

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
Religious Education
Volunteer Opportunities

Our religious education program depends on people who generously donate their time and talent. **Registration fees are waived for those parents who make a year-long commitment to act as a teacher or classroom helper.** Parents are asked to help out in some way during the year. Please indicate on the registration form how you will be able to help.

1) Catechist (teacher) – Being a lead catechist in a religious education class is a special calling that offers many rewards and blessings. Catechists “echo” their own faith to their students while teaching post Vatican II theology and Catholic doctrine. Lead catechists spend between two and three hours a week preparing a lesson from the provided curriculum and are encouraged to bring their own creativity to activities and crafts. Team teaching with another catechist can be a good way to share the responsibility of this important ministry. Catechists receive training, support, and free tuition for their children.

2) Catechist (classroom helper) – Classroom helpers help in the classroom each week. They also share their faith with the students but don’t have the responsibility of lesson planning. Classroom helpers may occasionally teach a class or help by planning a craft or activity. They also take attendance and help the children with their activities. Full-time classroom helpers also receive training, support, and free tuition for their children.

3) Substitute Teacher – Substitutes are an invaluable members of the catechetical team. They are comfortable teaching all ages and don’t mind coming into the classroom with little notice.

4) Special Events – Parent volunteers are needed to help plan and put on several special family events throughout the year. One event is held at the beginning of Advent and one during Lent. Help is also needed with the Christmas Eve children’s liturgy. There may be other smaller events and activities during the year, as well.

5) Prize Table Helper – When children check-in for mass, they are awarded a ticket that can be exchanged for prizes during the Thursday afternoon class time. Help is needed to set up the prize table, collect the tickets from the children when they make their choices, and put the remaining prizes away. Time spent is approximately 30 minutes on Thursday afternoons. Sign up by the week or for the whole year.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church places its highest priority on the safety and welfare of your children. We abide by the Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children are required to adhere to the Safe Environment requirements of fingerprinting, background check, training, and registration with the diocese.

Top Ten Reasons to be a Catechist. . .

- 1) Part time job with eternal benefits.
- 2) You learn as much as the children.
- 3) You will have at least twenty new friends
- 4) You have an opportunity to share your faith and pass it on to the next generation.
- 5) You re-live your own sacramental journey.
- 6) You show the littlest ones among us how to pray and praise.
- 7) You're given all of the training, materials, and guidance you need to do the job.
- 8) Experienced catechists are there to lend a hand.
- 9) Relax . . . they won't know what page you're supposed to be on.
- 10) Who else will lead, guide, and echo Jesus' teachings?

Is Jesus calling **YOU**?