

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

Parent Handbook

Parish Religious
Education Program
PREP
2023 - 2024



PREP Catechist Contact Information

Please introduce yourself to your child's catechist and obtain this information:

Child's Name _____ My Child's Catechist is _____

Level _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name _____ My Child's Catechist is _____

Level _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name _____ My Child's Catechist is _____

Level _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name _____ My Child's Catechist is _____

Level _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Contact Information

Pastor

Rev. Rosemond Sylvestre cs

Associate Pastor

Rev. Fr Henri-Claude Testamar cs

Parish Secretary

Deborah Corrado

PREP Coordinator

Sister Angela Moloney, cmt

Parish: (604) 254-0691

Convent (604) 708-4593

cell (236) 333-4977

Parish Office

555 South Slocan Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 3X5

Phone: (604) 254-0691

Website: www.olos.ca

Parish email: parish.ols@rcav.org

PREP e-mail: sorrowsprep@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30am–12pm; 1 – 4:30pm

PREP HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. PREP parents and caregivers and students should not attend PREP if they are sick. Please advise your catechist or the PREP coordinator that you will not be attending.
2. Information on students who have health issues, allergies, or are on medications must be noted on the registration form and parents must notify the PREP Coordinator of these and any other health issues.
3. All adults and children are asked to practice good hand hygiene. Hand washing stations or hand sanitizing supplies are available during PREP sessions. Please do not share items that come into contact with the mouth.
4. Rooms and spaces being used for PREP will be routinely cleaned and disinfected, and their proper ventilation will be ensured.
5. When dropping off your children, please ensure that they are with a PREP team member adult before you leave the church / hall / parking lot.

Our Lady of Sorrows
PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2023-2024
MONDAYS 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

DATE	DAY	TIME	DESCRIPTION
September 18	Monday	6:30pm	Session #1- First Day / Parent Information Session upper hall
September 24	Sunday	11:30am	Commissioning Sunday for Catechists
September 25	Monday	6:30pm	Session #2 / PREP Opening Mass (Confirmation 2)
<i>October 2</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>No Session</i>	<i>Truth & Reconciliation day</i>
October 9	Monday	No Session	Thanksgiving Day
October 16	Monday	6:30pm	Session #3
October 23	Monday	6:30pm	Session #4
October 30	Monday	6:30pm	Session #5
November 6	Monday	6:30pm	Session #6 Confirmation Parents Meeting
<i>November 13</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>No Session</i>	<i>Remembrance Day</i>
November 20	Monday	6:30pm	Session #7 EUCHARISTIC ADORATION all levels
November 27	Monday	6:30pm	Session #8
December 3	Sunday	11:30am	First Sunday of Advent: Confirmation Enrollment Mass
December 4	Monday	6:30pm	Session # 9 / Advent Confessions
December 11	Monday	6:30pm	Session #10
December 18	Monday	6:30pm	Session #11
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 5:00pm			
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>No Session</i>	<i>Christmas</i>
January 1, 2024	Monday	No Session	New Year / Mary Mother of God
January 8	Monday	6:30pm	Session #12 <i>Report Cards to Teachers for Completion</i>
January 15	Monday	6:30pm	Session #13
January 22	Monday	6:30pm	Session #14 <i>Report Cards Due by Catechists</i>
January 23	Tuesday	7pm	1st Communion Parent's Meeting #1 (LOWER HALL)
January 28	Sunday	11:30am	1st Communion Enrollment Mass
January 29	Monday	6:30pm	Session #15 <i>Term 1 Report Cards Go Home</i>
February 5	Monday	6:30pm	Session #16 Confirmation Sponsor Meeting
February 12	Monday	6:30pm	Session #17
February 14	ASH WEDNESDAY		
February 19	Monday	No Session – Family Day	
February 26	Monday	6:30pm	Session #18
March 4	Monday	6:30pm	Session #19 FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP
<i>March 11</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>No Session</i>	<i>PREP Spring Break</i>
<i>March 18</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>No Session</i>	<i>PREP Spring Break</i>
March 24	Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins		
March 25	Monday	6:30pm	Session #20 Lenten Confessions
March 29-31			Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday



April 1	Easter Monday	No Session	
April 8	Monday	6:30pm	Session #21
April 15	Monday	6:30pm	Session #22
April 20	Saturday	TBA	<i>Confirmation Retreat (School & PREP Confirmation 2)</i>
April 22	Monday	6:30pm	Session #23
April 27	Saturday	3:00pm	First Communion Retreat (Parents of children to attend)
April 29	Monday	6:30pm	Session #24
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>April 30 - Tuesday First Communion Rehearsal 7:30pm</u> <u>May 4 - Saturday- First Communion Celebration 11am</u></p>			
May 6	Monday		Session #25 Catechist's Report Card Submission
May 13	Monday	6:30pm	Sending Forth Mass: Presentation of Certificates <i>Last Day - Report Cards</i>
May 20	Monday	No Session	VICTORIA DAY
May 27	Monday	6:30pm	Catechist end of year dinner
TBA	Confirmation Rehearsal & Confirmation Date to be announced when received from the Archdiocese		

Preparation for First Communion & Confirmation

Our Lady of Sorrows PREP program follows the 2 year preparation policy of the Archdiocese of Vancouver for reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation. This means that students must successfully complete the first and second years for First Communion and the first and second year programs for Confirmation.

The sacrament preparation curriculum requires additional paperwork, resources, activities and parent participation which will be outlined at mandatory parent meetings throughout the PREP year. Please keep all information materials received at these meetings in this handbook for easy reference throughout the year.

* Follow-up notices and reminders will be sent regarding these important meetings and deadlines.

POLICIES AND INFORMATION

PARENTS ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Parents are expected to attend Mass each Sunday with their children, either IN PERSON OR ONLINE (during pandemic). We all know that children do as they see; and that YOUR witness, your interest, involvement and prayers are essential to our children's development as Catholic Christians.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIME

Classes are scheduled from 6:30pm to 7:45pm and held in Our Lady of Sorrows School and Hall (upper and lower halls). Children must arrive promptly for the beginning of class, and can arrive from 6:00 pm onwards. Children should be accompanied by an adult, please come to Our Lady of Sorrows School Upper Hall (gym). Children are invited to play in the gym until assembly is called at 6:25pm, when their catechists will accompany them to their class rooms. At 7:45pm, catechists will accompany the children individually to the indicated exits to be met by parent/guardian or other adult designee.

LATE ARRIVALS All late arrivals must sign the Late Arrival Form.

EARLY PICK-UP If it is absolutely necessary to pick up your child before dismissal, please notify the PREP Coordinator or Administrative Assistant and your child's Catechist.

LATE PICK-UP Children not picked up at the normal dismissal time will stay in the Upper Hall (gymnasium), where parents or other designated persons must come to pick them up. If the child is still here at 8pm, a call will be made to your home and then your cell phone. If there is no response, the call will be made to the emergency number listed on your child's registration form. Please note that we cannot release your child to anyone but you or your emergency contact. We ask you please be prompt to pick up your child shortly after our classes are dismissed.

CLASS ATTENDANCE is very important for your children's learning in PREP. Students are expected to attend every class, and parents are expected to attend all Parent Sessions. If your child cannot attend class, please call the parish rectory (604-254-0691) by 5pm on the day of class. After 5pm, please send a text to Sister Angela's cell phone at 236 333 4977 or contact the Catechist. Children preparing to receive any of the Sacraments for the first time may not be recommended to receive the Sacrament/s in the case of more than five (5) absences. Material covered during an absence is the responsibility of the parent to work with their child. The Catechist and Coordinator will review the lessons missed and prepare the necessary lessons for the parents.



SNOW POLICY: Cancellation of PREP classes will be posted on the parish website, www.olos.ca by 12 noon of PREP day. Please check the website first. In case of doubt, you can call the Parish Office at 604-254-0691.

CLASS CANCELLATION: In the event there is a cancellation of classes, all PREP families will be advised by email and/or text message, and there will be a notice on the webpage.

BASIC SUPPLIES are provided for each child at the beginning of the year. Additionally, your child may be asked to bring additional materials for special projects and activities in the classroom.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE STUDENTS are asked to come to all sessions with an attitude of openness and cooperation. We ask parents to reinforce this positive attitude towards the Church and Catholic education at home.

RESPECT for self, others and for school and church property are expected. This respect is shown in the language we use, in the way we treat others and care for our learning environment and resources. There is a zero tolerance of drugs, alcohol, smoking or weapons of any kind. If these policies are violated, parents and the police (if applicable) will be called immediately.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT Catechists will establish guidelines for classroom behaviour at the beginning of the year. They will also follow clear consequences for inappropriate behaviour. These rules will be reviewed frequently with the students, in an age appropriate manner, by the catechists.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION Please notify our office of any changes in address, phone numbers, emails or medical situations.

LOST AND FOUND If your child loses an item, please contact the PREP Office. We will do our best to assist you.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES Instructions for fire and earthquake safety are reviewed at the beginning of the year with all students in all classes.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

TEXTS USED

All levels will use the Holy Bible, which will be the principal text in some levels.

The *Christ our Life* series by Loyola Press is used for First Communion Preparation Levels 1 & 2 and for Confirmation Level 1, also for Levels K, 3, 4 and 5.

Sacramental Level 1 will use *Our Catholic Faith*, published by Sadlier.

Confirmation Level 2 will use *Confirmed in the Spirit* from Loyola Press and *Decision Point* Confirmation Program from Dynamic Catholic.

The Loyola Press *Called to be Catholic* series as well as *Decision Point* Confirmation Program is used for the teens.

Specific grades also use a supplement to their textbook that enhance their learning experience.

REQUIRED PRAYERS FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL

In our faith formation we need to learn and memorize prayers that express our needs, gratitude, praise and supplications to God.

Parents/guardians: please help your children learn these prayers and practices. Each of the children who attend our PREP program will receive a copy of the prayers for them to memorize. This is to help you use these prayers when you gather as a family to unite yourselves to God.



List of prayers to know by grade level: *(Each grade builds on each other.)*

Kindergarten	Communion level 1	Communion Level 2
Sign of the Cross Our Father Angel of God	Hail Mary Glory Be	Act of Contrition Confession Responses Grace Before & After Meals
Level 3	Sacramental 1	Sacramental 2
Apostles' Creed	Sign of the Cross Our Father / Hail Mary Glory Be Angel of God	Act of Contrition Confession Responses Grace Before & After Meals
Level 4	Level 5	Confirmation Level 1
Mysteries of the Rosary	Mass Responses	Greatest Commandment Ten Commandments

Confirmation level 2 & teens: all of the above, and Prayer to the Holy Spirit