



St. Joseph Church | 5050 St. Joseph's Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036 | 610.965.2877 | www.stjoescoopersburg.org

Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.) Info Packet for Grades 1 through 8

Contents: Welcome & Information Letter; Arrival & Dismissal Information; "Circle of Grace" Letter & Opt-Out Form; 2025-2026 Calendar; and a Book Pickup and Teacher Meet & Greet Flyer.

Welcome to the St. Joseph Church PREP Family! Our volunteer staff at St. Joseph Church looks forward to another year of sharing the teachings of Christ with the children of our Parish Family through our Parish Religious Education Program. Please read through this letter carefully for important information regarding the 2025-2026 school year. PREP Registration forms should be returned to the Rectory as soon as possible, no later than August 24th. **This year, we are asking each family to fill out one registration form per child, to make sure that our parish & sacramental records are up-to-date. Please do not omit any of the information.**

All grades will be meeting in-person on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45AM. Please see the attached calendar for specific dates. Families may arrive at the Parish Center no earlier than 9:40 AM. Please read through the "Arrival & Dismissal" notice for additional information.

Workbooks & supplemental books will be provided, and should accompany your child to each class, along with any specific items requested by your child's teacher. We will provide writing utensils and other craft items as needed. Your child is welcome to bring a water bottle, clearly marked with his or her name. Please, no food or snacks due to potential allergies.

As always, we are counting on the parents/guardians of our students to have a successful school year. Parents/guardians should anticipate that they may be required to complete lessons or assignments along with their child, especially with our younger students. The main source of communication between parents and teachers will be via email, as well as the class webpages located on our Parish website: <https://www.stjoescoopersburg.org/prep-news/>. You will have the opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) at our Book Pickup and Teacher Meet & Greet on September 14th! See the enclosed flyer for further info.

Attendance will be taken each week. Absences should be reported to your child's teacher prior to the scheduled session, and all homework should be submitted as requested/expected. Parents should work with their student(s) on any missed assignments.

We are aware that the schedule for PREP courses may require families to adjust their activity planning, and our PREP teachers will work with students & families to make accommodations wherever possible. However, regular PREP attendance is still required for your child(ren). Absences may result in students being held back and/or not receiving sacraments when expected. Students in sacramental preparation years must be in regular attendance at all PREP classes and keep up with assigned work in order to receive the anticipated sacrament this school year. If you are concerned this PREP schedule will not work for your family, you do have the option of searching for a PREP program within the Diocese of Allentown that would work better for your family. Please contact Mrs. O'Donnell for more information, if you wish to pursue this option. Please note that a "homeschool" curriculum is not an acceptable option.

Regular Mass attendance is also an essential part of your child(ren)'s PREP experience. We go to Mass not simply because it is an obligation, but rather because it is our loving response to the God Who has loved us first. It is an active choice of the will to give of our time, treasure, and talent – knowing full well it will never amount to the sacrifice endured by our Savior. We want the children of our Parish Family to know that they have ownership in the celebration of the Mass, whether they have been fully initiated or not, and will once again be hosting Masses throughout the school year. Each grade will have the opportunity to participate in the Mass, as well as sit together as a class. Your child(ren)'s teacher(s) will provide more information on these special events.

On behalf of Fr. Buckley, our volunteer catechists, and all of our Parish Family, I wish you many blessings in these fleeting summer moments! May the new school year bring us many moments of laughter, love & learning.

Sincerely,

Janessa O'Donnell

PREP Administrator

janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org