

Religious Education Handbook



Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
725 South 250 East
Hyde Park, Utah 84318

Parish Office: 435-752-1478

Religious Education Coordinator: 435-752-1478 ext 106

Fax: 435-792-3792

Website: www.stthomaslogan.org

Email: sta.religioused106@gmail.com

Religious Education Office Hours

September -May

Mondays: 1:00-8:00 PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:00AM-5:00PM

Wednesdays 12:00-7:00PM

Fridays: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturdays: Closed

Sundays: 11:30AM-4:00PM

June-August

Monday through Friday:

10:00AM-4:00PM

Class Times (September-May)

Sundays in English

11:30AM-12:30PM

Mondays

Confirmation 6:00-8:00PM

Sundays in Spanish

2:45-3:45PM

Wednesdays

2nd-7th grades First Reconciliation/First Communion

5:30-6:45PM

Mass Times

Saturdays

5:00PM in English and 7:00PM in Spanish

Sundays

10:00AM in English and 1:00PM in Spanish

6:00PM Newman Center during USU Spring and Fall Semesters

Confession Times

Wednesdays

5:30-6:45PM

Saturdays

4:00-4:45PM

Religious Education Classes

Weekly religious education classes for all baptized children K-7th grade.

If your child (7 years or older) has *not been baptized* please contact Lorena Rodriguez: 435-752-1748 ext 104

Kindergarten through 7th Grades

Offered in English or Spanish

Bilingual materials are used for grades 1 through 7 ***Bendecidos*** from RCL Benziger

Classes run September through May

Sundays 11:30-12:30AM in English or Sundays 2:45-3:45PM in Spanish

NEED A NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REVISED – TRANSLATION FOR CLASS



Sacrament Classes

*Weekly Sacrament Classes are for all **baptized** children grades 2nd through 12th*

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for 2nd through 7th graders

All will attend these classes to prepare for these sacraments in addition to their Sunday religious education class.

Materials are used in 2nd-5th English from Dynamic Catholic's **Blessed** Program

Materials are used in 2nd-5th Spanish from RCL Benziger: **Reconciliación y Eucaristía**

Materials are used in 6th-7th English and Spanish from RCL Benziger: **Nuestra Herencia Católica**

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 PM - - September through May

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for 8th through 12th graders (Older Sacraments Class)

Will attend a religious education class on Sunday to prepare to receive these sacraments

Bilingual Materials used **Nuestra Herencia Católica** by RCL Benziger

If your child (7 years or older) has *not been baptized* please contact Lorena Rodriguez: 435-752-1748 ext 104 to be enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC). RCIC is a two-year process.

Confirmation for 8th through 12th graders

Materials used **Decision Point** by Dynamic Catholic

Mondays 6:00-8:00PM - - September through May

NEED A NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REVISED – TRANSLATION FOR CLASS



Expectations for Parents and the Parish

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: "We do."

We are here to help you keep the promise you made at your child's baptism. We want to support you in teaching your child the Catholic faith according to the Church's teachings and wisdom in the Catechism of the Catholic Church by providing catechists, space and safety for children of all ages.

We expect you, as parents, to help us help you by:

- bringing your children to Sunday Mass each week and on Holy Days of Obligation
- bringing your children to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for healing and forgiveness
- praying the basic Catholic Prayers at home together
- fostering your own understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith
- bringing your child to classes faithfully and on-time
- attending all mandatory parent meetings
- helping your child remember their textbooks for every class
- helping your child fulfill the requirements and any assignments
- helping your child turn in any assignments and forms when they are due
- supporting the **NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED** policy in classes
- informing us of any phone or address changes immediately
- volunteering for at least one activity (see list under Volunteers)
- respecting our pastor, catechists, coordinators, administration, rules, building and property

Parents must sign and date the Religious Education Parent Commitment Form.

Attendance Policy

Effective religious education requires faithful attendance.

Absences

Parents must inform the Religious Education Coordinator of an upcoming absence or sickness by calling or emailing or leaving a signed and dated note.

All absences must be made up by the student by completing the work assigned by the catechists.

In the event of four(4) absences(excused or unexcused) in a school year, the Religious Education Office will contact the parents of the student in question to determine whether their student will be allowed to continue their religious education class and may be reason to postpone any Sacraments until the following year.

Being late to class is a distraction and disrupts the class. Any student 5 minutes late or more will be counted as tardy. Two tardies will be marked as an absence!



Cancellation

Due to inclement weather we reserve the right to cancel classes. If the Cache County/Logan City school districts have cancelled classes there will be NO Religious Education classes. Please visit the website (stthomaslogan.org) to verify.

Safety

In order to create a safe environment, St. Thomas Aquinas Religious Education will follow policies and procedures set forth by the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

Drop off and Pick up

Students are expected to be taken to and from classrooms by their parents or by another authorized adult. **No children are to be left unsupervised at any time.**

Children will only be released to their parent or other authorized adult.

Parents or other authorized adults must come to the classroom to pick up their child.

Fire and other Disasters

In case of fire, we will meet on the lawn on west side of building. Please pick up your child from the catechist. For all other disasters, such as earthquake, we will also meet on the west side lawn for pickup. If the west lawn is not safe we will go to the North Park Elementary School/LDS church on 800 East

Circle of Grace

We use the Diocesan appointed *Circle of Grace* Curriculum for all students to teach them of their God-given right to be loved and cared for.

Behavior and Discipline

Christian learning takes place in a loving Christian environment. For this reason, the following behaviors, which include but are not limited to those listed below, will not be tolerated by anyone involved in Religious Education activities:

- × blasphemies and other foul language
- × disrespect and disobedience
- × verbal threats and physical violence
- × abuse of age-inappropriate or illegal substances
- × impure language or acts
- × littering, vandalizing or stealing
- × no cell phones during class, if your child brings a phone it will be turned in at the beginning of class and returned at the end

Because of time needed to correct behavior and the disruption caused by the behavior the Coordinator of Religious Education, staff, catechists and volunteers who are responsible for discipline in the absence of parents will take these steps:

- ✘ Misbehaving children will be given a first warning to cease the misbehavior with an explanation of what the child has done.
- ✘ If misbehavior continues the child will be accompanied to the Religious Education Office and their parents will be notified. The parents, catechist and coordinator of Religious Education will meet to discuss disciplinary actions at their earliest convenience.

Dress code

Parents are advised to be aware of what their children wear to all Religious Education activities.

Students should wear clothing that shows reverence and respect for themselves and their Church.

Clothing should be appropriate for Mass because classes often enter the sanctuary or chapel for special activities and prayers.

Sacrament Requirements

*The Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us...They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.
CCC 1131*

Requirements for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

- **Must be baptized**
- **Must be in 2nd through 12th grades**
- **Must attend both SUNDAY and MONDAY/WEDNESDAY classes**
- **Must attend weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation**
- **Must have basic Catholic prayer knowledge**
- **No sponsor is required in the Diocese of Salt Lake City**

Requirements for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- **Must be baptized and have received their First Holy Communion (or enrolled in Older Sacraments Class)**
- **Must be in 8th through 12th grades**
- **Must attend weekly MONDAY classes**
- **Must attend weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation**
- **Must have basic Catholic prayer knowledge**
- **Must participate in at least 15 hours of Community Service**
- **Must choose appropriate Sponsor before October 1st (see Sponsor requirements below)**

Requirements for Confirmation Sponsors set forth by the Bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City

- **Must be 18 years of age or older**
- **Must be a Catholic who has celebrated all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation)**
- **Must be a practicing Catholic who can receive the Eucharist (Communion) at Mass**
- **If married, must be married in the Catholic Church**
- **Must not be immediate family (not parents or siblings)**
- **Must be willing to be involved in entire process and to fulfill the role in a serious and conscientious manner**

Volunteers

Without many volunteers we cannot provide the religious education that your children deserve. Please consider giving your time and talent.

Catechists and catechist aides

Catechists are the main teachers in our program. Catechist aides are assistant teachers in our program. All catechists and catechist aides are volunteers who practice their Catholic faith on a daily basis, which includes attending Mass on Sundays every weekend.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

- Prayer Tester
- First Reconciliation Night of Preparation
- First Communion Night of Preparation
- Child Care
- First Communion Projects
- Parish Prayer Sponsors for First Communion and Confirmation
- May Crowning
- Last Supper Actor
- Sponsor Class Help
- Confirmation Retreat
- Service Projects
- Office Help
- Registration Help
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Every volunteer with direct contact with children in our program must complete a background check and comply with the Safe Environment Online Training requirements of the Diocese of Salt Lake City.



Registration and Fees

Registration for Religious Education Classes will be held the first weekend of May and then by appointment the following week.

For an appointment, call 435-752-1478 ext 106 for Linda Diaz or Nicole Held.

You **MUST bring a copy of your child's Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate to register.**

Registration will not be complete until Parents and Students sign a Religious Education Commitment Form.

Fees

\$30 per class + \$8 for (Bible in English) + \$20 for (Bible in Spanish)

10% discount for multiple classes if paid in full at registration

Late fee of \$10 will be added if payment not received before classes begin in September

Only Check or Cash accepted

No child will be turned away because of cost. Please let us know of any family hardships or need of tuition assistance.

Revised Version: May 5, 2018