

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

2023-2024

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.

The safety and security of our children is our primary concern. We actively follow State Guidelines in requiring all catechists/volunteers in our program (of age) to submit to Criminal Background Checks, Child Abuse Clearances, Mandated Reporter Training and ongoing Virtus training.

We have a zero-tolerance policy on abuse. We immediately notify law enforcement of all allegations of abuse and contact PA Childline 1-800-932-0313.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Rev. Thomas M. Muldowney, *Pastor*

Sandra Czyzyk, *Director of Religious Education*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone: (570) 848-1258, ext. 2

Email: religious-ed@northpoconocatholic.com

Website: www.northpoconocatholic.com

*Parents are also encouraged to download
the **REMIND** app*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Our program uses textbooks, E-Books, worksheets, movies, seasonal projects, and a variety of hands-on activities to create a child-centered learning atmosphere. Children in Eucharist II, Confirmation I and II will participate in a Day of Renewal. All grades will participate in a Class Mass.

CURRICULUM THEMES*:

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

Each Grade's curriculum is designed to build upon earlier concepts taught. Consistent attendance at class, at each level, is important for the sequential development of Prayer, Understanding of the Mass and Sacramental Liturgies, Moral Development, a Sense of Belonging to the Church Community and Social Responsibility.

*Every year the Diocese of Scranton requires each Religious Education Program to implement **one Lesson** from the **Safe Environment Program**, designed to help children identify an awareness of in-person and online behaviors that may lead to abuse.

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 should attend all scheduled practices and retreats leading up to the ceremony.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING SUNDAY MASS

Weekly attendance at Mass is not only a requirement of the program but is one of **our Ten Commandments and Precepts of the Church**. Each week, as part of their lesson, students reflect on a message from the gospel that relates to their lives.

"In the Eucharist, the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body. The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer and work are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, acquiring new value today." (No.1368 CCC)

The Mass schedule is as follows:

- **Saturday** **5:00 PM**
- **Sunday** **9:00 AM & 11:30 AM**

Technology has provided us with a viable avenue to experience the Parish weekend Liturgy in our homes on the Parish website. This is a safe and reliable option when one is sick or traveling. However, the priority should always be to celebrate with our parish community.

PROGRAM FEES

Kindergarten/Liturgy of the Word	\$10.00
Grades 1-6	\$35.00
Confirmation I & II (7 th & 8 th Grade)	\$45.00

Payment, along with a completed registration form, is due on the first day of class. Alternatively, all forms and payments can be completed online prior to the first day of class. 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 Muldowney if the program fee presents a hardship.

CLASS TIMES

Kindergarten Liturgy of the Word :	Sundays during 9 :00 AM Mass
Grades 1-5:	Sunday morning 10:00-11:00 AM
Grades 6-8	Sunday evenings 7:00-8 :00 PM

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

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Grades 1-4: Classes meet in Church Hall.

DROP OFF: Children can be dropped off at the back of the church **no earlier than 9:50 AM.**

***PICKUP:** *This is a change to the former system that was in place prior to Covid*

Parents will park their cars in either Church parking lot and walk into the Church to pick up their children no earlier than 10:55 AM. Parents will walk to each grade (children will be seated in the church and grouped by grade) to get their child/children after being identified by a teacher or aide.

Grade 5: Classes meet in the Carriage House

DROP OFF: **Grade 5 only** can be dropped off and picked up at the Carriage House. **Grade 5 students with siblings** will be walked across Church Street to wait in the Church with other Grade 5 students for their parents to get them.

Grades 6 &7: Classes meet in Church Hall.

DROP OFF AND PICKUP: Children will enter and exit at the back door. At dismissal, cars will form a wide circle in Back Parking Lot as students are dismissed and walk to their cars.

Grade 8: Classes meet in the Carriage House

DROP OFF AND PICK UP: **Grade 8 Only** students will be dropped off and picked up at the Carriage House. **Grade 8 students with siblings can be dropped off together** with siblings at Back Parking Lot and picked up there together at 8 PM.

At all times, please be conscious of NOT backing up traffic on Church St. Thank you!

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Parents/Guardians are expected to ensure that their children attend all scheduled classes, practices, and their Class Mass. Children should not miss more than 3 classes per year. All work missed can be completed at home and turned into their catechist.
- Please call the Religious Education Office at 570-848-1258 or use REMIND to report absences or illness. Communication is imperative when a child needs to be dismissed early or picked up by another person.
- Parents/Guardians are to provide the means for children to attend weekly Mass in their parish community or an alternative location (see ***masstimes.org*** for Catholic church locations and times when traveling).
- Please keep your child home if they are ill or have cold or flu-like symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID. If your child appears at class wearing a mask, that will be respected and supported.

CANCELLATIONS

When dangerous weather is a concern, a message will be sent out on REMIND, announced on the parish website (www.northpoconocatholic.com) and Facebook. Always consider safety before venturing out during inclement weather.

Students will be sent an alternative assignment by REMIND or email from their catechists.

**Schedules and cancellations can be viewed at
www.northpoconocatholic.com & Remind**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

If your child has missed the sacrament of Baptism, please contact the DRE, Ms. Czyzyk. If your child was baptized in another parish please provide a copy of their Baptismal certificate to their teacher on the firstday of class.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

First Penance/First Confession

The children receive this sacrament in Grade 2 (Eucharist II) on December 2 at 10:00am. Early formation for this sacrament begins in Grade 1. Completing Grade 1 is a prerequisite to Grade 2. It is also expected that all children will experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation again, either on Saturdays (4:00 to 4:15pm) or during parish Advent/Lenten Penance Services.

THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST

First Holy Communion

The mass for First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday May 5th at 10:00am. It is expected that the child preparing attends classes regularly, the First Eucharist Retreat (March 16) and practices during class.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th by our pastor, Fr. Muldowney at St. Catherine's Parish at 2:00pm. Diocesan Policy requires that the student preparing for this sacrament has already gained the wisdom and experience of the early grades of formation. Most especially that the student has attended Confirmation I (Grade 7) which is an introduction to the more immediate preparation of deciding on a Name, Sponsor and completion of Service Hours in the parish, home and community.

THE RCIA FOR CHILDREN

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. This is a 2-year process involving regular attendance at Religious Education classes alternating with small group classes that concentrate on faith development and a basic understanding of the sacraments.

WELCOMING CHURCH

Children who are identified with special needs and abilities will be accommodated to participate in faith formation in a model that best suits their needs. This will be determined after a conference with the parents and Sandra Czyzyk, DRE.



Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:13-14