
MEET THE OLA PREP CATECHISTS



LEVEL 1



Barbara Koppa Gerolamo

My husband, Frank, has been a member of the OLA Parish since the 1970s when his family moved into the area. Frank and I were married at OLA in 1985 and have been members these past 30 years! Our three sons were baptized here and participated in numerous church activities, including Preschool, PREP, Vacation Bible School and altar-serving. I serve as a Lector at the 8:00 Mass. When my children were younger, I was a PREP aide for one year and a catechist for five years, teaching Level 1. In the past, I also helped organize and run OLA's Vacation Bible School. I returned to teach Level 1 PREP several years ago, after a five-year hiatus. It is wonderful! I find it especially rewarding to talk to the young children of our parish about Jesus and his teachings.



Maura Daniels, Assistant

I have been a member of OLA for six years. My husband and I have four children: Olivia, Luke, Colette and Brooks. Olivia is in Level 4 PREP, Luke is entering Level 2, and our two youngest attend Assumption Academy. I'm excited to help where it is needed this year with PREP.



Gail Marcil, Assistant

My husband Bob and my family have been members of OLA since we moved to Pennsylvania fourteen years ago. Our oldest son has completed the PREP program here at OLA, and our youngest is in Level 4 PREP this year. I am currently entering my eighth year as a teacher's aide at OLA Preschool and my fourth year working with the PREP students. I am happy to assist Mrs. Gerolamo with the Level 1 PREP students for the upcoming year.

LEVEL 2

Bette Jo Rose

I am the mother of five adult children and have been married to Deacon John for 32 years. My faith has been very important to me for as long as I can remember. Before we decided to enter the Diaconate program, I taught Level 1 PREP and participated in the parish VBS at that time. I enjoy working with children. I find them fascinating because of their natural curiosity and willingness to learn. I am really excited to be teaching once again.





LEVEL 2 (cont'd)

Deacon John Rose

I am:

- Roman Catholic
- Husband (32 years, married to BetteJo)
- Father (5 children, ages 31 to 23)
- Son and Brother
- Graduate (OLA, Archbishop Carroll, Villanova University)
- CPA (Certified Public Accountant)
- Permanent Deacon (ordained June 2001 and assigned to Our Lady of the Assumption)
- Veteran (USAF)
- Volunteer (Parish activity in RCIA, Baptism Prep, Altar Server training/civic activity including local elections)
- Inquirer – interested in improving my knowledge related to faith, family and mission through reading, asking questions and sharing the wealth of knowledge and gifts that have been given to us by God the Father. This is my second year assisting my wife as a PREP Catechist, and I hope to learn as much as we pass on in formation in faith.



LEVEL 3

Sacrament of Reconciliation *Sacrament of Holy Eucharist*



Christine Gaeto

My husband, Mark, and I and our three children have been members of OLA since 1993. I began assisting at PREP when our youngest began Level 1. This is my 15th year as catechist, mostly teaching Level 3, preparing children for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. I also help in other OLA organizations, including Lectors, Festival, and History Committee. My experience teaching PREP has been immensely rewarding in my own journey of faith, and I look forward to another fruitful year for both the children and me.



Mary Ellen Smith

Greetings! I am the new Level 3 Catechist, and I have had the privilege of teaching Religious Education for the past 30 years. I am really looking forward to preparing your child to receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion! It is truly a great honor and awesome responsibility to share my faith with your children! Parents play an important role in preparing their children to receive these Sacraments and help them to grow in their faith. Let us be partners in this faith journey!



Cathy Kunsch, Assistant

My husband, Mike, my daughter, and I have been members of OLA since moving to Devon 8 years ago. Our daughter, Sophie, will be in Level 4 PREP this year and had a wonderful experience in Kindergarten at Assumption Academy. This will be my third year assisting the wonderful and dedicated PREP teachers. I often feel I am learning right along with the children! Outside of OLA, I am a professor at Eastern University and teach graduate students in the School Psychology program. I look forward to helping our PREP program again this coming year.



LEVEL 3 (cont'd)



Anna Coombs, Assistant

This is my family's fifth year as members of OLA. My husband Dan and I have three active boys, Connor, Garrett & Wyatt. This year I have the privilege of assisting as a catechist with Level 3 students, who will be preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion. I enjoy teaching the children about our faith, as it always draws me into a closer relationship with Jesus.

LEVEL 4

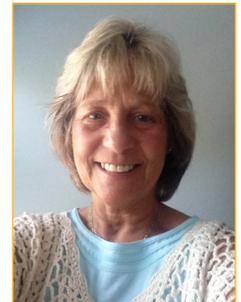
Sister Mary Glackin, IHM

For thirty-nine years I have had the awesome privilege to teach in Catholic elementary schools in four dioceses in the United States and in Peru, South America. During those years in which I taught in a school, I also taught in the Religious Education Program that was affiliated with the parish. It was always a highlight of my ministry. Eight years ago I became a member of our IHM Formation Team, journeying with young women who were discerning their call to become religious sisters. It was at that time that I came to Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. The convent here was chosen as a local mission for those learning to become sisters. Last year I had the wonderful opportunity to teach Level 4, and I am blessed to return to Level 4 again this year. I am deeply grateful to be here and to be part of this wonderful program.



Jeanne Marley

I have been a member at OLA for over nine years and have several great nieces and nephews in neighboring parishes. I love God, love my faith, and I am excited to share what I love most. I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of OLA's PREP program with your children.



LEVEL 5



Paula Sweeney

My husband, Tim, and I, along with our four children, have been members of OLA since 1993. All four of our children have gone through PREP at OLA, receiving First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Although this is my first year teaching PREP, I have been active as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. I feel very lucky to be part of the PREP program and am looking forward to spending the year with your children sharing and continuing to learn with them about our wonderful faith.



LEVEL 6

Sacrament of Confirmation



Dr. James Wilson

My family joined OLA Parish eight years ago, when we moved to Pennsylvania. My wife Hilary participates in the RCIA program. Livia Grace (9) went through OLA Preschool and is entering her second year of PREP; James Augustine (6) is currently enrolled in OLA kindergarten, while Thomas Avery (3) is very good at saying his prayers, but he also gives everyone good reason to be grateful that the children's mass is held *downstairs*. Little Cecilia Rae (almost 1) enjoys staring up at her Patroness Saint, on the ceiling, during Mass. I am an associate professor of literature, philosophy, and theology in the Department of Humanities at Villanova, and I am very much looking forward to leading the children of our parish as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our potential to know and love God defines us as human beings, and so I feel especially blessed to be entrusted with helping young people become "ever more fully human" as they draw closer to our Lord.



Sr. Jeanne Patricia Crowe, IHM

I was a teacher of sixth, seventh, and eighth grades for ten years until I was asked by my community to study pharmacy. After I completed my pharmacy degrees (B.S.Pharm and Pharm.D.) I opened a pharmacy in Camilla Hall, the infirmary for the sick and elderly IHM sisters. I then ran the pharmacy for seventeen years and wrote drug-related articles and books. I have also lectured in pharmacology at Immaculata University and continue to lecture about food-medication interactions for dietician associations. I am now living with and caring for my mother. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to teach religion at the elementary level again. After two years teaching Level 4 students and one year teaching Level 5, this is the third year that I will be preparing students for Confirmation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Angela Falco

I have been a member of OLA since 2013. It is with great pride that I am a part of such a wonderful parish community. Attending Catholic schools from grade school to college, I realize the importance of my faith everyday. Having taught at various PREP programs, schools and colleges, I am excited to bring my experience of teaching to all grades and special education to the church. Sharing my love of God to the children is of great importance to me. *Looking forward to a fantastic year at OLA!*





PREP HALL MONITOR



Anne-Claire Dolley

I was born and raised in France and came here in the States 20 years ago as an au pair. I met my husband, Tom, and we have three children: Manon 17, James 15 and Joe 9. I have been working at Assumption Academy for the past six years and will start my seventh year in a few days as a teacher's aide with the three-year-old class. My family and I joined the OLA parish in 2003 when we moved back from California. My son Joe will be going into Level 4 this year in the PREP program.

SUBSTITUTE CATECHISTS

Rosemary Ise

I was born and raised in Berwyn. I started teaching CCD at St. Monica's under the mentoring of Sister Bernetta, IHM, from 1972 through 1980. I joined OLA with my husband, Richard, in 1994. At OLA, I resumed teaching, and have been in the PREP program from 1995 or 1996 to the present. Life and my Catholic faith are the greatest gifts I have been blessed to receive, and I want to pass on my love for both.



Tina Webb

I am a mother of three children who have gone through the PREP program. Isabella recently was confirmed. Lilliana is in fifth grade. Luca is in fourth grade. This is my second year as an assistant catechist in the PREP classes, this year as a substitute. My background is in elementary and special education. I look forward to another year of working with the students.

