



**Welcome to Holy Cross Religious Education: GIFT and LIFT!**  
**GIFT= Growing In Faith Together (children's programming)**  
**LIFT= Living In Faith Together (youth/teen programming)**



Our 2023-2024 Religious Education GIFT/LIFT year will begin soon! Thank you for showing an interest in our program in your child's faith formation!

Our goal in Religious Education is to supplement the Catholic teaching that your children receive from Mass and in your home. Our children are the future of the Catholic Church and they need to be educated in our faith tradition. It is our responsibility as a Catholic community to provide this education to our youngest members. Early education of the faith helps our children to develop a strong Catholic foundation that will carry through the rest of their lives.

The first teachers of our children are you- the parents. As parents, you give the first line of faith and education to your children. We are here to support you and your family, both with classes for your children and with resources for your home. In committing to yearly Religious Education, you are strengthening the faith development of your children!

This year, we have a range of programming to help support your family in our celebration of faith!

- GIFT Family Days, all ages, once a month
- Youth Mass, once a month at 9 am Mass
- GIFT Sacramental Preparation (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion for children)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word (ages 4-7)
- GIFT Tween Youth Group (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, twice a month)
- Vacation Bible School in the summer
- LIFT Confirmation Classes (7<sup>th</sup> grade and up, Sacrament Preparation)
- LIFT Jr. High Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades)
- LIFT High School Youth Group (high school)
- Steubenville NW Conference in the summer (incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduated)

Our programs will start on September 10, 2023. Please note each Religious Education date on your family calendar so that you don't miss any classes. Each gathering, we will learn what it means to be Catholic and we hope to excite our students and families about our faith!

Please fill out the following forms for your child for this upcoming year of Religious Education and return them to the Parish Offices by Sunday, September 3, 2023.

We will have a welcome meeting for parents and family members in early September in the Parish Hall. This is a great night to find out about Religious Education at Holy Cross, to connect with other families, and to ask questions. If you are a Sacramental Preparation family, this meeting is required.

**Please join us!**

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Swanson, the Director of Religious Education, at [503-206-8069](tel:503-206-8069) or email at [aswanson@archdpdx.com](mailto:aswanson@archdpdx.com)

**Thank you for your support and for encouraging your child's faith formation! May God bless you!**

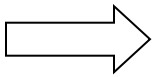
## Expectations of Families in Religious Education and Confirmation Preparation:

Thank you for registering your children and teens for their classes! We look forward to working with your family to build faith and an increasing understanding of our Catholic heritage!

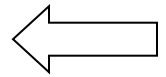
To be successful with your children and to ensure that they become faithful, joyful Catholic adults, we need YOU! We encourage you and your families to:

- Attend weekly Mass **each** Sunday. (This is vital to your family's faith development!)
- Attend Religious Education classes and parish events regularly.
- Pray together each night and before meals (and any time!!). Good prayers to be familiar with: Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.
- Encourage your children to ask questions. If you don't know answers, find the answers together.
- Celebrate the faith! Read stories about the saints, about Mary, about Jesus.
- Celebrate the holy days and feast days with your family. (Children LOVE tradition!)

But, the most important thing that you can do...



- **Continue to actively strengthen your own faith life!**



Your children will follow your example. If they see you pray, they will be more likely to pray. If they see you reading books about saints, holy people, faith, etc., they will be more likely to learn, too. You are the foundation of your family's faith journey!

We very much look forward to building our community of faith together! God bless you!



Children participating in Christmas Family Mass, 2022



Teens on Confirmation Retreat, 2022



Holy Cross Catholic Church  
Religious Education Program  
Registration Form

(please fill out as fully as possible – this information is for church records  
and will not be shared with others)



Child's full legal name \_\_\_\_\_

Name child goes by (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female \_\_\_\_\_ School attending \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in fall '23 \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date and city: \_\_\_\_\_ Which Mass does your family attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians responsible for student: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (w/ zip code): \_\_\_\_\_

main phone number \_\_\_\_\_ other phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full name \_\_\_\_\_  
maiden name (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Check, if any, the sacraments for which your child needs preparation:

\_\_\_\_\_ Baptism      \_\_\_\_\_ First Reconciliation (2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up)      \_\_\_\_\_ First Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up)      \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> grade and up)

Fill out the following if your child is baptized\*:

Place (church and city) of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please note: If your child is preparing for sacraments, you will need to give us a copy of your child's previous sacrament certificates if she/he was baptized at a parish other than Holy Cross.*

If you are participating in GIFT Family Days or youth groups, no charge required, but donations are appreciated.

For Sacramental Preparation (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, or Confirmation): \$40.00

Please include registration fee with checks payable to Holy Cross Church.

*(If this fee is a hardship for your family, please inform us and we can work with you!)*

# Holy Cross Religious Education

## THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL NEW AND RETURNING FAMILIES:

My signature below authorizes Religious Education to give such attention as may be thought necessary by the physician/medical advisor in charge in case of emergency, and I cannot be reached. I also realize that local police or paramedics may be called, in certain circumstances in order to ensure emergency treatment.

Name of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother Father Signature of Mother or Father

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Out of state contact in case of a disaster: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### ONE FORM PER FAMILY

I also authorize the taking of photographs and/or video tapes of my child(ren) attending Religious Education events.\* If you do not want us using photos of your child for parish events/sharing, please let us know. Photos will not include names or personal information.

\*Periodically photographs and/or videotapes are taken of Religious Education events to be displayed as posters on the church property or to update the parish webpage.