

Belong!

Your Child Belongs in Religious Education

Saint Tarcissus Religious Education

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FIRST SUNDAY MASS

“It’s All About Sunday!”

We are one body, the body of Christ! As part of our effort to involve the RE students and families in all aspects of the parish, we will sponsor five (5) FIRST SUNDAY RE MASSES this year. Most months, on the first Sunday of the month, the families of the RE program will participate together at the First Sunday Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY MASS gives the RE students and families a chance to participate in different liturgical roles at Mass. Students will be given a chance to be readers, ushers, and greeters. Parents and students will both help with hospitality (refreshments in the vestibule after each FSM) and greeting before each FSM. It will give our Students a place to “Do” what we learn in the classroom. The FIRST SUNDAY RE MASSES require participation from our students and their parents.

We track attendance at the FIRST SUNDAY RE MASSES, as this counts toward extra credit for the students. Please check the RE schedule for the list of dates.



Saint Tarcissus Church Religious Education

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A Place to Belong!

July 2019

Welcome to Religious Education at St. Tarcissus Church. Religious Education is a place for children to belong. Each child is important. Each child is a gift from God. Each child “belongs” here in this church. We encourage one another and our children to experience Christ.

As followers of Christ we are called to act. Service is an important part of our religious education experience. We are active members in the mission of the Church. I hope your entire family will grow in faith as we work together in service.

Peace!

Larry Cubalchini
Director of Faith Formation
Saint Tarcissus Church

Religious Education Philosophy – We Learn! We Do!

Religious Education (Catechesis) at St. Tarcissus is a combination of systematic teaching (classes and assignments) with opportunities to put into action (practice the faith) what is learned. Religious education is a partnership between students, parents, and parish catechists with all having vital roles in the process. The goal of religious education is to assist parents in teaching their children to be a new generation of Catholic/Christian Disciples.

Student Expectations

Respect

Every student in the RE program is required to respect other students and adults. Students are also required to respect the property of other students and the parish. Disrespect of any type will lead to discipline up to and including dismissal from the RE program.

Class Attendance Requirements

It is vital that children attend class regularly. Students are only allowed to miss two (2) sessions in any RE year. Students that miss more than two class sessions are required to do extra credit before they are allowed to move ahead to the next grade.

Class Preparedness

Students should come to class each session ready to learn. Being prepared includes having completed any homework assignments (assigned by the Catechist). Students also need to bring to each session any textbooks or Bibles that are used in class.

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in class activities and discussions.

Mass Requirement (Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation)

All RE students must attend Sunday Mass regularly. Students must also attend Mass on Holy Days of Obligation.

Extra Credit Assignments

Students should check with their Catechist about possible extra credit assignments.

Parent and Family Expectations

Parents as Teachers

The first and most important teacher for any child is his or her parents. Parents are also the primary teachers of our Christian Faith. At Baptism, parents make a promise to raise the child in the Catholic Faith. It all starts at home with the parents. Parents need to model the faith to their children.

Family Catechesis

St. Tarcissus RE classes are a blend of traditional classroom experience and family catechesis. Parents of children that are preparing for one of the Sacraments will be required to attend a limited number of Family Sessions. Students in 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th grades, along with their parents, will need to attend family catechesis classes. The Family Sessions are held for 45 minutes on Sunday mornings. Students in these grades will receive a schedule of required Family Sessions at the beginning of the school year.

Family Participation – Family Members are Welcome Here!

We often ask for parent and family participation at Parish or Religious Education events. We welcome extended family members like grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Your friends and family are welcome here.

Practicing Catholics

We encourage you to be active in Parish life here at St. Tarcissus. Children learn their Faith by practicing the Faith at home and in community. Our students have a better understanding of what is taught in class if families are active in the Church.

Sunday Mass Attendance

Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. We strongly encourage families to attend Sunday Mass regularly. There are times during the year we require students to participate in a specific Mass (day, time, and location).

Also see Financial Requirements and Volunteering Requirements

Financial Requirements

Religious Education Tuition

St. Tarcissus charges a small amount of tuition to cover the cost of books and supplies for the RE Program. The tuition also covers the expenses for training our volunteer catechists (teachers). RE Tuition is \$200 for the first child in a family and \$100 for each additional child. Kindergarten is only \$50 per child for the entire year of RE kindergarten. Tuition is to be paid in full at registration, or one-half of the total tuition at enrollment and the balance in January.

Sacrament Fees

There are separate fees that are associated with the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. These fees cover the costs associated with individual sacraments. First Communion Fee is \$100, which is paid in 2nd-grade. The Confirmation Fee is \$150: half paid in 7th-grade and half paid in 8th-grade.

Religious Education Tuition and Sacrament Fees / Rate Card

Religious Education Tuition	
Kindergarten / Each Child	\$50
Grades 1 – 8 / First Child	\$200
Grades 1 – 8 / Each Additional Child	\$100

Sacrament Fees	
First Reconciliation and First Communion Fee / Each Child	\$100

Confirmation Fee Year 1 / 7 th -Grade	\$75
Confirmation Fee Year 2 / 8 th -Grade	\$75

Financial Requirements (Continued)

Save on your RE Tuition

Parents that wish to save money on their RE tuition amount can do so by assisting in the Religious Education program in several ways. One way parents can save is by helping in various parish activities. Please contact the Faith Formation Director if you wish to reduce your RE tuition bill.

Financial Need

A child is never turned away because of financial need. Parents who cannot afford tuition need to talk to the Director of Faith Formation or the Pastor to make arrangements.

Payment Method

St. Tarcissus accepts cash, checks, or credit card as payment for Religious Education Tuition and Sacrament Fees.

Credit Card Payments [Online]

Credit Cards are accepted online through Faith Direct. The Faith Direct Church Code for St. Tarcissus is "IL795."

To pay a RE amount [tuition or sacrament fee]:

1. From the St. Tarcissus website select "Contribute"
2. Right-Click the "Faith Direct" icon
3. Right-click the "Make a One Time Gift Now" button
4. Select "RE Tuition"
5. Complete the information; be sure to include a note as to what you are paying
6. Select "Process Gift Now" once you have entered all the necessary information

Fair Share Requirements (Parent and Family Volunteering)

Parent Volunteers

The Religious Education Program can only operate with the commitment of many parish volunteers. As a church community, we require each family to help with certain volunteer activities. Each of us has gifts and talents that we can and must share with others. Below are the basics of our Volunteer requirements. More information will be attached to the event list which will be available at RE registration.

Fair Share – Parent Volunteer Requirements

Every family is required to assist with three different RE and Parish events. Everyone needs to do their “Fair Share.” Parents are welcome to volunteer for extra events; we have many parents that volunteer throughout the year. We cannot run RE without volunteers.

Buy-Out and Fines

Parents that do not complete the required number of Fair Share Events will be fined on their RE tuition for the next RE year. The fine is \$20 for each event not completed [up to a total of \$60 for the three events].

Families may do a buy-out on their volunteer requirements. The cost to buy-out is \$20 per event [a total of \$60 for all three events].

Fair Share – Signing Up for an Event

Parents will receive a list of volunteer activities during the enrollment process. Parents should sign up for their three events early as shifts are available on a “first-come, first-serve basis.” You may sign up using a paper sign up form during registration. After the RE registration is complete, you will be able to sign up using a website called “Sign Up Genius.”

Sign Up Genius

We will be using the website Sign Up Genius to help us manage our parent volunteers. Sign Up Genius will help us track events and volunteers. We will be able to add new events during the school year, and you will be able to sign up using Sign Up Genius. Sign Up Genius is also able to send reminders to parents about the events they are working. We decided to use Sign Up Genius because many parents are already using this program for other activities at local schools.

Replacement Coverage

Parents must find their own replacement coverage for events that they are signed up for but cannot work. You will receive a tuition fine of \$20 for any event that is not covered.

Rules and Best Practices / Security and Child Safety

Security and Safety

The safety and security of each child are essential. We ask that all parents be active participants in the safety of all the children.

Emergency Contact Cards

Every family must have a new (updated) emergency contact card on file with the RE office every year. It is the parents' responsibility to update the RE Office and Catechist of any changes to the family emergency contact information. Emergency contact cards should contain parent phone numbers (home, work, and cell), and at least one phone number of another nearby family member or neighbor (for emergencies). A student's allergies, medical information, and special needs should also be on the Emergency Contact Card.

Student Special Needs

Please keep the RE Office apprised of any special needs for your child. Special needs would include allergies, medical conditions, and all other special needs that your child may have.

Arriving and Leaving Religious Education

All students arrive and depart from the west doors on Ardmore Ave. of the parish school building. It might be possible that students may be asked to start the day or end the day from the church building; these location changes will be communicated via Flocknote or other method.

Children in Grades Kindergarten through 3 (Leaving)

Children in grades Kindergarten through 3 are released to parents at the exit door (West Door) by their Catechist.

Door Control

There will be a parent volunteer at the arrival door each week of Religious Education to control the door. In the event there is no parent volunteer, the door will be locked. Anyone needing access to the building will need to phone the RE office in the event of a locked door.

Rules and Best Practices / Security and Child Safety

Arriving Late or Leaving Early

Please check-in at the RE Office in the school if your child needs to arrive late or leave early. Children leaving early must be signed out by a parent or guardian.

Sick Calls and Emails

Parents may call the Saturday RE office in the school at 773-775-5061 any time after 7:30 a.m. if your child will be absent from RE. THIS PHONE IS ONLY USED ON RE SATURDAYS. You may also email the Director of Formation at st.tars_rep@yahoo.com to let us know if your child will not be attending class.

Children Leaving Without a Parent

Some older children may walk to and from RE. Please let the RE office know if your child walks to and from RE.

Children Leaving with another Adult

Please notify the RE Office if your child will be leaving with another adult (e.g. a neighbor). We ask that you notify the Director of Formation or your child's Catechist with the information of who will be picking up your child (children).

In Case of an Emergency

Students are to pay close attention to the adults (Catechists and aides) in the event of an emergency. All Catechists will have a communication device to be in communication with the RE office in the event of an emergency.

Building Evacuation Procedure

In the event we need to evacuate the school building, all students are to follow the directions of the Catechists and aides and proceed in an orderly fashion to the assigned meeting spot safely away from the building.

Child Safety

All adults working with children [paid personnel and volunteers] in the Chicago Archdiocese must complete VIRTUS training (Protecting God's Children) and pass a background check. This includes any adult that volunteers in the RE program.

VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children for Adults

The class takes between 2 and 3 hours to complete. RE Parents with children in grades K through 4th must complete the Protecting God's Children Class for Adults, also known as VIRTUS. It can be completed here at St. Tarcissus or at any other location that offers the class.

Rules and Best Practices / Records

Baptismal Certificate / Intake Form

Every student enrolling in RE is required to have a valid record of Baptism on file with the RE office. Each new student must also have a completed Intake Form on file in the Faith Formation Office. Sacramental records are maintained at each parish.

Emergency Contact Cards

Every family must have a new (updated) emergency contact card on file with the RE office every year. It is the parents' responsibility to update the RE Office and Catechist of any changes to the family emergency contact information. Emergency contact cards should contain parent phone numbers (home, work, and cell), at least one phone number of another nearby family member or neighbor (for emergencies). A student's allergies, medical information, and special needs should also be on the Emergency Contact Card.

RE Student Records

A record of each student's Religious Education progress is maintained in the RE office and retained for five years after the student is no longer enrolled in the program. A student transcript is available to any parent requesting his/her child's official RE Record.

Progress Reports [Report Cards]

Students will receive progress reports twice per year to let the student and parents know how the student is doing. The report will include attendance, class participation, RE event participation, assignments, quizzes, tests, and extra credit.

Religious Education Office – Attendance Coordinator

A volunteer adult in the Religious Education Office will oversee recording student attendance. The Attendance Coordinator will contact parents when a RE student needs to submit extra credit to obtain a passing grade in RE.

Student Photos [Opt-Out Procedure]

We often take photos of students for use in the parish bulletin or website. Sometimes photos are also used in printed materials. Names are not used with student photos. If you do not want your child photographed, you must fill out the "Photo Opt-Out" form. Forms are available from the RE Office.

Rules and Best Practices / Communication

Communication

Communication is very important when working with children and families. Please note that the RE office has no full-time employees. It is very important for parents to keep up to date by reading Flocknote messages, checking the parish website, and reviewing all materials that are sent home with your child. Some Catechists will use “Communication Folders” to send important items home with students.

Flocknote

The Religious Education Office uses Flocknote to send electronic communication to parents. Information is sent to the email of the parents’ choice. Parents are responsible to make sure that the RE office has a current email. Parents should check their email for “Flocknote” from the RE office regularly.

Parents can receive Flocknote information via text message. To register, members can send a text message with the keyword TARSRE to 84576.

There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply (~ 6 msgs/mo). Reply STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. View the Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions at flocknote.com/txt.

Class Cancelations

If classes are canceled for any reason, parents will be notified via Flocknote. Please be sure to check for Flocknote information on RE Saturdays (especially during poor weather conditions).

Parish Website (www.sttars.org)

Parents should become familiar with the parish website. Important parish information of all types is found on the website including information about Religious Education and the Sacraments.

Open Door Policy

Parents are always welcome to make an appointment to talk to the Director of Faith Formation. Appointments can be made by email or phone. Parents are encouraged to bring concerns and suggestions to the Director as needed.

Other Information

Kindergarten

Religious Education begins in kindergarten at St. Tarcissus. We find that this is an excellent way for kids to get a head start on Religious Education. Children are never too young to learn about Jesus. RE kindergarten is a great place for children to make new friends. The tuition for the Kindergarten is only \$50 for the entire RE School year (highly discounted). We encourage all families to take advantage of this opportunity.

Music Class and Optional Choir

The St. Tarcissus Religious Education Program has a music component for children in grades K through 2. The students have 30 minutes of music with our RE Music teacher each session. Our Children in grades 3 through 8 have the option to join our RE Youth Choir. The Youth Choir sings at our First Sunday RE Masses, along with a few other opportunities during the year.

The Church

Roman Catholic Church

St. Tarcissus Parish is part of the Roman Catholic Church. The Church was founded by Jesus about 2,000 years ago. Today there are over 1 billion members of the Roman Catholic Church all over the earth. The worldwide Church is led by the bishop of Rome, Pope Francis. Jesus gave us our mission when he told his followers to “make disciples of all nations.”

Archdiocese of Chicago

Our local church, the Archdiocese of Chicago, is made up of all the parishes in the counties of Cook and Lake in Illinois. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich is the current Archbishop of Chicago.

Saint Tarcissus Parish

Our Parish is St. Tarcissus. We are one of several Roman Catholic Parishes located in the northwest area of the City of Chicago. Our parish is under the direction of Rev. Mike Grisolano, our pastor. Each of us is called in Baptism to participate in our church at all levels (local and worldwide).

Sacrament Preparation

Sacraments

Preparing children and their parents for the Sacraments is an important part of the Religious Education Program. Our preparation programs meet and exceed the basic requirements set by the Church and the Archdiocese. We require parents to take active role in Sacrament preparation process. There are fees for each of the sacraments which cover expenses (e.g. books, flowers for 1st Communion, retreat leaders, etc.). The Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation require two years of class preparation by the student.

First Reconciliation and First Communion Preparation

[Two Year Process]

The preparation process for First Communion is a two-year process. Most of our students receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time in second grade. There is a mandatory two years of religious training before receiving the Sacrament for the first time. As part of the process parents and students will need to attend a few mandatory family classes. There is a First Communion retreat for parents and students. There is a parent informational meeting that will take place in the fall of 2nd-grade.

Parents will receive the schedule early in the RE school year.

Confirmation Preparation

[Two Year Process]

Most of our students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the 8th grade (after two years of preparation). Preparation begins during the 7th-grade. In the preparation process students and parents are required to attend several family classes. Students complete classes, papers, retreats, and service hours to fulfill the requirements for Confirmation. There is a parent informational meeting that will take place in the fall of 7th-grade. Parents will receive information about the parent meeting early in the school year.

Non-Discrimination

The St. Tarcissus Parish Religious Education Program is operated under the auspices of the Catholic Bishop of Chicago, a corporation sole, in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

St. Tarcissus Parish Religious Education Program admits students of any sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities accorded or made available to students in the Religious Education Program.

Definitions

Catechesis

Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 5)

Disciple (Christian)

In Christianity, the term disciple primarily refers to students of Jesus and is found in the New Testament only in the Gospels and Acts. The New Testament records many followers of Jesus during his ministry, but only some became disciples. Some disciples were given a mission, such as the Little Commission, the commission of the 70 in Luke's gospel, the Great Commission after the resurrection of Jesus, or the conversion of Paul, making them Apostles, charged with proclaiming the Good News (or Gospel) to the world. –Wikipedia

2019 – 2020 Religious Education Schedule

Please note RE Classes start at 8:30 am and end at 11:00 am

September

14	Saturday	RE Session 1	
28	Saturday	RE Session 2	

October

5	Saturday	RE Session 3	
6	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY MASS	9:30 am Mass
19	Saturday	RE Session 4	

November

3	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY MASS	9:30 am Mass
9	Saturday	RE Session 5	
23	Saturday	RE Session 6	

December

1	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY MASS	9:30 am Mass
14	Saturday	RE Session 7	
21	Saturday	RE Session 8	

January

18	Saturday	RE Session 9	
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February

1	Saturday	RE Session 10	
2	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY MASS	9:30 am Mass
15	Saturday	RE Session 11	
26	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Ashes and Pizza

March

1	Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY MASS	9:30 am Mass
7	Saturday	RE Session 12	
28	Saturday	RE Session 13	

April

12	Sunday	Easter Sunday	
18	Saturday	RE Session 14	

May

2	Saturday	RE Session 15	
9	Saturday	RE Session 16	
10	Sunday	May Crowning Mass	9:30 am Mass