Religious Education Handbook (2025-26)

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

725 South 250 East

Hyde Park, Utah 84318

Parish Office: 435-752-1478

Religious Education Directors: 435-752-1478 ext. 106 or 109

OCIA Director for Adults : 505-463-0591

Website: [www.stthomaslogan.org](http://www.stthomaslogan.org/)

Email: sta.religioused106@gmail.com

# Religious Education Office Hours

**September –May**

*Mondays - Thursdays: 9:00AM - 5:00PM*

*Fridays: 9:00AM – 12 noon*

*Saturdays: Closed*

*Sundays: 8:30AM - 4:00PM only while classes are session*

**June-September**

*Mondays - Thursdays: 9:00AM - 5:00PM*

*Fridays: 9:00AM – 12 noon*

# Class Times (September - May)

***Grade Level Catechesis - K, 1st grade & Post Communion 4th-6th grade 8:45AM-9:45AM*** *in* ***ENGLISH***  *or*

***Catequesis al Nivel del Grado - Kinder y 1er grado, Post Comunión 4to -6to grado 2:15PM-3:15PM in SPANISH***

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***11:15AM - 12:45PM******Rotating Sundays –1st YEAR Sacrament Prep***

***1st YR******First Reconciliation/Communion 2nd - 11th grade / 1st YR******Confirmation 7th – 11th grade***

***2:15PM - 3:45PM******Rotating Sundays –2nd YEAR Sacrament Prep***

***2nd YR******First Reconciliation/First Communion 3rd -12th grade / 2nd YR Confirmation 8th – 12th grade***

**Mass Times↓↓ Confession Times↓↓**

***Saturdays ↓ Wednesdays ↓***

*5:00PM in English and 7:00PM in Spanish at Saint Thomas Aquinas 6:00PM-6:45PM*

***Sundays ↓ Saturdays*** ***↓***

*10:00AM in English and 1:00PM in Spanish at Saint Thomas Aquinas 6:00PM-6:45PM*

***Sundays ↓*** ***Confessions at St Jerome: ↓***

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

# Grade-Level Catechesis Classes

**Weekly Religious Education classes for children, K/1st grade &**

**Post Communion 4th-6th grade**

**Sundays 8:45AM-9:45AM in English / 2:15PM-3:15PM in Spanish**

**Kindergarten, 1st & Post Communion 4th grade - 6th Grade**

**Offered in English or Spanish**

**Bilingual materials are used for** *grades K- 6th**Bendecidos* *from RCL Benziger*

**Classes run Fall to Spring**

**Parents will provide BIBLE for each child enrolled**

(PREFFERED: NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REVISED TRANSLATION)

OCIA CLASSES for ADULTS



**OCIA DIRECTOR: Jamie Morely 505-463-0591 jmorely@ecsresults.com** or the Religious Education Office 435-752-1748 ext 106 to be enrolled in the ***Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)***.

# Is Your Child Ready???

Read through this list of Sacramental Classes readiness indicators before enrolling your child.

**Readiness Indicators for FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION:**

* Family is attending Mass at this parish
* There are religious symbols in the (crucifix, saint statutes…)
* There is prayer in the home (meal, night, morning…)
* Child realizes they will enter a process where they will receive Jesus
* Child has been enrolled in prior Religious Education Classes
* Child is aware of a few Bible stories (family reads Scripture)
* Child has knowledge of basic prayers and Catholic teachings

**Readiness Indicators for CONFIRMATION:**

* Candidate attends Mass regularly in this parish
* Has received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Eucharist
* There are religious symbols in the home (crucifix, saint statue…)
* There is prayer in the home (mealtime, evening prayer, morning prayer..)
* Candidate realizes he/she will enter a process where he/she will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
* Candidate has attended prior Religious Education Classes
* Candidate and parents realize they will be dedicating time to serving within the parish and community at large
* *Candidate and parents have experienced a family or youth retreat* *& will attend scheduled retreats as offered during the sacrament preparation process of their child*
* Candidate and parents have a prayer life and are acquainted with Scripture & have knowledge of basic prayers and Catholic teachings
* Candidate has a sincere desire to be confirmed
* *Candidate and parents understand the importance of confirmation candidates’ sponsor meeting all requirements and involvement*

# Sacrament Classes

Sacramental Classes are for all **baptized** children grades 2nd through 12th, 2 year preparation

## First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for 2nd through 12th grade

* Class on Rotating Sundays**,** **1st YEAR 11:15AM** **- 12:45 PM** or **2nd YEAR 2:15PM – 3:45 PM** Fall through Spring for 2 years
* Attend Mandatory Parent Meetings
* *Student and/or parents will attend scheduled retreats as offered during the sacrament preparation process of their child*
* **1st** **Year** and **2nd Year** Materials: Diocesan approved liturgical based curriculum for all grades
	+ Bilingual – English/Spanish from RCL Benziger: ***Reconciliación*** y ***Eucaristía*** for 2nd-5th grades
	+ Bilingual – English/Spanish from RCL Benziger:  ***Faith Fusion/ Fusión en la Fe*** for 6th-12th grades
* \* ALL STUDENTS NEED A NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REVISED – TRANSLATION FOR CLASS\*

## Confirmation for 7th through 12th grade

* Class on Rotating Sundays, **1st YEAR 11:15AM** **- 12:45 PM** or **2nd YEAR 2:15PM – 3:45 PM** Fall through Spring for 2 years
* Mandatory Parent Meetings
* *Candidate and parents will attend scheduled retreats as offered during the sacrament preparation process of their child*
* **1st Year** Materials: Diocesan approved comprehensive, liturgical based curriculum
* **2nd Year** Materials: Diocesan approved comprehensive, Sacramental Prep Curriculum
* \* ALL STUDENTS NEED A NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REVISED – TRANSLATION FOR CLASS\*



# 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 SCHEDULED classes
* Must attend weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
* Must have basic Catholic prayer knowledge
* ***Student and/or parents will attend meetings and scheduled retreats as offered during the sacrament preparation process of their child***
* *No sponsor*is required in the Diocese of Salt Lake City
* This is a 2-yr Process

## 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 7th through 12th grades
* Must attend weekly SCHEDULED classes
* Must attend weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation
* Must have basic Catholic prayer knowledge
* ***Candidate and parents will attend meetings and scheduled retreats as offered during the sacrament preparation process of their child***
* Must participate in at least 30 hours of Community Service
* Choose a Catholic, Confirmation Saint Name
* *Must choose appropriate Sponsor* within Deadline (see Sponsor requirements below)
* This a 2-yr Process

## 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

# 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 and accept what you are undertaking?**

Parents: **“I understand my commitment and what I am**  **undertaking as his/her parent/guardian.”**

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:

* attending general parent orientation meeting in Fall
* bringing your children to Sunday Mass each week and on Holy Days of Obligation
* bringing your children to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for healing, pardon, and peace
* praying and learning the basic Catholic Prayers and Practices **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/student meetings, retreats, and classes
* checking website under Religious Education tab for updates
* helping your child remember their textbooks and materials 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 home address and email changes***

 ***immediately***

* volunteering for at least one activity (see list under Volunteers)
* respecting our pastor, catechists, directors, administration, rules, building and

 property

# Attendance Policy

Effective religious education requires faithful attendance.

## Absences

Parents must inform the Religious Education Director 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 **multiple absences** (excused or unexcused) in a sacramental prep 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 15 minutes late or more will be counted as tardy and sent to director’s office. Two tardies will be marked as an absence!

## Image result for attendance

## Cancellation

Due to inclement weather, we reserve the right to cancel classes. PLEASE, CHECK YOUR EMAIL and Church’s Website ON A REGULAR BASIS.

# 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

* 1. 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. (Curriculum is provided by Diocese.)

## 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 Director 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 director 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.**

# Volunteers

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

## Catechists and catechist assistants

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

## Other Volunteer Opportunities

* Prayer Tester for: First Reconciliation/Communion OR Confirmation
* First Communion Projects
* May Crowning Celebration
* Circle of Grace Grade Level Retreat - Saturday
* Confirmation Retreat - Saturday
* Service Projects
* Office Help
* Registration Help
* Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Saturday or Sunday

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

435-752-1478 ext 106 for Linda Diaz or Nicole Held ext.109

You **MUST** bring full PAYMENT and copies of your child’s Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate to register.

***REGISTRATION WILL BE COMPLETE ONCE ALL DOCUMENTS AND PAYMENT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.***

## Fees

$30 per child **GRADE LEVEL CATECHESIS** Kindergarten, 1st (early catechesis) – 4th - 6th grade (post communion)

$100 per child **FIRST RECONCILIATION/COMMUNION** 2nd – 12th grades

$100 per child **CONFIRMATION** 7th – 12th grades

***Late fee of $10/class PER EACH CHILD will be*** ***added if payment is not received before classes begin in September.***

Check or Cash preferred. Thank you!

No child will be turned away because of cost. Please let us know of any family hardships or need of tuition assistance. Speak directly with a director about this.

**FEE PER STUDENT/PER CLASS**

 **$30.00 / K – 6th GRADE LEVEL CATECHESIS 1yr**

**$100.00 /Rec/Com Sacrament Prep Classes 2yrs**

**$100.00 /Confirmation Sacrament Prep Classes 2yrs**

Revised Version: July 21, 2025