

# Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission, Rockville

## Religious Education Program

2018 – 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome! Thank you for enrolling your child in our Religious Education Program and for the privilege that you have thereby afforded us of sharing in the wonderful work of both educating your child in the Faith and putting them in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ!

Our program represents the efforts of many people—especially our priests and many volunteers (teachers, co-teachers, and substitute teachers), all who make a generous commitment of time and talents to support the work of educating our children in our Faith. Remember to thank them for witnessing to the Truth, and please be generous with your support!

*“It is by celebrating our strengths, identifying areas for improvement and working together that Catholic education will flourish for generations to come, bringing them Christ’s gospel and helping them grow in their encounter with the living Lord.”*

— Cardinal Wuerl,  
Archbishop of Washington

We are dedicated to providing the best catechetical tools possible for our students and their families. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the Program or your child’s experiences, please feel free to call or email us to discuss the matter in confidence. Thank you and may God richly bless you and your families!

Yours in Christ,  
Gloria Chou

### **Curriculum**

This year we will be using [\*The Faith and Life Series\*](#) (Ignatius Press) for 1st through 6th grades and the *YOUCAT* and associated books for 7th and 8th grade.

We will also continue to leverage the *Circle of Grace* program as a part of the Archdiocesan Child Protection Program. Through the *Circle of Grace* Program, adults assist children and youth to recognize God’s love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a Circle of Grace, which holds who you are in your body and through your senses as well as your very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality. This holistic concept allows children and youth to identify uncomfortable situations long before any inappropriate touch may occur. The *Circle of Grace* program helps children and youth to identify early on when they are uncomfortable with a situation and includes ways to seek the help of a trusted adult.

## **Role of Parents**

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1653). The home is where a child first experiences the Catholic faith. You teach primarily by example. It is extremely important for children to experience the love of God in their homes. The Religious Education (RE) Program aims to work in partnership with parents to assist them in living their vocation as educators of their children. The RE Program should merely complement, not replace, the catechesis that your children should receive in the home.

The RE Program assists parents in their God-given role as educators of the Faith by:

- Providing weekly religious education classes for children in a classroom setting
- Providing opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Confession
- Providing the truth of the Roman Catholic Faith as handed down by Jesus Christ through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, the Magisterium (teaching authority) of the Church, and the Church Fathers

All Christian education finds its source within the sacramental life of the Church. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that children are given the opportunity for frequent participation in the Sacrament of Penance and weekly Sunday attendance at Holy Mass. Knowledge of the Catholic faith that is not upheld by the practice of the sacramental life is empty knowledge. Please ensure that your children are able to participate in the life of the Church by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Finally, please make every effort to have your child arrive on time for class. This is particularly important because classes are held only once a week.

We remind you that the role of a Religious Education program can only be secondary to you, the parent. We encourage you to do all you can, and we promise to do the best we can to aid and guide the sacramental preparation of your child. We offer these tips:

- Attend Sunday Mass together, as failure to attend Sunday Mass is a grave/mortal sin.
- Help your child to fully participate in the Mass. Remember, if you don't sing or recite the responses, neither will your child.
- Pray with your children. You are their first example of the faith.
- Take your child to Church to visit Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. Explain how Jesus is waiting in the Tabernacle for us to come to Him, and how He loves us to come and just be with Him.

*The best paradigm for any Religious Education is one in which teachers, parents, and students all work together in cooperation for common goals of education. In the case of your child's religious education, the goal is even more important— the spiritual health and the personal fulfillment of each soul created by God to “know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world” so that they “can be happy with Him in Heaven.”*

## Role of Students

Students are expected to be punctual and prepared for class. Each week, students should bring their textbooks, writing utensils, and completed homework assignments. Students should conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a classroom environment.

- **Homework:** Students are expected to complete homework assignments in the Activity Book each week from the chapter(s) taught in class. Homework is designed to reinforce material taught in class and to prepare students for material to be presented at the next class. With only fifty minutes a week, class time is very precious and must be used as wisely as possible. Keeping current on assignments is one way to maximize class time, so please encourage your child to complete homework while making this an opportunity to share in their learning about the Faith. The greatest witness to the Faith a child can receive is the parent's faithful devotion to our beliefs, practices, and customs. Occasionally parents may be asked to sign the activity book page.
- **Discipline:** Religious Education students are expected to treat teachers, adults, and peers, as well as all private and school property, with respect and Christian charity. Our goals of teaching the Faith and inspiring the Love of God and neighbor are serious endeavors that call everyone to practice what is being taught. Every student has the right and privilege to learn in a classroom where students are well behaved. Similarly, every teacher and assistant has the right to teach in such an environment. In the event that a student finds it difficult to exhibit proper behavior, every attempt will be made to integrate the child into the classroom prior to contacting his/her parents; if unsuccessful, the RE coordinators will enlist the support of the parents to rectify the situation.
- **Electronic Devices:** Students are not permitted to bring electronic devices to RE class. Any student bringing cell phones, I-Touch, and/or other such devices will be confiscated by the Teacher and returned to the parents.

## Sacrament of Penance

The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) Confessions will be offered during Advent and Lent. All students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up are encouraged participate.

These opportunities for Confession should merely complement the families' frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance. St. John Paul the Great went to the Sacrament of Confession every day as did Pope Pius XII and Pope Francis tells us "Do not be afraid of Confession! When one is in line to go to Confession, one feels all these things, even shame, but then when one finishes Confession one leaves free, grand, beautiful, forgiven, candid, happy. This is the beauty of Confession!"

See [Reconciliation Handbook for Parents](#) for details on how to prepare your child to receive the sacrament.

## Sacrament Preparation: First Holy Communion

Jesus gives us the gift of Himself in the Eucharist. Like all the sacraments of the Catholic Church, the Eucharist is an encounter with Jesus Christ. It is the "source and summit" of all sacramental encounters with our Lord. The Eucharist is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; it is Christ Himself. St. Alphonsus Liguori said, "Of all the sacraments, the adorable Sacrament of the Altar is the most excellent. The other sacraments contain gifts of God, but the Holy Eucharist contains God Himself." All the sacraments lead up to it and flow out of it. The Eucharist is the central mystery of our faith.

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church statement, "after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year." ([CCC 1457](#))*

Requirements for First Holy Communion preparation include:

- Sunday, January 20, 2019
  - Turn in proof of your child's baptism.
- Saturday, May 4, 2019
  - Attend First Reconciliation & Mini-Retreat from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm @ St. Mary's in Rockville, MD
  - Turn in Sacrament Registration Form
- Sunday, June 2, 2019
  - Attend First Communion Mass at 3:00 pm @ St. Mary's in Rockville, MD

Dress Code is as follows:

- **Girls:** White dress, modest and suitable for Mass. White veil (flowers and ribbons are fine, but must have a veil attached). Gloves may be worn, but purses and/or prayer books may not be carried into Mass. No strapless dresses, low necklines, short hemlines, or bare shoulders (no spaghetti straps), please. White dress shoes.
- **Boys:** Dark jacket, dress pants (dark or khaki), white shirt, tie (colored or white). White suits are acceptable. Dress shoes.

### **Sacrament Preparation: Confirmation**

"The sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost" (CCC 1302). It is in the Sacrament of Confirmation that we called to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us for our mission of spreading and defending our faith. Confirmation is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds (CCC 1316).

Requirements for Confirmation preparation include:

- Sunday, January 20, 2019
  - Write a Letter to the Bishop.
  - Turn in the Confirmation sponsor form.
  - Write a 2-3 page report on your selected Confirmation saint, including what inspires you about the saint's life and actions and why you chose him/her to be your patron.
- Sunday, April 28, 2019
  - Meet at least 3 times with your Sponsor and turn in the "conversation log."
  - Meet with priest/catechist for interview.
- Saturday, May 18, 2019
  - Attend Confirmation Retreat
  - Turn in Sacrament Registration Form
- **TBD**
  - Attend Confirmation Practice with Sponsor(s)
- **TBD** (Date will be based on Bishop's availability)
  - Attend Confirmation with Bishop

Dress Code is as follows:

- **Girls:** White dress, modest and suitable for Mass. No strapless dresses, low necklines, short hemlines, or bare shoulders (no spaghetti straps), please. White dress shoes.

- **Boys:** Dark jacket, dress pants (dark or khaki), white shirt, tie (colored or white). White suits are acceptable. Dress shoes.

*“The family that prays together, stays together.”*

– Fr. Patrick Peyton

### **Prayers to be Learned**

A life of prayer begins in the home. The Archdiocese assigns basic prayers to be learned and memorized/practiced for each grade level. As our class time is very limited with only 50 minutes per class, we will take the time to review and explain the prayers for each grade but strongly encourage parents to reinforce a life of prayer at home by praying the prayers in the chart below with your child and taking the time to ensure you incorporate family prayer each day. It is crucial for students to learn these prayers in order to more fully participate in the liturgical life of the church. See hyperlink for prayers.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Prayers to be Learned</b>
Pre-Kindergarten/ Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign of the Cross</li> <li>• <a href="#">Guardian Angel Prayer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Glory Be</a></li> </ul>
1st Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign of the Cross</li> <li>• <a href="#">Our Father</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Hail Mary</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Glory Be</a></li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Apostle’s Creed</a></li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spontaneous Prayer – Talking to and listening to God with your own words</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Nicene Creed</a></li> </ul>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Liturgical Responses</a></li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Rosary</a> (Including the Joyful Mysteries, Sorrowful Mysteries, Luminous Mysteries, Glorious Mysteries)</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lectio Divina</a> – Note that there are many great resources on Lectio Divina including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Conversation With Christ: The Teaching of St. Teresa of Avila</a> about Personal Prayer by Peter Thomas Rohrbach</li> <li>○ <a href="#">The Better Part: A Christ-Centered Resource for Personal Prayer</a> by John Bartunek</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Praying Scripture for a Change: An Introduction to Lectio Divina</a> by Tim Gray</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Classes

Classes will be held on **Sundays** at Richard Montgomery High School (250 Richard Montgomery Dr.; Rockville, MD 20852) starting on Sunday, September 16, 2018. For a detailed schedule of class dates, see School Calendar on Kuang-Chi Chinese School's website: <http://kuangchi.org/>.

Class	Room	Schedule	Teachers
Pre-K/Kindergarten (Age 3 and Up)	158	12:40pm – 1:25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ping Wang</li><li>• Fangling Lin</li></ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	160	12:40pm – 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gloria Chou</li><li>• Duth Pung</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade (First Communion Class)	162	12:40pm – 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alice Wong</li></ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	164	12:40pm – 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patrick Cheng</li></ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	162	1:40pm – 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jia-Shieu OuYang</li></ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	164	1:40pm – 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gabriel Lai</li></ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (Confirmation)	160	1:40pm – 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rick Ruzicka</li></ul>

## Program Coordinator

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

- Gloria Chou [gloria.c.chou@gmail.com](mailto:gloria.c.chou@gmail.com) (571) 888-2602

## Registration

To register, please fill out the online form at [2018-2019 Religious Education Registration](https://goo.gl/forms/lvErQTWiYKLHwiHJ3).  
(<https://goo.gl/forms/lvErQTWiYKLHwiHJ3>)

Tuition and Release and Consent Forms (still be required as we need your signature in case of emergency) can be turned in on the first day of class in September.

**Religious Education Permission Form  
2018-2019 School Year**



**中華聖母傳教中心**  
Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission

1001 Grandin Ave. Rockville, MD 20851 / Tel:(301)738-2459 / Fax:(301)738-2479

**RELEASE AND CONSENT FORM  
(Minors 18 and under)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned, give permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to attend Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission Religious Education classes and activities held at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, MD. It is understood that reasonable caution will be taken by those persons in charge to prevent injuries. In consideration of my child's being permitted to participate in religious education, I personally and on behalf of my child, hereby release Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission, its employees, coordinators, volunteers, and chaperones, and the Archdiocese of Washington, its employees and agents, and representatives associated with specific events, from any claim arising/resulting from or in connection with my child attending the activities and/or transportation to and there from, or in connection with any illness or injury (including death) or cost of medical treatment in connection therewith, and agree to compensate Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission, its employees, coordinators, volunteers, and chaperones, associated with Religious Education activities for reasonable attorney's fees and expenses which may incur in any action brought against them as a results of such injury or damage, unless such claim arises from the negligence of the pastoral mission.

I understand that Our Lady of China Pastoral Mission and the Archdiocese of Washington will not be held liable if my child fails to cooperate with regulations (e.g. no possession of alcohol or illegal drugs) and that any infractions of the rules may result in immediate dismissal from future Religious Education activities.

In the event that I cannot be reached, I hereby grant permission for my son/daughter to be evaluated, diagnosed, treated and/or medicated in accordance with standard medical practice by licensed medical personnel. I authorize the Our Lady of China Religious Education Coordinator, Teachers, and/or the person(s) designated by him/her to make appropriate decisions in regard to my child's health.

Permission is hereby granted to LOCFYG to use the photographs and quotations of my son/daughter to assist in community awareness, educational efforts, or related public relations purposed that may include brochures, posters, website and print media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Emergency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorized Religious Education Coordinator & Teachers**

- Gloria Chou
- Gabriel Lai
- Duth Pung
- Ping Wang
- Alice Wong
- Patrick Cheng
- Jia-Shieu OuYang
- Rick Ruzicka
- Fangling Lin