

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

400 Maywood Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607

Parish Center  
(201) 845-9566  
Fax  
(201) 845-3742

May 13, 2022

Dear OLQP Families,

On behalf of our Pastor, Fr. Tony, and the staff, I would like to thank you for your support and participation in our Catechetical program last year and pray that as the primary educators of your children that our program provided you with guidance and inspiration. We are so happy to have your family join us for an exciting new year ahead. We wish to work hand in hand with you to bring our children along in their faith formation which is essential to have life of joy, peace, and a close relationship with our Triune God. Their connection to Jesus and their understanding of His great love for them is our prayer and mission.

Our Catechetical program will begin on September 11, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. with orientation at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium. All sessions will be *“in person”*. A parent handbook will be sent under separate email. Exciting news, you may now register and pay your tuition on-line at: <https://www.olqp.org/registration-form.html> If you wish to have a hard copy of the registration form, please let me know, likewise we will accept payment by check, payable to Our Lady Queen of Peace.

In addition to our core teachings, this year the Archdiocese is offering the children: *“Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children”* a program designed to provide children with the tools they need to protect themselves and what to do if someone tries to violate their boundaries. There will be six (6) lessons, this year we will focus on Lessons 3 and 4, next year will be Lessons 5 and 6, and so on. Each lesson will be age appropriate. Parents will have the option to opt out and provide the lessons at home, please see the attached opt out criteria. If you choose to teach at home, please return the attached. For more information on this program, please follow the links below:

**Program Overview English:**

<https://www.rcan.org/sites/default/files/files/Overview%20in%20English%202022.pdf>

**Program Overview Spanish:**

<https://www.rcan.org/sites/default/files/files/Overview%20in%20Spanish%202022.pdf>

**Teaching Guidelines for Parents: English**

<https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/Teaching-Boundaries-and-Safety-Guide-English.pdf>

**Teaching Guidelines for Parents: Spanish**

<https://www.virtusonline.org/educators/Teaching-Boundaries-and-Safety-Guide-Spanish.pdf>

Please know that all of our staff, volunteers, and catechists are required by the Archdiocese to have ongoing “Protecting God’s Children” training, as well as a criminal background check and reference checks. We are proud that Our Lady Queen of Peace is hard at work to ensure the safety of your children and young people.

As always we pray that the students in our faith community may be enlighten by the Holy Spirit, and that they may find joy in their studies.

Thank you!! Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
We look forward to a fruitful year with our families!!  
Have a great summer!!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Justine Garcia*

Pastoral Associate for Religious Education  
(201) 845-9566  
ReEd@olqp.org

## Empowering God's Children

In our Archdiocese, **parents are being offered the opportunity to instruct their children in keeping themselves safe.** This program is called “*Empowering God's Children*” by Virtus, Parents will be asked to teach their child(ren) two, 40-minute, age-appropriate lessons. You will be sent the lesson plans to teach your child(ren). To help you present these lessons, we are offering an online module entitled “Parent Lesson Leader Orientation and Certification”:

To **access this optional teaching module** please see below:

- If you have taken the Protecting God's Children class, please contact karen.clark@rcan.org who will assign you the module.
- If you have not taken Protecting God's Children to sign up for this module, go to this link: [https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/37657/reg\\_2.cfm?theme=0%20](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/37657/reg_2.cfm?theme=0%20)

**Upon completion of the module**, you will receive the lesson plans to teach your children from the Religious Education Office of our parish. Please contact us at (201) 845-9566 or email us at [ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org) to let us know if you choose lesson plans or opt out form. For more information on this program, please visit <https://www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/chilyouth-protection/teaching-touching-safety>.

I have read and understand the above information regarding Empowering God's Children Parent.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_