

St. Timothy Religious Education

13807 Poplar Tree Road
Chantilly, Virginia 20151
(703) 378-9143



Home Taught Program Handbook 2026-2027

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH CLERGY

Reverend Andrew Fisher

Pastor

Reverend Sunny Joseph

Reverend Parthi Raj Soosai

Reverend Mauricio Portillo

Reverend Sean Nypaver

Parochial Vicars

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Denise Masiello, *Director of Religious Education*

Sandy Ralston, *Office Manager of Religious Education*

Cathy Edwards, *Coordinator of SPRED(Special Religious Education Program)*

Jeanette Borneman, *Office Assistant*

OFFICE HOURS - The Religious Education Office is located inside the Parish Office building.

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

(703) 378-9143 ccd@sttimothyparish.org

ST. TIMOTHY CATHOLIC CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that parents are the primary religious educators of their children, and that the home is where a child first experiences the Catholic faith through example. During the Rite of Baptism, we hear the minister ask the parents the following question,

*“You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.
Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”*

A religious education program serves to complement, not replace, what religious formation a child learns at home. Our mission at St. Timothy is to assist parents in their work as primary educators, in teaching their children to know God so that they can learn to love Him and serve Him in this world and be happy with Him in heaven. The goal of our religious education program is to cultivate an understanding and love of God. Therefore, we teach the students that:

- Each child is seen as created in the image and likeness of God and is a reflection of His goodness.
- Inspire in each child a personal relationship with God and an awareness of His merciful love for each of us.
- Look to Mary and the saints as examples of living a virtuous life.
- The Sacraments and prayer are the sources of a spiritual life. Knowledge of the Catholic faith that is not enriched with graces through the practice of the sacramental life is empty knowledge.
- An understanding of Jesus and His message are essential to knowing, loving and serving Him.
- Some sources of grace that help us grow in love of God and neighbor are found in attending Mass, Confession, Adoration of the Eucharist, private prayer, the Rosary and frequent reading of the Word of God, the Bible.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

In-person classes are the primary setting of religious education at St. Timothy Parish. This setting provides additional enrichment for students through class discussions & questions, peer interactions, supplemental instruction as well as Catholic devotions provided by catechists.

The Home Taught Program is intended as an extraordinary option for parents who would like curriculum support to use in teaching their children about the Catholic Faith. An online version of the Faith & Life textbook, with assessments, is used for students in this program and is intended to be used in conjunction with parent discussion.

*The Religious Education Office enrolls students into the online textbook series, but all of the necessary sign in information will come directly from, **My Catholic Faith Delivered** with instructions for setting up your child's sign in credentials.*

The Home Taught Program is self paced, however, a syllabus for each grade is attached for your reference. It is highly recommended that you and your child develop a basic schedule to follow, regarding when religious education will take place. This will help ensure that learning is paced over the length of the school year.

PROGRAM PROGRESS & ASSESSMENTS

Faith formation is much more than an academic endeavor. It is an intentional and lifelong building of a relationship with God. Ultimately, it forms us to intentionally live a life that is oriented toward the final end that God has planned for each of us from the beginning, eternity in heaven with Him.

Each chapter in the online textbook contains activities for your child to complete. These activities are designed to assist in grasping and reinforcing concepts. There is an online assessment at the end of each chapter for your child to take. A passing score of 70% or higher is expected for each chapter. The online program allows access to completed assessment questions and chapter material in order to retake any assessment in the program.

Progress of all online assessments will be monitored by the Religious Education Office throughout the year. As with the in person classes, a final, overall passing grade of 70% or higher is expected in order to progress to the next grade level.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION YEARS

The Diocese of Arlington requires 2 years of class preparation for children who will receive the Sacraments of 1st Communion & Confirmation. These students may only participate in the Home Taught Program for these years of classes if they are on the Diocesan recommended timeline. (1st & 2nd grade for 1st Communion and 7th & 8th grade for Confirmation) *Students who are off of this timeline must attend in person classes during the Wednesday, 7pm session.*

In addition to online chapter assessments, students in grades 7th & 8th will be required to pass a written final exam as one of the requirements for Confirmation. Study guides for these exams will be given to parents at the mandatory Confirmation Parent Meeting in September and are also available on the parish website.

Children in 2nd grade will be required to meet with the Director of Religious Education to evaluate readiness for receiving First Holy Communion.

St. Timothy Religious Education **2026-2027** Calendar

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER	15	16
	22	23
	29	30
OCTOBER	6	7
	13	14
	20	21
	27	28
NOVEMBER	10	11
	17	18
DECEMBER	1	2
	8	9
	15	16
JANUARY	5	6
	12	13
	19	20
	26	27
FEBRUARY	2	3
	16	17
	23	24
MARCH	2	3
	16	17
	30	31
APRIL	6	7
	13	14
	27	28
MAY	4	5
	11	12
	18	19

CLASS TIMES

4:00pm - 6:00pm & 7:00pm - 8:15pm

Kindergarten - 4:45-6:00pm sessions only

****Classes begin September 29th & 30th****

Missing Sacraments & OCIC/OCIT -
Wednesday, 7:00-8:15pm session only

MANDATORY PARENT MEETINGS

****all meetings in the school gym from 6:00-7:00pm**

HOME TAUGHT PROGRAM - Wednesday, 9/9/26

CONFIRMATION - Tue, 9/22 OR Wed, 9/30
****students must attend with parent(s)**

FIRST COMMUNION - Tues, 9/29 OR Wed, 9/23

SACRAMENTS & EVENTS

Ice Cream Social & Book Pick Up -

Sunday, 9/13 1:30pm-3:00pm in the school cafeteria

1st Penance - Saturday, 2/6/27 at 10:30am in the church

Confirmation Exams - take place during class session

Year 1 - 4/13/27 & 4/14/27

Year 2 - 2/16/27 & 2/17/27

Confirmation Retreats - students in Year 2 prep

Boys - Saturday, 2/20/27

Girls - Saturday, 2/27/27

Confirmation Mass - Saturday, 3/6/27 at 10:00am

Rehearsal - Friday, 3/5/27 at 6pm

1st Communion Mass - Saturday, 5/8/27 at 10:30am

Rehearsal - Friday, 5/7/27 at 6:00pm

specific information for each event will be emailed closer to the date

Absences - Please contact the RE Office at (703)378-9143 or reattendance@sttimothyparish.org to report absences.

Inclement Weather - St. Timothy Parish & RE Program follow Fairfax County Public Schools for all weather closures.

ST. TIMOTHY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRAYER GUIDE

The Diocese of Arlington Curriculum Guidelines assigns basic prayers for mastery in each grade level. Each student is expected to master the prayers at their grade level in addition to knowing the prayers learned in previous years. All students are tested and graded on the memorization of prayers and doctrine. **The best way to help the child memorize a prayer is to pray the prayer together once a day, every day.**

KINDERGARTEN

Sign of the Cross
how to genuflect
Glory Be

1ST GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
Hail Mary
Guardian Angel Prayer
Our Father

2ND GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
Act of Contrition
The Ten Commandments

3RD GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
Grace Before & After Meals
The Mysteries of the Rosary

4TH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
*Prayers of the Mass (memorization not required)
Hail Holy Queen
The Seven Sacraments

5TH GRADE

Prayer to Saint Michael
Memorare
Apostles' Creed

6TH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
Beatitudes
Corporal Works of Mercy
Spiritual Works of Mercy

7TH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
Act of Faith
Act of Hope
Act of Love

8TH GRADE

ALL OF THE ABOVE
Prayer to the Holy Spirit
The Angelus

St. Timothy Religious Education Handbook Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we have received a copy of the St. Timothy Religious Education Handbook. We have read it and agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth therein.

Family Last Name: _____

Student Signature(s):

Signature

Grade

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature(s):

Signature

Date

**This Acknowledgement Form must be returned to the teacher by the 2nd week of classes.*