



PREP Parent Information 2015/16

Welcome! Most welcome!

Parents are always welcome to stay for class!

The PREP Staff List-the PREP contact information- is on the parish website/under Religious Education. The catechists are happy to hear from you often-in person, by email, or phone, and they will stay connected with you.

Catechists are eager to talk with you about your child's learning and want to be of help. The catechists are available during snack, and after PREP (though after PREP can be hectic).

Terry Markuly, the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, is always available for meeting before and after PREP, and is happy to meet with you. She also sends PREP emails most Fridays, and welcomes replies. Her contact information is on the website, as well.

Learning and Living

The PREP staff hopes to be people that are a support for your family for growing in love of God and others.

We join with you in praying to help your children grow in relationship with God and His ways. ☺

Before PREP, we often say this prayer over them: *"We pray: That you grow in becoming people of goodness and integrity. That you become the person God wishes you to be. And, that you come closer to the God who made you and who will love and help you all through your life."*

What the children learn at PREP-information and experience-builds from year to year. The information is sequential and each grade builds upon the other. Their faith experience over time-invaluable for life.

The guidelines we use for teaching the children are from the Archbishop's office. It can be found online on the website for the Archdiocese of Seattle under Faith Formation/Religious Education. Look for PreK-8th Grade, or, 9-12th Grade.

We use the **Pflaum Gospel Weeklies** for your child's studies. The website for this publisher, under <http://www.pflaum.com/teachingres.htm>, has detailed information guides. See: **Scope and Sequence Charts: 2015-16** and **Concept Development Charts. *Spanish versions are available, too.*** The children's learning is directed by the Archdiocesan guidelines first, and uses the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies and other sources as a resource.

The children receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion also have additional books specifically for those sacraments.

If your child will be missing a PREP class, please let your catechist know ahead of time, and they will be happy to give you the lesson material. This will help prevent your child from falling behind. I.e. the Weeklies could be taken when a family goes on a trip.

Each week the catechists suggest asking your child what they learned. Terry often sends **The Gospel at Home** via email, which is a summary and supplement to what your child is learning each week. We hope **The Gospel at Home** is a good help for fostering conversation with your children. Other offerings are also sent.

****For older children-children older than 2nd grade who need to receive a sacrament-** please make arrangements with the Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation. Older children receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation at the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Community

We hope to build a sense of belonging as the children go through PREP. Here the children will meet others not only from our parish, but from their schools. They often feel more comfortable when they discover that their friends from their school are here, too. Parents may connect with great acquaintances, as well.

Attendance

For your child's safety, someone will call you each week if your child is not at PREP. You can also call the parish office, if your child is going to miss a PREP class. Please email the catechist, as well. The parish office number is (206) 842-3594.

All PREP dates (and some other parish dates) are on the PREP Calendar, also on the parish website. PREP follows the Bainbridge Island School District calendar almost exactly.

Please try not to have your child come late, & leave early. If they need to, please let the catechist know ahead of time. The catechists will make efforts to be on time as well. Visiting with the catechists is often better at a time other than the end of PREP, just because they are checking to see that the children leave with the correct person.

Please send a note to the catechist, if your child needs to go home with someone else, or, has permission to walk to a sport.

Please call or email the catechist, and cc the Pastoral Associate, if your child would no longer be coming to PREP.

Arrival & Parking

There is parking in the St. Cecilia lot closest to the Faith Center, the lot next to the church, or the lot behind the church. Please bring your children to Conger Hall on arrival.

PREP will start in Conger at 2 p.m. with prayer, snack, & a bathroom break. Each class takes turns in leading the prayer. The prayer will often be taken from those suggested by the Archbishop from Prayers for the Catholic Child for each grade level, or, one the catechist thinks is appropriate for the class. Afterward, the catechists bring their class to the Faith Center from Conger.

Classes end in the Faith Center at 3:30 p.m. with parents, or, a designated person, coming to the classroom.

Safety Pick Up

When PREP is over, students will be staying in the Faith center until their parent or parent-designated person comes to the class to pick them up. For safety in the parking lot, they may not go out by themselves. For safety, the children cannot come out to the car, even the older ones. ***Catechists will stay with your child-within or just outside the classroom-until you, or your representative, meets them. So, please respect their family time as well, and try to arrive at 3:30 p.m.***

Safety request: Please watch so that the children do not play on the steps outside the Faith Center after PREP. They love to, but, they would not be wearing protective gear, for instance, like they would while biking, so, they could sustain an injury.

Emergency Procedures

Each catechist has a list of emergency numbers for each child with them in class.

Terry Markuly keeps a comprehensive list of all home and emergency numbers. To contact Terry during PREP, call the parish office (206) 842-3594.

We have emergency exit routes for the Faith Center. We will practice emergency drills, so the children would be prepared in case of an emergency.

Weather and Closings

We will follow the Bainbridge Island School District's decision about closures. You may listen to local news that usually begins about 5:30 a.m. when it snows, or, call the Bainbridge Island School District recorded message number: 780-1556.

Tuition

Payments to PREP can be adjusted for family needs. We have a "color-code" system to track our payments, and Terry Markuly has that if you have any questions.

PREP Guidelines for Student Conduct

Reverence (For God, For All of Life)

Responsibility (To our Families, For Our Actions, For Our PREP work)

Respect (For Ourselves, For Others, For Property)

All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God and are precious in the eyes of God. Therefore, we would expect your children to respect their teachers, classmates and themselves at all times. Respectful behavior will affirm the dignity of each person and will enable maximum learning of our faith to take place.

We ask that parents encourage a positive and purposeful attitude toward Religious Education classes. Please let your children know that respectful behavior and active class participation is expected of them by you and by us. **We applaud you for the positive and beautiful attitudes we've seen each week.**

Expectations for Students

Respectful treatment of adults and other students at all times. This would include good classroom behavior. If a child has inappropriate behavior, the catechist would work with the child first, then, the pastoral associate may be involved.

If a child has 3 corrections for inappropriate behavior, the catechist will alert the pastoral associate, and a parent will be asked to come to classes with their child for a time.

We want to promote respectful treatment of the building and grounds of the St. Cecilia Faith Center, Conger Hall, and Church. This includes: no running or being loud in the building; not climbing the railings inside or outside; staying on the sidewalks while entering and leaving the Faith Center; not walking through the flowerbeds.

Drinks and gum are not allowed in the Faith Center.

Hats should not be worn inside.

Students should not use the Faith Center elevator.

Students are to use student restrooms only (not staff restrooms). No crayons or markers may be taken in.

Students are to leave all electronics and toys at home. If your child has a cell phone, they will need to have it off and put away until after class.

Students may not write or erase anything on the white boards or Smart boards unless they have catechist's permission.

Students should not go into the desks in the classrooms for any reason. And, the room set up will return to the original configuration at the end of class.

The catechist will bring all supplies needed for class. Each PREP catechist has their own set of markers. We try to maintain a good working relationship with the teachers of Saint Cecilia School.

(Updated 6/3/15)