Ecclesiae who have volunteered their time, talents and efforts to help in the religious education of your child. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher please do so after class so you are not using class time.

Please consider, before you criticize, how much time, effort, and dedication YOU would be willing to put into the same program if called upon to do so! "I come not to be served, but to serve."
(Mark 10:45)

Sacraments

First Penance and First Holy Communion~

Children entering First Penance and First Holy Communion preparation classes must have completed one year of formal religious instruction exclusive of Kindergarten.

At least a minimal understanding of the sacraments must be present.

Your Child must have a baptismal certificate on file in the Religious Education Office.

You must attend any required parent meetings.

Parents are asked to set the example by receiving these sacraments often.

Confirmation ~

All students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade that have completed four years of formal religious instruction may request admission into Confirmation preparation classes.

Students must maintain attendance in both Confirmation preparation and appropriate age level classes.

You must attend any required parent meetings.

Students must attend the required retreat. (This will not be an overnight event)

Information for the Children

Walk to your classroom orderly and quietly but do not go into the room unless your teacher is there.

For grades 1 through 6, we ask that one parent wait with the group until the catechist arrives.

Class Rules

- Bring your books to class each week.
- There will be no gum chewing in class.
- Try to get to the restroom before you come to class.
- Respect the property of others by not disturbing anything in the class room.
- Follow the dress code of Mater Ecclesiae
- At the end of class, help the teacher by closing the windows, straightening desks, and turning off the lights.
- Please take home all notices and give them to your parents.
- Absence does not excuse you from an assignment. Find out what you missed so that you are prepared when you return to class.

“Dear young people, the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: It is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist. Only he gives the fullness of life to humanity! Be completely convinced of this.”

Pope Benedict XVI