



The Church of
St. Catherine of Siena
P.O. Box 250
220 Church St.
Moscow, PA 18444



**St. Catherine of Siena
Religious Education Program**

Parent Responsibilities

Parents are expected to bring children, Grade 1 and above, to Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation.

Parents are to ensure that their children attend all scheduled classes, practices and their Class Mass. It is expected that the students will miss no more than 3 classes per year.

Parents are responsible for calling (or email) the Rel. Ed. Office to report absences.

Parents need to send a signed note to class if their child needs to leave early.

Parents must supply an emergency contact phone number that pertains to the time of their child's class.

Parents need to make the Director aware if your child has a learning disability or recurring medical issues, prior to the start of the school year.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to show respect to their teachers and classmates by their words and actions.

Students are expected to obey their teacher's directions and work without excessive noise or distracting behavior.

Students are expected to take care of all church property while attending class.

Children who are having a hard time maintaining these standards will first receive a verbal reprimand from the classroom teacher. Repeated occasions will result in a conference with the Director. If a change in behavior is not achieved, the parents will be asked to accompany their child to class, to help ensure proper behavior.

Cancellations

Classes may be canceled due to inclement weather. If weather is a concern, please call 848-1258 ext 2 or check the website

northpoconocatholic.com for an announcement.

Important Information

Children should not miss more than 3 classes in one year. Discussion and relationship building are an integral part of classes. Excessive absences interrupt the flow of information and faith development necessary for the proper reception of the sacraments. All class work missed due to absence must be completed at home for proper credit to be given for the year.

Children who are retained in their present grade by their school, may need to wait a year in their process of preparing for the reception of sacraments. Please phone the Religious Education Office if you wish to discuss this with the Director.

848-1258 ext. 2

Parents are strongly urged to attend all scheduled parent meetings. These meetings are an important way to receive information and a good forum to ask questions. While much of the information is sent home via handouts, a lot of helpful information is exchanged verbally during parent meetings.

Safety

Classes held in Kelly Hall are dismissed onto the sidewalk/foyer area. Parents are asked to park in the parking lot or drive slowly around the circle to pick up their child. Our goal is your child's safety combined with the efficient movement of cars, so as to avoid traffic congestion on Church Street.

As directed by the Moscow Police, parents that are “driving through” to pick up their child, must not stop for a prolonged period. If your child's class has not yet dismissed you may park in the lot or continue in the flow of cars around to Church Street again. This pattern, if done consistently, will decrease traffic congestion on Church Street.

Dismissal of classes from the Carriage House will be conducted in the same manner. The children will gather in the area between the Carriage House and Rectory. Some parents may park and wait for their child, while others may drive through to pick up their child.

St. Catherine of Siena Religious Education Program Mission Statement

Our mission is to proclaim the Good News of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ and to work toward the ongoing Christian formation of our community members. Through our ministry we will work to build a community of true believers who are willing to be of service to others and are eager to share the joy of God's love.

Religious Education Staff

Rev. Robert J. Simon

Pastor

Sandra Czyzyk

Director of
Religious Education

Religious Education Office

phone

848-1258 ext. 2

email address

religious-ed@northpoconocatholic.com

Information, forms, schedules and class cancellations,

can be found on St. Catherine's website

northpoconocatholic.com

The Sacrament of Confirmation

This sacrament is administered by the Bishop during your child's year in the Confirmation II class.(8th grade) The Mass for Confirmation takes place here at St. Catherine's Church. The Diocese assigns our parish a date for the ceremony, which is usually in April or May. Diocesan policy stipulates that children who desire to enroll in the Confirmation I class can provide documentation of recent years of study in a parish/Catholic School Religious Education Program and weekly Mass attendance.

Children are expected to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation shortly before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please refer to the bulletin for regularly scheduled hours for confessions.

Father Simon will conduct interviews with each Confirmation I and II student. Scheduling information will be sent home from class.

Confirmation I and II students also attend a Day of Renewal. (CI in the fall, CII in the spring)

Further information regarding all of these topics, is provided at parent meetings and through communications from the teachers throughout the year.

Admission/Registration

Children of families that are registered with the parish are admitted to the Religious Education Program. A letter of invitation is mailed home in August to parents of children entering Kindergarten and First Grade. The mailing list is generated according to birth dates given at the time the family registers with the parish and from our Baptismal records. Kindergarten and First Grade children and their parents attend a registration meeting in September. After one year of attendance, registration materials are automatically mailed home each year.

New parishioners registering with older children, can complete a Religious Education Registration Form at the Parish Office when they register as parishioners.

Diocesan policy requires that children receive two years of instruction prior to the reception of the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Therefore children must complete the year of instruction in Eucharist I before entering the sacramental year of Eucharist II. Likewise, a year of instruction in Confirmation I must be completed before moving on to the sacramental year of Confirmation II.

Admissions of Students with Disabilities

As part of the Welcoming Church at St. Catherine's, our Religious Education Program does not discriminate on the basis of disability and operates within the following guidelines:

Children who are identified with special needs by their parents will be accommodated to participate in religious education formation in a model that best suits their needs and abilities. This will be determined after a conference with the pastor, director and parents.

Please phone the Religious Education Office if you desire a conference with the Director and Father Simon.

(848-1258 ext. 2)

The RCIC Program

Children in grades 3 through 8 who have not received the sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and/or Eucharist may begin their preparation by enrolling in the

Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. (RCIC)

This is a two year process involving attendance of the regularly scheduled Religious Education classes alternating with small group classes that concentrate on the needed sacramental information. The small group classes, i.e. RCIC classes, meet Sunday mornings at 10-11am.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Expectant parents need to attend a Baptismal Class near the birth of their child. Baptisms can be scheduled by calling the Parish Office. 842-4561 Information regarding Baptism can also be found in the church bulletin.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Penance

First Confession

Children receive this sacrament during their year in the Eucharist II class.(2nd grade) The First Penance ceremony takes place on a Saturday in December or January. Parents and families are invited to attend. Further information is provided at parent meetings and through communications from the teachers throughout the year.

The Sacrament of First Eucharist

First Holy Communion

Children receive this sacrament during their year in the Eucharist II class.(2nd grade) The Mass for First Holy Communion takes place on a Saturday in late April or early May. Frequently, large classes are divided into two separate ceremonies. This means that some of the children receive First Holy Communion on one Saturday and the other children receive First Holy Communion two weeks later, on a Saturday.

Children are expected to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, again, shortly before receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Please refer to the bulletin for regularly scheduled hours for confessions.

Families of Eucharist II students also attend the First Penance Ceremony in December and a Retreat Day in April.

Further information regarding all of these topics, is provided at parent meetings and through communications from the teachers throughout the year.

Program Fees

Kindergarten through Grade 6 \$20

Confirmation I & II (7th & 8th grade) \$35

Payment is due on the first day of class along with a completed registration form. Families with more than three children enrolled need only pay for three children. Inability to pay need not deter parents from registering their children. Please contact Father Simon if the program fee presents a hardship.

Schedule

Our Religious Education Program runs from September through April. The May Crowning, held the first Sunday in May, is the final class. Classes meet according to the following schedule:

Kindergarten children attend 9am Mass on scheduled Sundays with their family. Shortly after Mass begins, they are escorted by a teacher, to class downstairs. Parents pick up their children when Mass has ended.

Children in **grades 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5** attend class on Sunday mornings 10 – 11am.

Grades 1-4 in Kelly Hall 5th grade in the Carriage House.

Grades 6, 7, and 8 attend class on Sunday evenings
6:30-8pm.

Grades 6-7 in Kelly Hall 8th grade in the Carriage House.

**A current schedule of classes
and various announcements
are printed in the bulletin each week**

Schedules and cancellations can be viewed at
northpoconocatholic.com

Religious Education Curriculum

Our program uses textbooks, worksheets, videos, seasonal projects, and a variety of hands-on activities to create a child centered learning atmosphere. Children in Eucharist II, Confirmation I and II participate in a Day of Renewal. Children in grades 3 through 6 participate in a Class Mass, at which, children volunteer to fulfill the duties of various ministries, learning the value of participation in Mass.

Studies

Kindergarten: God as Creator

Eucharist I: God our Father; Jesus; The Holy Family;
The Church

Eucharist II: The Sacraments of First Penance and
First Holy Communion

Grade 3: The Church; The Holy Trinity

Grade 4: The Ten Commandments

Grade 5: The Sacraments

Grade 6: The Old Testament

Confirmation I: Jesus Christ, Divine Law of Love

Confirmation II: The Sacrament of Confirmation

Children Attending Catholic Schools

Children who attend Catholic School are welcome, but not required, to attend Religious Education classes here at

St. Catherine's. However, in preparation for reception of the sacraments of First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation, children must attend all scheduled practices leading up to the ceremony.

Mass Sign In

In order to stress regular Mass attendance as the very center of our Religious Education Program, we have a Mass Sign-In Policy for the children of our parish. Children in grades 1 through 8 sign their name in the book for their grade level each time they are at Mass. These books are located in the back of the church. If Mass is attended at another church due to vacations etc, children need to bring in a bulletin signed by the priest who celebrated Mass. This bulletin may be handed in at Rel. Ed. classes or it may be inserted in the sign-in book the following week. Parents may initial near their child's name to indicate absence due to illness. Remembering the concept that Mass is the primary form of Catechesis, that is, Catholic education, poor Mass attendance may prevent a child from receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

Guidelines for proper reception of Communion:

Fast from food and drink for one hour before receiving Communion. Water and medicine may be taken as needed.

Be free from mortal sin. (knowingly breaking a Commandment)

Ongoing reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of your child's faith formation. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to confession on a regular basis. In addition to the regularly scheduled confessions on Saturday afternoons, our parish also offers Advent and Lenten Penance Services. During their Religious Education Classes, students will practice the prayers and receive instruction to help them make good confessions.

Making reconciliation a part of your child's Catholic experience will emphasize the importance of meeting Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion. Truly present is His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.