



Prayers to Know and Use St. Margaret Mary Religious Education Program

As Catholics we have many very beautiful and meaningful prayers that we can rely on to praise and honor God, offer Him our thanks for His wonderful gifts, ask for His help and seek His forgiveness.

Prayers said together as a family at home provide an excellent way of uniting family members while instilling in children the importance of worshipping God.

Children can be shown by the example of their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and all family members how to make God present in their daily lives by praying to Him. They can learn that our Lord can be relied on to aid us in times of trouble, to ease our sorrow, to forgive our failings and to share in our joy by the prayers that we say.

I encourage you to find time to pray as a family and to listen to your children's prayers to God. Both informal, talking to our Lord in your own words, and formal, traditional prayers composed by others and passed on to us from generation to generation of Christians are appropriate.

THE PROGRAM

This is a set of formal, traditional prayers for children in all of the various religious education programs at St. Margaret Mary Church to learn and to use as often as possible.

You will want to begin practicing the words and discussing their meanings as your children develop the ability to understand and remember these very basic prayers of our faith. Feel free to follow along at your child's own pace and introduce new prayers whenever he/she seems ready for them.

Teachers in the grade 1-5 program meeting after school and in groups will focus special attention on one or two prayers each succeeding year while reviewing with the children what has been previously learned as follows:

Grade	Prayers to Know
1	Sign of the Cross, The Lord's Prayer
2	Act of Contrition, Hail Mary
3	Apostles' Creed
4	Glory Be to God
5	Rosary

Please make every effort to help your child learn the prayers listed above for his/her grade level. When a student is ready to say the prayer(s) his/her teacher will be happy to listen. A certificate will be given when done. If special consideration is warranted, please contact the Religious Education Office at 860-644-2549 or re@smm.necoxmail.com.