



**Religious Education  
Program Handbook  
2022-2023**



**ST. IGNATIUS  
OF LOYOLA  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

## **St. Ignatius Loyola Parish**

### **Pastor**

Fr. Dirk Dunfee, SJ  
FrDirk@loyoladenver.org

### **Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Pat Quinn, SJ  
FrPat@loyoladenver.org

### **Parish Office**

2309 Gaylord Street  
Denver CO 80205  
303.322.8042  
parish@loyoladenver.org

### **Family Center**

2244 Vine Street

### **Religious Education Coordinator**

Toni Armstead  
303.283.8995  
toni@loyoladenver.org

### **Director of Faith Formation & Religious Education**

Dr. Camarin Porter  
303.630-9480  
camarin@loyoladenver.org

### **RE 2022-2023 School Year**

September 18th, 2022 to May 14th, 2023

### **First Reconciliation**

Saturday, March 11th, 2023 (Time TBD)

### **Confirmation**

Sunday, June 4th, 1:00 p.m.

### **RE Class Times**

8:45-9:45 a.m. (before the 10:00 Mass)

Kindergarten meets in the Gesu Room (Brady Hall)

Grades 1-8 meet in the Family Center classrooms

10:00-11:00 a.m. (during the 10:00 Mass)

Children's Church meets in the Gesu Room (Brady Hall)

BH = Brady Hall (church basement) FC = Family Center (2244 Vine St.)

## New this year....

The list begins with this **RE Handbook**. We hope that current families will find it a convenient quick-guide for the year, and prospective families will find answers to any questions you have about RE at Loyola.

Our overall goals for the 22-23 year are transparency and family engagement. We hope our **new parish website** and other program updates become key tools for catechists, students, and parents alike. This year we will begin using **Google Classrooms**; some classes will use their online classrooms more actively than others. Likewise, depending on your child's class, you may have online textbooks available through the **Loyola Press Digital Library** portal.

You'll read about our new **Loyola Family Ministry** below, as well as our new **Family Catechesis Program** for Non-RO Home Sacramental Preparation.

RE families can read and contribute to our new **Monthly RE Bulletin**, available through the **Parent Portal** on our parish website.

Finally, we hope you enjoy our new RE and Family Catechesis **logos!**



*“How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith”*

Pope Francis

## **Introducing the RE Family Ministry**

This ministry will serve families from the parish by providing space for education, collaboration, service, and relationship-building. Parish and Ignatian Spirituality Program staff members and volunteers will organize optional monthly Sunday meetings and events.

Parents will meet for a combination of social time and topical discussions on the following Sundays:

Oct. 16, Nov. 6, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 16, & May 7

Social time, refreshments, & discussions (topics TBD)

8:50-9:40 a.m. in Brady Hall

## Ignatian Spirituality for Families

In conjunction with our new Family Ministry, we would like to provide Loyola parents a bridge to the Ignatian Spirituality Program. If you are not familiar with ISP yet, you can learn about their history as a Loyola parish ministry on our website.

Joe Lagan, the ISP director, has generously offered to work with RE families this year. He will discuss plans at our first Family Ministry event in Brady Hall on October 16th.

A message from Joe:

*The Ignatian Spirituality Program of Denver would like to offer regular opportunities for you to gather this academic year during the times your children are attending religious education classes at Loyola.*

*We have in mind a loosely structured time that includes brief input on Ignatian spirituality and prayer, time for individual and small group reflection. Shared readings and related Scripture will also be a part of it. Knowing the time you have when your child is in class is short, we think this could be a valuable way for you to receive some prayerful nourishment while at the same time allowing time and space for sharing with one another and building community in that way.*

*The ISP is considering using a book that parents can use as a resource outside of meetings if they want to do so. At the same time, we would like to shape our time together in a way that does not require outside "work," reading or prayer - though personal prayer is always a possibility.*

## **Meet Loyola's 2022-2023 Catechists!**

**Angelita Sims** (Children's Church)

**Ann Cohen** (Children's Church & 5th Grade)

**Veronica Taylor** (Kindergarten)

**Carolyn Richardson** (1st Grade)

**Sharon Woodruff** (2nd Grade)

**Vanessa Martin-Wegryn** (3rd Grade)

**Peter Gohl** (3rd Grade)

**Mary Pearce** (4th Grade)

**Natalie Sivak** (4th Grade)

**Michael Eden** (5th Grade)

**Debra Moses** (6th Grade)

**Stephanie Holmes** (7-8th Grade)

**Carl Fritz** (7-8th Grade)

**Sarah Borgmeier** (7-8th Grade)

**Toni Armstead** (RE Coordinator & Family Catechesis catechist)

**Camarin Porter** (DFF/DRE, Family Catechesis catechist, & Family Ministry Coordinator)

*Please see the RE Monthly Bulletin for September for catechist bios.*

## RE Program Mission Statement

As a community called together and sustained by Ignatian values, our Religious Education leaders and catechists recognize the special place that children, teens, and parents of the parish have in our community, and the unique opportunities available for families to learn and embody the Catholic faith and the life-long calls to:

Be curious about society and show compassion for the world and all of its unique and diverse living beings. (Jesuit *Cura personalis*)

Embrace the sacred and find God in all things, through thoughtful observation, study, and even imagination.

Show empathy for everyone you encounter; have love for their minds, bodies, and spirits; and maintain a desire to encounter them with open-mindedness and generosity. (Jesuit *Magis*)

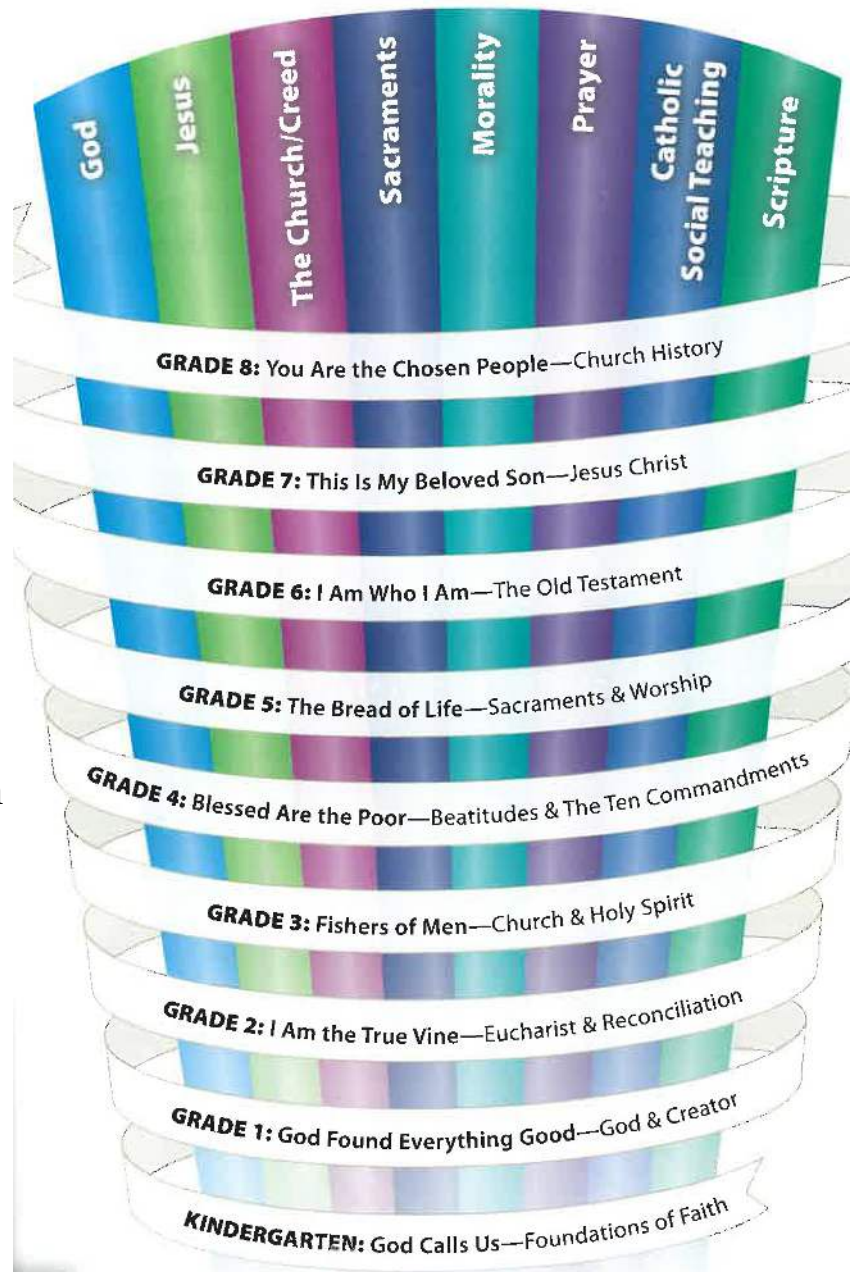
Develop humility and a habit of seeing your own condition and others' within a broader context of social structures and inequities. Look for and imagine opportunities for transformative social change through your actions. (Jesuit Reflection and Discernment)

Serve others with a sense of solidarity and sensitivity for the shared human condition. Find strength and guidance in the transformative power of God's love.

## Our RE and Sacramental Prep Texts

Loyola’s RE program for Restored Order (RO) is structured around the *Finding God* curriculum from Loyola Press. We also use *Confirmed in the Spirit* and other supplemental texts for sacramental preparation.

Parents can access digital editions of these texts and other online resources through the Loyola Press portal on the Parents’ Portal on the parish website [log-in information will be shared with parents privately].



*Finding God* “spiral curriculum” for catechesis



## LOYOLA FAMILY CATECHESIS

HOME SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR

BAPTISM RECONCILIATION

CONFIRMATION FIRST EUCHARIST



In 2021, Pope Francis recognized the ancient and vital role of catechists by inaugurating the lay Ministry of Catechists. In his apostolic letter [\*Antiquum ministerium\*](#), he described catechists as individuals of "deep faith [and] authentic witnesses of holiness." He also noted "the particular responsibility of parents for the Christian formation of their children..." As your child's earliest catechist, you as a parent already form their faith through home discussions, prayers, and your daily model of the faith-in-action.

Loyola remains a unique RE program, as a mid-size parish offering in-person classes for pre-K through 8th grade. All registered kids join classes with their age-mates, to create bonded communities of classmates and friends over the course of the year. Our catechists for second and third-grade provide sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Eucharist, in addition to the regular RE curriculum for children that age. As our parish continues to receive the blessing of new members and growth, we have begun making changes to accommodate our classroom space in the FC.

This year, sacramental preparation for children outside of Restored Order (RO) will take the form of Family Catechesis at home. That is a big but exciting change! To explain it more clearly, it means that all children and teens past third-grade who need the sacrament of Confirmation will work one-on-one with their parents at home each week, and with catechists once a month. They will still attend Sunday classes with their age groups, and receive the rich experience of Religious Education classes infused with Ignatian perspectives on spirituality, service, and justice. (*continued next*

At all parishes without schools attached, RE a standalone program with its own curriculum, independent of sacramental preparation. Our RE classes teach students the history, ethics, and other foundational lessons about the Church. They also create a unique space for kids and teens to bond and learn from each other and their catechists as they grow in their understanding of the faith.

Although the Archdiocese of Denver has instituted the Restored Order for sacraments, parishes still need to accommodate families who move to the area from non-RO regions. Likewise, they also serve families whose children are simply beginning or continuing sacramental prep at an older age for a variety of reasons. No matter their circumstances, children can receive preparation for their sacraments and enter into full communion with the church at Loyola.

Faith formation is always a family affair, though, no matter the RE program structure. As noted above, our goals this year are to ensure transparency between catechists and parents, and to encourage and facilitate faith discussions at home. For families with kids or teens older than third-grade needing Reconciliation, Confirmation, and/or First Eucharist, you will:

- work one-on-one with your child(ren) at home on weekly sacramental prep lessons (estimated at one roughly one hour each week).
- use a textbook and online resources from Loyola Press to guide your weekly lessons. The *Confirmed in the Spirit* Home Edition is specifically designed for at-home, family catechesis.
- meet with the Family Catechesis catechists (Toni and Camarin) once a month, in-person or on Zoom. Altogether, we will have eight Family Catechesis group sessions over the year. .

Loyola's RE staff are here to offer resources and guidance, and to assess each child's progress as they move closer to receiving their sacraments in spring. We hope this change for older children enriches your experience as a parent catechist, and helps you grow in faith with your children.

## RE Policies

1. Please remain vigilant about the risks of Covid. Please contact Toni, Camarin, and your child(ren)'s catechist(s) if a member of your family tests positive for Covid this year.
2. Because we have children in our program with severe nut and other allergies, do not let your child(ren) bring food from home into the FC.
3. Please email your catechist as soon as possible after realizing your child(ren) will miss a Sunday class.
4. Please come into the covered porch or the foyer of the FC to drop off your child(ren). Parents or other authorized adults should accompany kids at all times to and from the church or their cars. Traffic moves quickly along 23rd Street, even on Sunday mornings. Please cross the street at the crosswalk, and use caution. Do not assume drivers will slow down or stop simply because you are waiting to cross.
5. Please come into the covered porch or the foyer of the FC to pick up your child(ren). *Please note this new policy.* Children will only be released to parents or other adults specifically listed by name on your child(ren)'s RE registration form.
6. If your child(ren)'s catechist(s) post messages and materials for you on the class's Google Classroom, please check the site each week. If you have questions about setting up classroom notifications, contact Camarin, Toni, or your child(ren)'s catechist.
7. For sacramental preparation, please provide requested documents, e.g. Baptismal Certificates, Godparent and Sponsor forms, etc., in a timely manner. Your child(ren)'s sacraments may be delayed by a year if our RE staff does not receive these documents or if your child is not fully prepared for them through family Catechesis.

**St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish  
Denver, CO  
Children's Religious Education Calendar  
2022-2023**

**May 2022     Online Registration Opens and Continues Until September**

**Aug. 20     Catechist Retreat     10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. BH**

**Aug. 28     End-of-Summer RE Ice Cream Social     11:30 a.m. BH**

**Sept. 18     1st Class Day and Family Center Open House     8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)

Catechetical Sunday: Commissioning of Children, Parents, and Catechists (10:00 a.m. Mass)

Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

Open House and Celebration of Catechists, Families, and Kids (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. FC)

**Sept. 25     2<sup>nd</sup> Class Day     8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)

Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**Oct. 2     No RE Classes (Hot Chocolate Marathon)**

**Oct. 9     3<sup>rd</sup> Class Day     8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)

Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**Oct. 16     4<sup>th</sup> Class Day     8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)

Family Ministry Event (BH)

Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)

**Oct. 23     5<sup>th</sup> Class Day     8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)

Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**Oct. 30     6<sup>th</sup> Class Day     8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)

Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

- Nov. 6**      **7<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**  
 Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
 Family Ministry Event (BH)  
 Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)
- Nov. 13**      **8<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**  
 Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
 Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)
- Nov. 20**      **No Classes (Thanksgiving Break)**
- Nov. 27**      **No Classes (Thanksgiving Break)**
- Dec. 4**      **9<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**  
 Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
 Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)
- Dec. 11**      **10<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**  
 Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
 Family Ministry Event (BH)  
 Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)
- Dec. 18**      **11<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**  
 Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
 Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)
- Dec. 25**      **No Classes (Christmas Day)**
- Jan. 1**      **No Classes (Christmas Break)**
- Jan. 8**      **12<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**  
 Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
 Family Ministry Event (BH)  
 Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)
- Jan. 15**      **No Classes (MLK Weekend)**
- Jan. 22**      **13<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**Jan. 29**      **14<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**Feb. 5**      **15<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**Feb. 12**      **16<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Family Ministry Event (BH)  
Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)

**Feb. 19**      **No Classes (Presidents' Day Weekend)**

**Feb. 26**      **17<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**March 5**      **18<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**March 11**      **First Reconciliation (Saturday TBD)**

**March 12**      **19<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Family Ministry Event (BH)  
Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)  
Confirmation paperwork due (parish form, sponsor form, and baptismal certificate, etc.)

**March 19**      **No Classes (Spring Break)**

**March 26**      **20<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**April 2**      **21<sup>st</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**April 9**      **No Class (Easter Break)**

**April 16**      **22<sup>nd</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Family Ministry Event (BH)  
Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)

**April 23**      **23<sup>rd</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**April 30**      **24<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Children's Church (During 10:00 a.m. Mass, Gesù Room)

**May 7**      **25<sup>th</sup> Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
Family Ministry Event (BH)  
Children's Church (10:00 a.m. Mass)

**May 14**      **Last Class Day**      **8:45-9:45 a.m.**

Kids' & Teens' Classes: Kindergarten (Gesù Room) and Grades 1-8 (FC)  
End of the Year Social Hour and Celebration for Catechists, Families, and Children (11:00 a.m. BH)

**Confirmation: June 4 at 1:00 p.m.** *All confirmations for RE 2022-2023 will take place at this Mass.*