

**Our Lady Queen of Peace**  
**8<sup>th</sup> grade Religious Education Calendar for 2026-2027**  
**All Classes are 12:30–2pm in the Parish Center unless otherwise noted.**

*(The exact topics discussed on a particular day may change)*

**Sunday, October 4 - A day of Curiosity! What are your questions?**

If we're taking the year to look at your faith tradition in contrast to other faith traditions – well.... what do you know about your faith tradition?

**Sunday, October 18 - Catholicism and the search for answers....**

a **SCAVENGER HUNT** to see how well you know your faith – and your faith community! We're hoping to make this a competition event this year – between students & any parents brave enough to join us!

**Sunday, November 1 - Are Catholics Christians? Are All Christians Catholic?** We'll look at some other Christian denominations – and see what we have in common with other Christian faiths and where Catholicism is different. We'll talk about what the Catholic church means in the world and to the world today. And we will talk about heroes – about heroes in our culture – and the church's heroes

**Sunday, November 15 - Living your Circle of Grace –**

**- Because we believe in Protecting God's Children**

Knowing that each of our young people is a precious and beloved child of God, the church wants you to stay safe and strong and the new Safe Environment program, "Circle of Grace" wants to give you tools to help. Watch for more information on this new Diocesan program AND on a session we plan to offer parents during Faith Formation on the same topic....

**Sunday, November 22 - Catholicism and the search for answers....Part 2** We will take the opportunity to look at and talk about the Scavenger Hunt – what did you learn and who had the most answers right? (Yes, there will be prizes!!!!)

**Sunday, December 6 – Advent, Christmas, Christianity & Catholicism**

*What makes Catholicism special and what do we share with the rest of the Christian Community? We will also take a look at our Liturgical calendar and talk about how the Feast of the Incarnation (that would be Christmas!) fits into it!*  
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**An extra invitation**

On December 6, 2026 all families are invited to the State Capitol for the

**Capitol Christmas Pageant** featuring students from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish.  
Performances are at 4pm and 5:15pm in the Capitol Rotunda.

**Sunday, December 20 Preparing for Christmas**

We'll look at Christmas traditions – including how the best way to prepare for Christmas is by celebrating Advent!

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**Sunday, January 10– Celebrating Epiphany – letting YOUR light shine!!!**

Today we will focus on Catholic Social Justice teaching – what better way to mark this season of giving? Come hear from some of our high school students about their immersion trips, Mission Trips, their faith journey and consider some of your own New Year's Resolutions regarding how you live your faith!

**Sunday, January 24 – Catholic Christianity and the 3 monotheistic & Abrahamic traditions**

This is part of our ongoing exploration of the 3 Abrahamic monotheistic faiths (and if you don't know what that means – you definitely need to come join us!). Where did the original divisions come from? What do we have in common – like parts of our Scriptures and the Ten Commandments...

**Sunday, February 1 - Making the connections .....**

We'll take a look at some of the most basic beliefs held by those who are Jewish and by those who are Muslim. How much do you know – and how much do you THINK you know?

**Sunday, February 14 - The Big Picture**

We will look at the connections between elements of the faiths – how did the Passover lead to the Last Supper? And what does that have to do with why, in the Mass, we refer to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God'? We will look at what makes Catholicism unique and true – and the oldest of all Christian traditions.

We will look at what we have learned about our faith....how it is similar to and different from other faiths – and how it can help us to live every day to be the people God created us to be.....

**Sunday, February 28 – Lent, Holy Week and the Easter Season – what truly divides us from the other faiths**

We will look at Lent (which begins on February 10), Holy Week and the Easter event – in film, in tradition and in Scripture. We will look at how and why it sets us apart from the other major faith traditions we have been studying – and how it calls us to live every day!

**Sunday, March 14 - If you did it all again....**

If you were to do the Scavenger Hunt from the beginning of the year – how would you do? What have you learned this year.....Come find out by playing Jeopardy!!! (Insert theme song here!).

**Sunday, March 21 – How well do you know what you know?**

This session invites you to take a look at what you know – and what the Church *hopes* you know by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade year! And asks you to consider where YOUR questions are.....and where you can go to find some answers..... We will also look at your plans for Holy Week.....and take the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross together.

**Sunday, April 4 – What does being an Easter People mean**

This session invites you to consider what believing in the Resurrection actually means for our lives....

**Sunday, April 18 - A celebration to honor Easter & the end of the RE year! OK – trust me when I tell you that this is going to be fun!!**

*You don't want to miss this last class - that will truly be a celebration of the Easter season!*