



Religious Education

Program Information 2026-2027

Contact Information

Cecille S. Toy
Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE)
Email: CRE@st-dunstan.org
Office Tel: [650-697-7451](tel:650-697-7451)

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

Registration is Now Open for School Year 2026-2027

Please register online using this link:

<https://forms.gle/JD2at8ESCawb7cs17>

Classes are on Tuesdays, **starting August 18, 2026, through May 4, 2027 for Grades 1-6, May 11, 2027 for Confirmation classes.** 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 on **Tuesdays** with the following grade level schedule:

- Grade 1 – 4:00-5:15pm -- Catechist Maria Soberano
- Grade 2 – 5:30-6:45pm -- Catechists Tatyana Larson and Caroline Cannizzaro, Sr.
- Year 2 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 Ernestina Dizon
- Grade 5 – 5:30-6:45pm -- Catechist Luis J. Aragon
- Pre-Confirmation/Grade 6 -- 5:30-6:45pm -- Catechist Caroline Cannizzaro Roland
- Confirmation I – 7:00-8:30pm -- Catechists Marvin Laubacher and Marie Santos
- Confirmation II –7:00-8:30pm – Catechists Karen Bettucchi and Natalia Khaw

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 regular school and above, PLEASE contact the RE Office to know what level to register.

Second year Catechism in preparation for First Holy Communion for students in 2nd to 4th Gr, second year preparation for First Holy Communion should register for Grade 2 Religious Ed class.

Second year Catechism in preparation for First Holy Communion for students in 5th Gr & above, second year preparation for First Holy Communion should register for Year 2 Catechism (older kids) class.

All students who would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend the Pre-Confirmation class or 6th Grade 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, 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.

Expectations from Parents

1. This is a Religious Education program and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the pinnacle of our faith. Parents should participate in the Mass with your family regularly, in person, every Sunday. This is when we are nourished by God and when we worship God as a community – ***Remember to Keep Holy the Lord's Day.*** The mass is our highest form of prayer. The classes for your children is no substitute for attending mass.
2. Join us during class masses and other events. The Religious Ed class calendar specifies the dates for your child's class mass. As a family you are asked to attend, with their class. Please note these dates in your calendar. During Tuesday class masses at 5:00pm, we will reserve pews in front of the church for you (sit with your student). Class masses will not take the place of their classes on that day. The students will still have to go to class at their regular class time.
3. In addition to the Tuesday scheduled class masses, we also schedule Sunday family masses once a month. We hope that your entire family can join each month. Your Religious Ed calendar shows when the family masses are.
4. **Parent meeting for All Parents in Grades 1-6 is on the first day of Religious Ed, 8/19/2025**, during your child's scheduled time of class. Bring your students to the parish center and they will be escorted to their classroom while parents have a meeting at the Parish Center. This meeting is mandatory.
5. As the primary teachers and leaders of the faith for your family, you have the task and 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 your children's Religious Education. Talk to your children about what was discussed after each class, what was interesting and what new things they learned or experienced in class. Find out if they have any questions.
6. Your family must be registered as parishioner at a Catholic Church.
7. Read email announcements from our office and respond promptly when needed.
8. Email us to provide us with feedback, questions and/or concerns. We love to hear from you.
9. Reconciliation Services (confession) are scheduled for the students of Religious Education. Your family is always welcome to join and receive this sacrament.
10. 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.
11. 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

We need volunteers to keep this ministry fruitful.

- We need **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 family mass, from 11am-2:00pm.

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.

If interested, 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/skuSuTzwMkUn5tk17>

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 hold 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 sacraments are on 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 Year 2 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 are required to attend the pre-requisite 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 any questions or concerns.