

My name is Janessa O'Donnell, and I am looking forward to teaching your children in PREP this year! I am a lifelong member of St. Joe's, and have been working for the parish as well as occasionally the parish school (St. Michael's) for the past two decades. I am the coordinator of the PREP program, and I also oversee the various youth programs within our parish.

First Grade marks an exciting time in your child's life. I have found this grade level to be full of eager and enthusiastic learners, who are curious about the faith of their family, why they go to Mass, and their blooming relationship with God. Throughout our time together, your child will be presented with a simple overview of the traditions and mysteries of our faith. By learning about the goodness of God, who created us, and the love of Jesus, your child is drawn to respond to God in friendship and in prayer. The success of our program relies heavily on the cooperative efforts of all involved - the child, the family, and the catechists. Your support and enthusiasm will ultimately have the most positive effects on your child, including his/her relationship with our faith. I'm looking forward to making this journey with you all!

As you know, our PREP classes are being operated on a hybrid system this year. We will meet in person 1-2 times per month, on Zoom 1-3 times per month, and occasionally have "independent lesson" weeks where your child will work with you to complete assignments (no Zoom or in-person meeting).

Our workbook is titled "Christ Our Life: God is Good", and published by Loyola Press. Your child will also receive a Prayer Journal to complete some additional assignments in. The class schedule will list any additional items your child may need for a specific class, and that can be viewed at any time on our parish website - see link below! When we meet over Zoom, it is important that your child be able to see and hear the Zoom session, as well as respond when prompted. Having an adult or other helper nearby the student during the Zoom session can help ensure that there are no technical or other issues. The children will be assigned a small amount of "homework" to complete each week, which will help to move things along throughout the year. Please assist your child as necessary to make sure assignments are completed.

Our main method of communication this year will be via email, as well as the Grade 1 PREP class page on the parish website. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

God Bless,
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<https://www.stjoescoopersburg.org/prep-news/grade-1/>

