



Religious Education Program Information 2023-2024

Contact Information

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WELCOME to the St. Dunstan Religious Education Program!!!

Registration is Now Open for School Year 2023-2024

Please register online using this link:

<https://forms.gle/fDTUfWccRsmURb2z6>

Classes are on Tuesdays, **starting on August 22, 2023, through May 14, 2024**. Classes will be held **in person**, conforming to the mandatory Safety requirements of the civil authority as well as of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Class Schedule:

Classes are held **Tuesdays** with the following grade level schedule:

- Grade 1 – 4:00-5:15pm -- Catechist Maria Soberano
- Grade 2 – 5:30-6:45pm -- Catechist Tatyana Larson
- 2nd Year Catechism (older kids) -- 6:45-8:00pm -- Catechist Tatyana Larson

- Grade 3 – 5:30-6:45pm – Catechist Vicky Clemente
- Grade 4 – 5:30-6:45pm – Catechist Maria Bonavia
- Grade 5 – 5:30-6:45pm – Catechist Luis J. Aragon
- Grade 6/Pre-Confirmation -- 5:30-6:45pm -- Catechist Terri Cuellar
- Confirmation I – 7:00-8:30pm -- Catechists Marvin Laubacher and Delenne Franco
- Confirmation II – Fridays 5:30-7:00pm – Catechists Karen and Gianluca Bettucchi

First year Catechism for their first-year preparation for First Holy Communion and are in 1st and 2nd Grade regular school should register for Grade 1 Religious Ed class.

First year Catechism in preparation for First Holy Communion for students in 3rd Grade and above, PLEASE contact the RE Office to know what level to register in.

Second year Catechism in preparation for First Holy Communion for students 4th Gr & above, second year preparation for First Holy Communion should register for 2nd Year Catechism (older kids) class.

All students who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend the Pre-Confirmation class before attending Confirmation I and II classes. This pre-requisite class introduces the student to the Catholic Holy Bible and our faith history. Students in this class will receive their own personal bible from St. Dunstan Parish.

Please contact the Office of Religious Education if you need help in figuring out which level your child should be registered in, especially if your child was not enrolled last year.

Attendance Policy

We only meet once a week, and each class leads to the next. When you register your child for Religious Education, it is understood that coming to class on time and your child's attendance at every class is a priority for your family. We understand however that there are circumstances beyond your control, such as the child being sick.

- In case your child will have to be absent from class, you are **required to send an email or text message to the CRE and let us know why your child will be absent. Notify us at least 2 hours before your class time**.
- A maximum of three absences will be tolerated, after which: (1) additional work will be required from the student which will need parent supervision, and (2) an in-person meeting with the student and the parents, with the Coordinator of Religious Ed and/or the pastor.

Expectation from Parents

1. **The Orientation meeting for Parents in Grades 1-6 is on the first day of Religious Ed, 8/22/2023**, during your child's scheduled time of class. Students will go to class in the classroom while parents have orientation at the Parish Center. This meeting is mandatory.
2. As the primary teachers and leaders of the faith for your family, you have the opportunity to continuously grow and learn more about your own personal faith. The Catechists and I are here to honor that and to collaborate with you to guide your children in their life-long faith journey. We encourage parents to be **ACTIVELY** involved in their children's Religious Education.
3. Your family must be registered as parishioner at a Catholic Church.
4. Sunday mass in person as a family consistently every Sunday should be a family priority because this is when we worship God as a community – **Remember to Keep Holy the Lord's Day**. The mass is our highest form of prayer.
5. Read email announcements from our office and respond promptly when needed.
6. Talk to your children about what was discussed after every class. Ask what was discussed, what was interesting and what new things they learned or experienced in class. Find out if they have any questions.
7. Email us to provide us with feedback, questions and/or concerns. We love to hear from you.
8. Join us during class masses and other events. The RE (Religious Ed) class calendar specifies the dates for your child's class mass – scheduled on a Tuesday, at 5:00pm at St. Dunstan Church. There are three weekday class masses for the entire school year. We ask that the student and family attend these three class masses. We will reserve pews in front for you (sit with your student). Class masses will not take the place of their classes. The students will still have to go to class at their regular class time.
9. In addition to the weekday scheduled class masses, we will also schedule Sunday class masses once a month. We hope that your entire family can join us during your assigned Sunday mass schedule. We will provide you with the schedule of these Sunday class masses.
10. Reconciliation Services (confession) are scheduled for the students of Religious Education. Your family is always welcome to join and receive this sacrament.
11. Parents of students preparing for Sacraments (First Holy Communion and Confirmation) are required to attend retreats and meetings throughout the year. You are expected to be more involved as your child prepares for their sacrament.
12. We need adult helpers as volunteers for the RE program to work properly throughout the year. We hope that as parents you will be part of this. See HELP NEEDED section below.

Help Needed in This Ministry

Do you want to serve the children/youth of our parish community, the future of our Church? Is faith important enough that you want to have the opportunity to share your faith, time, and talent? We need volunteers to keep this ministry fruitful.

- We need **seven adult helpers** who will function as Catechist Aide, during the same time that your child is in class. Simple job – monitor or audit the class you will be assigned to, as part of our safety protocol, and help the Catechist in the classroom as needed. No experience required.
- We need help with office work – data entry, filing, organizing. Time is flexible, depending on the availability of the volunteer.
- We need adult volunteers to help with Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry meetings are on Sundays, following the 10am mass, from 11am-12:30pm.

This is a great ministry that allows you to live out Christ's mission to spread His teachings and be a good role model to your child and the community. No experience is required; we will provide the training. All adult volunteers interacting with children are required to take LiveScan fingerprinting and complete VIRTUS classes for adults for the protection of the children – as required by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Please, prayerfully consider if you hear the calling from the Holy Spirit.

Contact Cecille Toy as soon as possible, by email at CRE@st-dunstan.org.

Ways to Foster and Strengthen Faith in the Family

- Family prayers – before/after meals; rosary; novenas; bedtime prayers; praise, thanksgiving, petitions, intercessory prayers together as a family.
- Sacred space at home – create an altar table where you can display the Catholic Holy Bible, the crucifix, your family picture, and other religious articles.
- Daily blessing for individual children – blessing each child before they leave your home for school, lay your hand on top of their head, or sign of the cross on their forehead, as you ask God to bless them and guide their path.

- Read the **Catholic Bible** – this is good habit to make for you as an individual, and for your family. The best way to prepare yourselves for the Sacred Sunday Mass is to read all the readings ahead of time. Go to <https://bible.usccb.org/> to get the readings for the mass. It is good to reflect on the readings prior to Sunday mass. Every Catholic home should have a Catholic Bible. If you do not have one, I urge you to get one as soon as possible. The Bible is how God speaks to us and guides us. If you have young children, in addition to your family Bible, it will be good to have a Catholic Children’s Bible that is filled with pictures to show your children as you read them bible stories.

Registration

Welcome and thank you for enrolling your child/children in our Religious Education Program. Registration is done online, using this link: <https://forms.gle/fDTUfWccRsmURb2z6>
If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Religious Education: CRE@st-dunstan.org
Students meet in the St. Dunstan School Classrooms.

VIRTUS

The office of Religious Ed will be conducting a special VIRTUS class: **Teaching Safety -- Empowering God's Children**

We are holding this special class in compliance with the requirements of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. All parishes with Religious Education classes and all Catholic Schools in Grades K-12 within the Archdiocese of San Francisco, are required to provide this class during the school year, every year. This class will be scheduled during regular class time. A notice will be sent to you ahead of time.

Communication:

The Email system is the primary means of communication between the Office of Religious Education and parents. Parents are expected to monitor the parent primary email address that you provided during registration.

You will receive communication from the Office of Religious Education primarily by email, and sometimes by text or phone call. Please consistently monitor all communication and announcements. Add this email address to your contact list to avoid missing any information, requirements, and deadlines: CRE@st-dunstan.org

As parents, you are expected to pass on any information that your child needs to know.

You are required to notify the Office of Religious Education of any change of email address, home address or telephone number (work, home, or cell) immediately so that we can update your contact information. This is necessary especially in the event of an emergency.

Certificate of Sacraments Required

Your child needs to be baptized at a Catholic Church and we need to have a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate. If your child has not been baptized, please contact us immediately.

If your child has received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, we will need a copy of the Certificate of First Holy Communion.

Sacrament Preparation

First Holy Communion Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is a two-year program. Children must attend and successfully complete either first grade, or first year Religious Education classes to be eligible for 2nd Grade, or 2nd Year Catechism (older kids). The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are celebrated in the Spring of the second year of class.

Confirmation

Our Confirmation Program is a two-year preparation program. Confirmation I (for first year confirmation students) is designed to explore and better understand our Catholic Faith. Students must successfully complete Pre-Confirmation class to be eligible for Confirmation I.

Confirmation II (for second year confirmation students) is designed to finalize the preparation for Confirmation. The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the Spring of Confirmation II.

All students wanting to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, including students who missed certain levels of Catechism (i.e., missing 5th Grade Religious Ed), are required to attend the prerequisite class: Pre-Confirmation or 6th Grade class. The goal is to introduce the student to the Catholic Bible, for them to have a better understanding of the Catholic Faith, and our salvation history.

Please contact the Coordinator for Religious Education for further information.