

## St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church

### Religious Education – Home Schooling Kindergarten –Eighth Grade

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. “The impact of parents is primary among the human factors which influence this [catechetical] process.” (National Catechetical Directory #25)

Catechesis is about conversion and formation. In the words of Vatican II’s Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church (#14) the purpose of catechesis is to make a person’s faith “become living, conscious, and active.”

Commitment of parents to support the child is an integral part of the child’s faith formation. This necessitates the Christian nurture of the family in praying together, celebrating together, creating a spiritual environment in the home, and reconciliation within the family. (The Christian Family in the Modern World)

Religious education is the responsibility of the religious community as well as the parents. St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church provides a structured approach to the faith formation of youth in grades kindergarten –through eighth. It is based upon the premise that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the parish community is a vital aspect of faith development. In the religious education programs (both school and CCD) the Sadlier “*We Believe*” series is utilized in grades second through sixth. In kindergarten and first grade the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is provided. Seventh grade students use the Sadlier textbook, “*We Live Our Faith as Members of the Church.*”

Supplemental materials are used in the Sacramental grades, two and eight. In addition to the “*We Believe*” series, the second grade students use Benziger’s “*Reconciliation, Pardon and Peace*” in their preparation for First Reconciliation and Benzinger’s “*Eucharist, We Give Thanks and Praise*” in their preparation for First Eucharist. The instructional materials provided to the eighth grade students are *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *Handbook for Today’s Catholic*. A lot of the instruction is done through hands-on classroom participation, retreats, prayer gatherings, etc. Students are encouraged to share their own thoughts, ideas and beliefs with their peers. The Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation are celebrated with their peers in this parish, so preparation for these sacraments needs to be with their peers. Therefore, before home schooling is an option for second grade or eighth grade students, parents must meet with Fr. Jerry Ragan and obtain his approval.

**St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church**  
**Religious Education – Home Schooling**  
**Kindergarten, First and Third through Seventh**  
**Covenant**

We know that no matter how clearly and effectively St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church communicates the truth of our faith, unless my child(ren) see these truths take root in our family, then there is little hope that the Faith will take root in my child(ren)'s heart. We believe that the parish can deepen, enrich and re-enforce the Faith that our child(ren) experience in their family. We understand our own witness and participation in the church community is essential to the religious development and growth of our family. Practically, I understand this to mean:

- We as a family will regularly participate in the Sunday Eucharist.
- We will speak to our child(ren) about God and make prayer an integral and important part of the environment of our home.
- We will accept our responsibility to support the teachings of the Catholic faith.
- We will teach our child(ren) by word and example to have a love and concern for the needs of others
- We will participate in and oversee the religious education and especially the sacramental preparation of our child(ren)
- We will continue to nourish our faith by attending parish retreats, adult formation classes, etc.
- We will use textbooks approved by The Savannah Diocese/St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church.
- We will register our child(ren) and attend a orientation meeting each fall to become familiar with materials and understand the learning/teaching methodology used in the materials.
- At the end of the school year, we will provide the completed textbook(s) to CCD in order to receive credit for the year.

---

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

---

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Child(ren)'s Name(s) and Grade(s):

---

---

---