

St. Nicholas Parish

PREP



Parent Handbook

2011-2012



20675 87th Ave.
Langley, BC
Canada
V1M 3X4

ST. NICHOLAS
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Telephone (604) 513-0300
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+JMJ

September 14, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the St. Nicholas Parish Religious Education Program (PREP). By enrolling your child, you bear witness to your desire to nurture and encourage them in their Faith journey. This is the commitment you made at your child's baptism.

The Catholic Church recognizes parents at the primary educators of their children. The parish religious education program exists to help you with this key responsibility and to support you as you lead your child to a life in Christ. Family involvement is a cornerstone of any catechetical activity with children. Your child needs to see your love for the Faith and witness your personal desire for a deepening relationship with Jesus. Children will follow your lead, growing in love for Jesus and His Church.

Please carefully review this handbook, it will give you the important details and guidelines of our programs so that you can be involved in your child's religious formation at all stages. Also, please pay attention to the monthly newsletters and website updates which contain information about PREP events and other parish activities. I invite you to register at our new PREP website, www.calltofaithconnect/stnicholasprep, where you will find many useful resources and information to support the parish program at home.

Yours in Christ,

Jane Waldock

PREP Coordinator
St. Nicholas Parish

Contact Information

St. Nicholas Parish
20675 87th Avenue,
Langley, BC
Canada V1M 3X4

Email: st.nicholas.parish @telus.net
Phone: 604-513-0300
Parish website: www.stnicholasparish.ca
PREP eConnect site: www.calltofaitheconnect.com/stnicholasprep

Parish Office Hours: Mon: closed
Tues/Wed: 1-5pm
Thurs/Fri: 9am-5pm

PREP Program Hours: Wed: 5:30-6:45pm
Thurs: 6:15-7:30pm

PREP Coordinator: Jane Waldock
janestnics@gmail.com
604-513-0300

Please introduce yourself to your child’s catechist and obtain this information:

My Child’s catechist is _____ Phone, email _____

My Child’s catechist is _____ Phone, email _____

My Child’s catechist is _____ Phone, email _____

My Child’s catechist is _____ Phone, email _____

PREP CALENDAR 2011/2012

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event	
September	8	Thurs	6PM	PREP Volunteers Dinner and Meeting	
	14/15	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Opening Mass/Parent Meet & Greet	
	19	Mon	7-8:30PM	First Communion/Reconciliation Meeting	
	21/22	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	28/29	Wed/Thurs	During PREP	Regular PREP Night	
October	4	Tues	7-8PM	Confirmation Parent Meeting	
	5/6	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night/Parent Theme - Prayer	
	12/13	Wed/Thur	during PREP	FIRE DRILL	
	Gr 2&7 Baptism forms due	19/20	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night
		22	Saturday	10AM-4PM	Fall Institute with ORE
	Sponsor forms due	26/27	Wed/Thurs	during PREP	Regular PREP Night/Wed 6 Mass prep.
		29	Saturday	9:00-4:00	Spirit Day for Grade 7s
	30	Sunday	10:30 AM	Wednesday Grade 6 class Mass	
November	2/3	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Parent Theme Night - New Missal	
	2/3	Wed/Thur	7:30-9PM	New Missal Presentation for Catechists	
	9/10	Wed/Thur	7:30-9PM	New Missal Presentation for Catechists	
	9/10	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	Gr 7 Saint name due	16/17	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Teachers to prepare grades 3 - 7 for Reconciliation
		20	Sunday	7PM	Grade 7 Enrollment Liturgy
		23/24	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night/Thurs 6 Mass prep.
		27	Sunday	10:30 AM	Thursday Grade 6 class Mass; 1st Sunday of Advent
	30	Wed	during PREP	Reconciliation with Fr John/Fr Gordon for grades 3-7	
December	1	Thur	during PREP	Reconciliation with Fr John/Fr Gordon for grades 3-7	
	7/8	Wed/Thurs	during PREP	Last PREP before Christmas/ Parent Theme - Advent	
	9	Friday	6:30-8PM	First Reconciliation	
January	4 / 5	Wed/Thur	during PREP	PREP starts again/ Parent Theme - Morality	
	11/12	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	18/19	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	17	Tues	7PM	Chuck Lutrell Presentation on Morality / Gr 7 Parents	
	23	Mon	7-8:30pm	First Communion Parent Meeting	
	Gr 7 Saint Project Due	25/26	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night/W Gr 5 Prep for Mass
	29	Sunday	10:30AM	Gr 2 Liturgy: Belonging (Parents give names)/ W Gr 5 Mass	
February	1/2	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Parent Theme Night - Scripture	
	5	Sunday	10:30 AM	Gr 2 Liturgy: Celebrating (Candles)	
	6	Mon	7-8:30PM	First Communion Parent Meeting	
	8/9	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	12	Sunday	10:30 AM	Gr 2 Liturgy: Listening (Mass Books)	
	15/16	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night / Thurs Gr 5 Prep for Mass	
	19	Sunday	10:30 AM	Gr 2 Liturgy: Caring (prayer card)	
	20	Mon	7-8:30pm	First Communion Parent Meeting	
	22	Wednesday	PREP @ 7PM	ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY	
	23	Thursday	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	26	Sunday	10:30 AM	Gr 2 Liturgy: Making Peace (sign of peace)/Th 5 class Mass	
	29/1	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
March	4	Sunday	10:30 AM	Gr 2 Liturgy: Giving thanks for Creation (food bank)	
	6	Tues	7-8PM	Confirmation/Sponsor Meeting	
	7/8	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Gr 2-7 Prep for Reconciliation/Parent Theme Night - Lent	
	14/15-21/22	SPRING BREAK		NO PREP CLASSES	
	25	Sunday	10:30 AM	Grade 2 Liturgy: New Life (Crosses)	
Gr 7: Volunteer hours due	28/29	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Reconciliation with Fr John/Fr Gordon for grades 2-7	
Gr 7: Letter due	31	Saturday	9AM - 6PM	Confirmation Retreat	
April	1	Sunday		PALM SUNDAY	
	4	Wednesday	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	5	Thursday	PREP @ 7PM	HOLY THURSDAY LITURGY	
	6	Friday		GOOD FRIDAY: Children's Stations of the Cross 11am	
	8	Sunday		EASTER	
	11/12	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	
	15	Sunday	10:30 AM	Grade 2 Liturgy: Sharing a Meal (bread and grapes)	
	18/19	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Regular PREP Night	

	25/26	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Confirmation Parent/Sponsor Meeting and Confirmation Exam
May	2/3	Wed/Thur	during PREP	Last PREP Night for 2011/2012 - Crowning of Mary
	5	Saturday	10:30AM	First Communion Rehearsal/Potluck Lunch
	6	Sunday	2PM	FIRST COMMUNION
	TBD	Sat/Sun	5pm or 7pm	CONFIRMATION

Parent and Child Responsibilities

1. **MASS ATTENDANCE:** PREP classes are a reinforcement of, not a substitute for, Sunday Mass attendance. “The Eucharist is the heart and summit of the Church’s life” (CCC 1407) and we expect parents to participate faithfully in the celebration of Sunday Eucharist with their children.
2. **STUDENT ABSENCE:** Parents are asked to contact the PREP Coordinator via email if their child will be absent from class. Parents and children are expected to make religious formation a priority in their weekly schedules. Parents will be contacted if their child is chronically late or absent from class. If 2 classes are missed in a row or 3 classes are missed in a semester, without contacting the catechist to catch up on work missed, the child’s advancement to the next grade level will be placed in jeopardy.
3. **LEARNING ISSUES:** Parents are asked to inform the PREP Coordinator of any special circumstances (either long or short term) that may effect their child’s learning at PREP. This way we can work together with the catechist to find to best way to meet individual needs of your child.
4. **POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** Students are asked to come to all sessions with an attitude of openness and cooperation. We ask parents to reinforce this positive attitude towards the Church and Catholic education at home.
5. **RESPECT:** Respect for self, others and for church property are expected. This respect is shown in the language we use, in the way treat others and care for our learning environment and resources. There is zero tolerance of drugs, alcohol, smoking or weapons of any kind. If these policies are violated, parents and the police (if applicable) will be called immediately.
6. **CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT:** Catechists will establish guidelines for classroom behaviour at the beginning of the year. They will also follow clear consequences for inappropriate behaviour. These rules will be reviewed frequently with the students, in an age appropriate manner, by the catechists.
7. **DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** Parents of Grades 1 and 2 students must drop off and pick up from their classrooms. All other grades may meet up in the church foyer. Do not drop your child off or pick them up in the parking lot. A speed limit of 5 km/h MUST be maintained on our property. Do not park in the handicap spaces without a permit.
8. **VISITORS:** Parents are welcome to stay in the foyer during the PREP program. All visitors other than parents must report to the Ministries office before entering a classroom.
9. **BOOK REPLACEMENT:** Your PREP fee covers one copy of the textbook for your child. These textbooks contain God’s Word therefore must be treated with the according respect. If this book is lost or badly damaged it will be replaced at a charge of \$25/book.

10. VOLUNTEERS: Our PREP program cannot run without a large team of dedicated volunteer catechists and assistants. If you would like to be part of this program, and share your faith with the next generation at St. Nicholas, please contact the PREP Coordinator.

Curriculum Resources

"In virtue of its own internal dynamic, the faith demands to be known, celebrated, lived, and translated into prayer. Catechesis must cultivate each of these dimensions." (n. 84, General Directory for Catechesis)

Our PREP program uses the "Call to Faith" curriculum. In addition we use the "We Celebrate" series for Grade 2 and "Confirmed in the Spirit" for Grade 7.

Parent participation in your child's religious education activities is essential. Please review the classes with them through the week and use our parish eConnect system to download additional activities to support what they have been learning in the parish with activities and discussion at home.

You can access the eConnect system at www.calltofaithconnect.com/stnicholasprep. Simply register as a new user and you will be able to get details on your child's curriculum and background information on Church teaching etc. Call the PREP coordinator if you have any difficulties.

Prayers to Teach your Child

Students should know these prayers:

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and every shall be
World without end. Amen.

Act of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Jesus Christ suffered and died for me.
In His name, my God, have mercy.

Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation

The St. Nicholas PREP program requires 2 years preparation for reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. This means that students must successfully complete the grade 1 and 2 years for First Communion and the grade 6 and 7 years for Confirmation.

The grade 2 and 7 curriculum requires additional paperwork, resources, activities and parent participation. These will be outlined at mandatory parent meetings at the beginning of the PREP year. Please keep all information materials received at this meeting in this handbook for easy reference throughout the year.

Important Dates for Grade 2

Monday Sept 19 th	Parent Meeting	7-8:30pm
Friday Dec 9 th	First Reconciliation	6:30-7:30pm
Monday Jan 23 rd	Parent Meeting	7-8:30pm
Monday Feb 6 th	Parent Meeting	7-8:30pm
Monday Feb 20 th	Parent Meeting	7-8:30pm
Monday Apr 16 th	Parent Meeting	7-8:30pm
Saturday May 5 th	First Communion Rehearsal and Potluck	10:30am
Sunday May 6 th	First Communion	2pm

Important Dates for Grade 7

Wed/Thurs Sept 28/29	Spirit Day Forms due	
Tuesday October 4 th	Parent Meeting	7-8pm
Saturday October 29 th	Spirit Day	9am
Sunday November 20 th	Enrolment Mass	7pm
Tuesday January 17 th	Parent Presentation: Morality	7-8:30pm
Tuesday March 6 th	Parent/Sponsor Mtg	7-8pm
Saturday March 31 st	Confirmation Retreat	9am-6pm
PREP April 25/26 th	Confirmation Exam	
TBA in January	Confirmation	Sometime in May/June 2012