PREP

Parish Religious Education Program

The following guideline is to assist St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish families in the selection of the Summer PREP program for their child(ren)'s method of Religious Education.

What is the Summer PREP Program?

The Summer PREP program is an intensive one-week Religious Education program that is an alternative to the traditional weekly program. Total class hours are similar to the traditional program. There will be 30 hours of onsite learning, with an additional requirement of 5 Faith based activities throughout the year. The Summer PREP program is for children who have been enrolled in PREP and not meant as a "catch up" for those children who have had no previous Religious Education (with the exception of Level 1 students).

Dates and Times of the Program

Summer PREP will be offered from 8:30AM to 3:00PM, Monday through Friday, June 22-26, 2026

Requirements for Successful Completion

- **Must be present for all five days of onsite class time.** Due to the intensity of the program, and the amount of material covered, child(ren) will not be permitted to arrive late and/or leave early. Illness or emergency absence will invalidate attendance in Summer PREP, and the child(ren) will need to be enrolled in the traditional weekly program to complete the PREP level. There will not be any makeup sessions or work to substitute for attendance.
- Attendance at Advent and Lenten PREP Confessions -**Levels 2 (Lent) through 7** (date TBD).
- Sacramental preparation levels **(Levels 2 & 7) will be required** to attend a certain number of weekly classes, as the reception of the Sacrament draws near. Therefore, Level 2 will have a weekly class requirement leading up to the reception of First Reconciliation in January, and the reception of First Holy Communion in April Level 7 will have a weekly class requirement leading up to reception of Confirmation, dates to be determined. The Confirmation Saint project and a Confirmation readiness letter to Monsignor will be required for all Confirmation candidates. Families will know well in advance which weekly classes are required for Sacramental candidates.
  Attendance at all Sacrament retreats and practices is mandatory.

- In addition to the one week intensive, 5 Faith based activities must be completed throughout the year and before the start of the subsequent Summer program. Failure to complete these requirements will prohibit registration in the Summer program going forward. In order to track these activities, a short reflection will need to be submitted to the PREP office. Families will be provided with a standardized form. One form per activity. ***For recurrent activities (i.e Outreach bag assembly) an activity can be used one time only.*** There is an expectation that families attend Mass weekly, and on Holy Days of Obligation, so these are not eligible for the Faith based activities. Attendance at a funeral, wedding, First Communion/Confirmation liturgies or Baptisms cannot be used. A list of suggested activities is contained at the end of this guideline. Faith based activities should be reflective of a family's participation in the life of St. Cyril Parish. For activities outside of the Parish, the DRE should be consulted to determine the activity's eligibility.

Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the Summer program, families must be registered St. Cyril of Jerusalem parishioners. Current child(ren) enrolled in St. Cyril PREP, and in good standing, are eligible for registration. Class sizes will be limited, so acceptance will be on a first come, first serve basis. There will be only one class of each level, 1 through 7. Once a class is filled, registration for that level will be closed.

Program Staffing

The St. Cyril of Jerusalem Summer PREP program will be staffed by professional teachers, and parent/guardian volunteers. Professional teachers will serve as Catechists, and parent/guardian volunteers will be in an assistant capacity only.

Fee Structure (subject to change)

The Summer PREP fee reflects an increase over the traditional program. Summer PREP is staffed by professional teachers, and the fee charged reflects this increased cost. There is no hardship allowance for the Summer PREP fee. The traditional weekly program is available in the event of financial hardship.

1 Student- $275
2 Students- $525
3 Students- $625

New for 2026- Any family that withdraws a child(ren) within 10 days before the start of the Summer PREP week WILL NOT BE REFUNDED. Exception to this policy would be serious illness or death in the family.

As with the traditional program, registration will be electronic through Parish Giving. Registration for the Summer program will be opened in February, date TBD, and families will be notified via email and the Parish bulletin.
There is a fee discount for those parents/guardians volunteering their time in the Summer program. It will be prorated based on the hours of service.

Additional Considerations:

- There are no food services in the program. Families will need to provide a peanut free lunch, snack, and water bottle daily.
- All policies contained in the SCOJ PREP Family Handbook will apply to the Summer program, such as student code of conduct, arrival/dismissal procedures, dress code, parental custody agreements, cell/technology policy, etc.
- Child(ren) may dress comfortably but appropriately during the Summer PREP week, except for the following: no tank tops, midriff tops, extremely short shorts, and flip flops. Dress should be appropriate for participation in Church activities such as Mass, Adoration, Church tour, etc.
- Safe Environment lessons (KidTalk) will be presented to all levels during one of the class days. This is an Archdiocesan requirement. Families will be given the opportunity to opt-out of this small portion of class time, just as in the traditional program.
- The selection of classrooms is based on the ability to utilize air-conditioned space. Every effort will be made to keep both the Faculty and students comfortable, so that there is an optimal atmosphere for learning.

Faith Based Activity Suggestions for Families: (only one activity may be a donation)

Attendance at daily Adoration. (Mon.-Fri until noon; Wed. evening 7:30PM -8:30PM)
Parish 40 Hours Celebration
All Soul's Day Mass
Thanksgiving Day Mass
Memorial Day Mass
Donation to the Advent Giving Tree
Advent Giving Tree Gift Organization
Attendance or Participation at the Live Nativity
Participation in the Christmas Eve Tableau, 3:30PM Liturgy
Ash Wednesday Service
Stations of the Cross during Lent
Living Stations of the Cross Attendance /or Participation (counts as 2 activities)
Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday
Good Friday Service
May Procession

Rosary Rally on Parish grounds in October
40 Days for Life signup at Planned Parenthood
A Baby's Breath Run for Life in Tyler Park
Missalette Maintenance in Church & Cry Room after Masses (one month of Sundays)
Manna Bag for Nutritional Development Food Sorting
Thanksgiving Drive Food Sorting
Outreach Bag Assembly
Altar Server Training (counts as 2 activities)
Vacation Bible School Assistant
Any other activity not listed that is sent throughout the year by the DRE