



## *Home Schooling for Religious Education*

*St. Margaret Mary Parish, Moon Twp, PA*

*“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.”*

*—Catechism of the Catholic Church*

*The Catholic Church holds parents in high regard as educators of children to such an extent that their role is seen as almost irreplaceable. Parents are the “primary and principal educators” of children, especially for Christian formation. St. Margaret Mary parish supports this role by assisting parents who choose to homeschool their children for religious instruction. The following is an explanation of the policies we have adopted in assisting parents who homeschool.*

### ***Resources***

Materials that are used in the classroom are available for the home schooling family. The curriculum guidelines and textbook evaluation prepared by the Diocese of Pittsburgh are to be followed in selection of materials. [Call to Faith](#), published by Our Sunday Visitor, is the text we follow. To join the website that accompanies the text, please make your request at [www.calltofaithconnect.com/StMargaretMaryMoonTwonshipPA](http://www.calltofaithconnect.com/StMargaretMaryMoonTwonshipPA).

### ***Curriculum Guidelines***

The curriculum guidelines of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the grade level of your child are posted on the parish website. Parent pages are also posted. To simplify the objectives for each grade, a map has been included with your child’s textbook. *Catholic Vision of Love*, the diocesan program in personal safety and chastity, is part of the curriculum for grades 1-8. (Grades 1-4 focusing on personal safety and 5-8 on personal safety and chastity.) There are 5 age-appropriate lessons for each grade. We will be covering CVOL in the Spring. You will receive lesson plans for your child’s level in January.

### ***Participation in Parish Life***

Home schooling families are encouraged to participate in the life of the parish by attendance at liturgy, reconciliation services, family gatherings, parish ministry and adult study sessions offered by the parish. Your children are always welcome and encouraged to attend any special events for our CCD students.

### *Accountability and Evaluation*

Students will be evaluated four times/year at the parish in November, January, March and May. Children must cover 6 chapters for each test (or 2 units). The seventh grade will be evaluated at the end of each of their four booklets. If the score on the evaluation is not satisfactory the child may be asked to do more work on the particular unit or booklet

### *Catholic Prayers and the Commandments*

Basic Catholic prayers and the 10 Commandments should be learned by heart in the elementary years. All homeschool students will be tested as follows:

- Sign of the Cross, Our Father — November Testing  
(all grades)
- Hail Mary and Angel of God — January Testing (all grades)
- Commandments & Act of Contrition — March Testing  
(First grade excluded. Third Act of Contrition only.)
- Apostle's Creed and Glory Be — May Testing (4th grade and up)

### *Bible Stories and Saint Stories*

The elementary school years are a critical time for children to learn the basic stories of our faith. Please supplement your child's text book with regular reading from the Bible (children's Bibles are appropriate for younger grades) to make sure they know the basic stories of the Old and New Testaments. There are also many excellent DVDs which make teaching basic Bible stories simple and enjoyable. (Be aware, however, that some materials may at times conflict with Catholic teaching if they are from non-Catholic sources. Our Director of Religious Education can make suggestions to help you.)

Children also benefit greatly from learning about our saints throughout grade school. Again, there are many outstanding resources available in the form of books and DVDs for learning about the saints. Our DRE can make suggestions in this regard as well.

## PRAYERS CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW

### **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(Use right hand to sign oneself.)*

### **OUR FATHER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **HAIL MARY**

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **GLORY BE**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **ANGEL OF GOD**

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

### **GRACE BEFORE MEALS (will not be tested on)**

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **GRACE AFTER MEALS (will not be tested on)**

We give you thanks, O almighty God, for all your benefits, who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

## **ACT OF CONTRITION**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

—OR—

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. And I detest all my sins because of your just punishment. But most of all, because I offended You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Your grace, to sin no more, to do penance and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

## **MEMORARE (will not be tested on)**

Remember o most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, o Virgin of all virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

*The following will help review with your child how to go to Confession.*

*You may choose face to face or behind the screen.*

**PENITENT: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been \_\_\_\_\_ since my last confession.**

*(Tell your sins to the priest and then say:)*

**I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life.**

PRIEST: Talks to you and asks you to say a prayer or do something for someone.

PENITENT:

**My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.**

PRIEST: God the Father of mercies. . .I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PENITENT: **Amen.** *(Make the sign of the cross.)*

PRIEST: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.

PENITENT: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*Please help your child learn the 10 Commandments by heart:*

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods beside Me.
2. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not lie.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbors goods.





*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
Help us to be a holy family, too!*