



The Our Lady of Lebanon Religious Education Program is here to help you in your efforts to raise and educate your child(ren) in the Catholic Christian Tradition -always recognizing you, the parent, as the primary and principal educator.

It is our hope that you will work together as a family in your own Household of Faith to grow closer to God and stronger in your commitment to Him and to one another.

Attending Mass and actively participating in it is a wonderful way to start. Please encourage your child(ren) to join us in Liturgy every Sunday either at 9:30 or 11:30 AM, participate in the Choir, or become an Alter Server. Our junior high students are always needed to read, usher, or play an instrument or sing at the Mass. If you would like to know more, please call the church office anytime.

In the month of May, we will have our First Holy Communion Mass where our children will be receiving our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion. This is a very special time for these children as they take another step toward being fully initiated members of the Church. It is a time of grace for our parish community as we welcome these children to the table of the Lord and share with them the most precious gift our Lord has given us, the gift of Himself.



Please pray for these children that they may always know the presence of Jesus in there and that they will always strive to become more and more like Him as they receive His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. We are very grateful to all who help to prepare these children for this great sacrament: their parents, catechists and our Religious Education Staff. May God bless you always for your generosity in sharing your faith with these children.

LITURGICAL COLORS

The color of the church vestments worn by the priest at Mass changes, depending upon the liturgical season, or time of year. Here is a list of liturgical colors. Find out when these colors are worn and why. Then tell how each color “speaks” to you of some aspect of your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Christian community.

White:

When it is worn: Easter, Joyful feasts of the Lord, of angels, of saints or ordinary time

Why: Joy, Victory, Purity, Innocence

Red:

When it is worn: Christmas, martyrs, apostles, on Pentecost

Why: Sacrifice, charity, zeal, the Holy Spirit

Purple:

When it is worn: During season of Lent

Gold:

When it is worn: On solemn occasions, it may be worn instead of the color generally worn at that time

Why: to show the specialness of the occasion

Blue:

When it is worn: On Feast of the Blessed Mother: Immaculate Mary, Assumption, Annunciation, Birth of Mary

Why: symbolize the cloth of Mary the Mother of our Lord

Black:

When it is worn: On Good Friday

Why: symbolize the agony of Christ

Green:

When it is worn: In ordinary time

Why: hope, growth, life, fidelity

Words to Know: Liturgy & Rites

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

The First Commandment: I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.

Do we truly love God above all, or do we sometimes give greater importance to things of this world: money, image, looks, clothes, popularity or selfish desires?

Do we claim to have good values, but often bend or abandon them in order to fit in and be "part of the group?"

Do we turn to God in thankful prayer, or do we pray mostly when we want something?

Do we really want to be transformed by the will of God, or do we just use our religion in order to "look" like good Christian people?

The Second Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.

Do we show disrespect for God's name by misusing it out of frustration or anger or to look "tough" to others?

Do we hesitate to mention God's name in appropriate situations, in conversations with friends and family members?

Do we continue to learn about God by paying attention in Church, Religion Class and through reading the Times Review and paying attention to Catholic periodicals, articles on religion in the secular press and television programs?

The Third Commandment: Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.

Do we come to Church to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days? Do we attend Mass only when it is convenient or when it will make us "feel good?"

Do we participate in the Eucharist by praying and singing, or do we simply sit as spectators and wait to be entertained?

Do we pay close attention to the Word of God and open ourselves to God's call to allow His word to take effect in our lives?

Do we acknowledge the "true presence" of Christ in the Eucharist and receive Holy Communion with respect and reverence?

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

Do we help bring peace and happiness to our families, or are we disrespectful of others and a source of hurt and division for those who are closest to us?

As parents, are we generous and patient with our children? Do we spend time with them and give them the attention they need? Do we set responsible limits for them and make sure they follow rules that will help them grow into responsible adults?

Are we willing to say "no" to our children, or are we more likely to ignore problem behavior and hope it will "go away?"

Do we listen to our children carefully and treat them with respect?

As children, are we loving, respectful and obedient to our parents? Do we appreciate the many sacrifices they make for us? Do we say "Thank you" and "I love you" often enough?

Do we do our chores without being asked, or do we wait for our parents to become upset before we move away from what we are doing?

Do we listen to our parents' reasoning when they say "no" to us?

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill. *

Have we injured another person through carelessness or fighting?

Have we placed ourselves or others in danger because of reckless use of alcohol or other drugs? Have we caused difficulties for ourselves or others because of their use?

Have we risked our lives by driving or riding with someone under the influence alcohol or other drugs?

Do we strive to forgive those who have hurt us, or do we hold on to resentment and desire for revenge?

Do we use our powers of influence well, especially our voting rights, in order to fight war, oppression, abortion and injustice, or do we allow those evils to continue by our apathy and our silence?

Have we been violent or abusive either in action or in speech? Have we been verbally abusive to our children or other family members?

Do we share what we have with those in need? Do we support the life and mission of the Church by responsible stewardship - sharing our time, talent and treasure?

Do we bring our Christianity to every day situations, or do we stand on the sidelines and complain about every flaw we can detect in others?

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

Do we respect the dignity of the human body and the holiness of Christian marriage? Do we show that respect in our speech, or are crude language and jokes often part of our conversations?

Do we understand and appreciate the gift of our sexuality as a means of expressing our love [and God's love] in the Sacrament of Marriage?

Have we been faithful to our marriage, priestly or religious vows? Do we keep our commitments simply because we said we would, or do we seek to nourish ourselves and others through our lifetime commitments? Have we dishonored our bodies by fornication, impurity or unworthy conversation or thought leading to impure actions?

Have we encouraged others to sin by our failure to maintain good moral standards?

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

Do we respect the property of other people? Have we stolen, damaged or vandalized the property of others? Have we cheated at work or in school? Have we encouraged others to sin by pressuring them into helping us cheat?

Are we honest and hardworking in school and at work?

Are we faithful to our promises? Can we be trusted?

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have we lied to stay out of trouble or to avoid a difficult situation?

Do we gossip about others? Have we damaged the reputation of another person by exaggeration or making up stories about them?

Can we be trusted with a secret?

Do we stand up for those unjustly accused, or are we merely a channel through which rumors pass, whether or not they are true?

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Have we weakened or damaged our marriage commitment through our obsession with another person?

Do we respect the commitments of others and help them remain faithful to their promises?

Do we treat our marriages casually in our conversations and attitudes? Have we said or done anything which made a mockery of our sacred promises?

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Are we satisfied with what God has given us, or are we jealous of those who seem to have more?

Do we try to prove we are better than others by bragging or buying more things?

Do we appreciate our own good qualities, or do we constantly compare ourselves with others and become resentful or bitter?

Do we cope well with the problems that confront us and maintain our Christian hope in spite of hard times and difficulties?

Do we truly "seek first the Kingdom of God" in our lives and place our trust in Him?

Do we reflect the peace, hope and joy of a people redeemed and made holy by the Blood of Christ?

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Sacrament

Baptism -Water

Master and Form: water “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Sign: Cleansing and entry into the Church

Minister: Priest

Confirmation –Chrism (oil)

Master and Form: “Be sealed with the Holy Spirit.”

Sign: become a member in life of the Church

Minister: Priest

Reconciliation-Confession

Master and Form: “I absolve you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Sign: Forgiveness and reconciliation in the community

Minister: Priest

Eucharist-Bread and wine

Master and Form: The words of consecration

Sign: Nourishment for the spiritual life

Minister: Priest

Anointing of the Sick- oil of the sick

Master and Form: Words and actions of anointing

Sign: Christ’s care for the sick and dying

Minister: Priest

Matrimony-bride and groom

Master and Form: Exchange of marriage vows

Sign: Christ’s action in the vocation of marriage and family life

Minister: Priest

Holy Orders-holy oils

Master and Form: Laying on the hands, bishop’s words of ordination

Sign: Priest’s role in life sacramental ministry

Minister: Bishop

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

All children in the 2nd grade class in Religious Education at Our Lady of Lebanon will be considered as candidates for First Holy Communion. A candidate is defined as a child of at least 7 years of age, is in the second grade at school, and is currently participating in day to day school activities. The Religious Education Director and the Pastor will evaluate any candidates requiring special consideration.

All communicants will be expected to produce a baptismal certificate for church files if they have not been baptized at Our Lady of Lebanon Church. Certificates should be presented at the time of registration. It is the expectation that all candidates will attend weekly religious education classes and Liturgy.

If a child has not been attending class regularly and there has been no communication with the Religious Education Director regarding extenuating circumstances the child will possibly be ineligible to receive their First Communion.

In order to be properly prepared for First Communion a child may be registered for class no later than January 1st with the understanding that they will be responsible to learn all previously covered material.

All First Communion Candidates will say their first Reconciliation during Lent. At this time they will be required to know, the Sign of the Cross, the Ten Commandments, the Seven Sacraments, the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary and the Act of Contrition. They will be tested on these requirements two weeks prior to the scheduled reconciliation date. The First Communicants will take a written test given by the Pastor on all the material covered during the year. They must pass by a score of 75%.

All eligible Communicants will be required to pay an additional fee for First Communion. This will cover the cost of all ceremonial flowers, celebration, and other teaching materials necessary for this special sacrament. The additional fees will be expected to be collected at Saturday rehearsal prior to First Communion. Any family unable to pay this additional fee must speak to the Religious Education Director or Pastor prior to this date.

For First Communion the required dress code will be:

- For the girls: white dresses with white shoes veils are optional. No gloves or any items that need to be carried.
- For the boys: long sleeve white shirts with black slacks and black ties jackets are preferred. No items to be carried.

Rehearsal will be held on the Saturday before the First Holy Communion Ceremony and all candidates must attend. The candidate's celebration for this event will immediately follow rehearsal.

OUR LADY OF LEBANON MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Religious Education Class Registration

One form per child – please print clearly

Name of Student _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Age _____ 2012/13 Grade _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Information Name of Father

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Name of Mother _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Religion/Ritual – Father – Mother ___Maronite ___Maronite ___Melkite ___Melkite ___

Chaldean ___Chaldean ___Latin ___Latin ___Orthodox ___Orthodox ___Protestant ___

Protestant ___Other ___Other

Church of Baptism/City/State/Country _____

If Baptism did not take place at our Lady of Lebanon, a copy of Baptismal Certificate must be provided.

ALL SACRAMENTS ARE A 2 YEAR STUDY

Class Cost – Church members: \$45/1 student, \$75/2 students, \$100/3 or more students

Class Cost – non-church members: \$90/1 student, \$150/2 students, \$200/3 or more students

Payment Check no. _____ amount \$ _____ Date _____ Payment Cash \$ _____

Date _____

Name of person processing intake of student _____