Welcome to Family Night

Faith Formation CCD

Sept. 9th, 2026

A Special Welcome

- **To new families joining our CCD community (Especially our First-grade families)**
- **To families receiving Sacraments this year! (First Communion & Confirmation)**
- **To all families returning to continue their children's faith formation☺**

agenda

OUR VISION & MISSION
4-5

FAITH FORMATION/CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS
7-11

FAMILY HANDBOOK-CREATING CATHOLIC DISCIPLES
12

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
13-16

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
17

St Thomas the Apostle

Our Vision

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community strives to radiate the true spirit of Jesus Christ at all times to all people, especially the poor and needy. We embrace our cultural differences while celebrating our oneness in Christ. Our focus is to include all ages through opportunities of education and evangelization to reach the ultimate goal of glorifying God's name in word and deed.

Our Mission Statement

In the name of Jesus Christ, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community

Welcomes

Prays

Feeds

Heals

Comforts

All

St. Thomas the Apostle Catechists 2026-2027

Grade	Catechist	Grade	Catechist
Children's Time	Ms. Wendy (Dvorak)	Seventh	Ms. Abby & Mr. Cory (Hartman)
Pre-K (3) thru 1 st	Ms. Julie (Neuser)	Eighth	Ms. Louise (Knauf)
First	Ms. Jane (Lensmire)	Ninth	Ms. Connie (Ninneman)
Second	Ms. Karean VanEss-Wagner	Tenth & Eleventh	Ms. Sam (Taddy)
Third	Ms. Vanesa (Valdez)	Twelfth-Confirmation	Ms. Cathylee (Dreiling)
Fourth	Ms. Elaine (Imhoff)	Twelfth-Confirmation	Mr. Justen Shadick
Fifth	Ms. Bella (Jacky)	Catechist Support Coordinator Assistant	Ms. Stacy (Klotz) Ms. Shari (Rezachek)
Sixth	Ms. Jean (Karstaedt)	Substitute Fill-In	Ms. Rachel (Lensmire) Mr. Kevin Jacky

Religious Education Classes 2026-2027

WEDNESDAYS

- Grades 1-9 ☺
- Arrival 6:05-6:15pm
- 6:15-7:45pm Mass 7:15-7:45 Once per/month (Yellow Sq.)

SUNDAYS

- Grade 10 &11
- Confirmation Program (Grade 12)
- Attendance at 8:00am Mass strongly encouraged
- Class Time 9:15-10:45 am

Calendar Highlights 2026-2027

www.stthomasnewton.org

Liturgical Calendar

- Monthly Activity Night/Prayer Services (Wednesdays 1-9)
- Monthly Family Mass-Yellow squares
- Opening & Closing Masses:
  Ice-Cream Social & Pizza Social
- **February 10th-Ash Wednesday-CCD Class, 6:15; Mass with families 7:00pm**

Important Dates

Retreats

- First Communion Retreat April 10th 9-3:00pm
- HS Spiritus Retreat Gr. 10/11 Feb. 13th; Time: TBD
- Confirmation Spiritus Retreat 7:00-4:30pm - Attend Mass w/family upon return
- https://www.spiritusministries.org/spiritusretreats

Sacraments

- Rite of the Elect-Sept 13th; 8:00am Mass
- Confirmation w/St. Francis of Assisi-Jan. 13th (7:00 pm); Practice-TBD
- First Reconciliation-Jan. 6th (Second Grade)
- First Communion-April 18th at 10:00am Mass

Curriculum 2026-2027

What's our main curriculum?

- Grades 1-8: Christ Our Life-Loyola Press-Updated, from 2016 to 2024 editions.
- High School, Grades 9-11: The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition, St. Mary's Press
- Grades 9-11: Inclusion of Prep Classes for Confirmation
- Confirmation Program: Chosen, Your Journey to Confirmation-Ascension
- Any extra supplementary materials follow our Religion Standards

Curriculum Continued

Our Curriculum :

- Provides sound Catholic teaching
- Follows the guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Green Bay
- Utilizes textbooks approved by Bishop Ricken
- Meets the number of hours of instruction required by the Diocese, 30-35 hours in each academic year
- Prepares our students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation

Family Handbook 2026-2027

- APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR
- SAFE ENVIRONMENT
- DISCIPLINE
- **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT - SIGN & RETURN TO CATECHIST AT THE FIRST CLASS**
- DISCIPLINE – CREATING A LIFE SKILL THROUGH A METHOD: STOP, THINK, PRAY, CHOOSE
- PROGRAM INFORMATION-
  - Cancellations

Cell Phone Policy:

- Turned off during class time
- Exceptions-parent discussion with Catechist prior to the start of class
- Collected & placed in a basket if rules are NOT followed

Safety Standards & Safe Environment

- Be Here for Kids
  - Emergency Evacuation Map
  - Run-Hide-Fight
  - Fire Drill Practice-Fall & Spring
  - Tornado & Severe Weather Drill Practice-Fall & Spring
- Awareity-Safe Environment Reporting System through the Diocese of Green Bay-Available on our website stthomasnewton.org
- Virtus-Ongoing training for Catechists & Volunteers & Background Checks

AWAREITY

Protecting God's Children

- Safe Environment
- Wednesday, Feb. 3rd Grades 1-9
- Sunday, Dec. 6th Grades 10, 11, 12

- Age-appropriate lesson plans for four specific age groups:
  - Grades K-2
  - Grades 3-5
  - Grades 6-8
  - Grades 9-12

Protecting God's Children

- **Empowering God's Children-Safe Environment Training (Virtus)**
- **Every child enrolled in a Catholic school or a parish faith formation program must receive education regarding safe environment issues annually.**
- **Diocese of Green Bay request Catholic schools to devote a minimum of three classes per grade level per year.**
- **Religious Education students attend public schools where the topic is mandated, the Diocese requests at least one class per grade level per year.**

Protecting God's Children

- Lesson Plan Topics
- 6-year cycle
- Lesson 2: Safe Adults, Safe Touches and Special Safe Adults
- Green Bay Diocese-Videos
  - Elementary School (K-5)
  - Middle School (6-8)
  - High School (9-12)

Volunteer Opportunities-Yellow Sheet

1. CCD Liturgical Ministries
2. Room Parent (Grades 1-12)
3. Hospitality (Door Monitors)
4. First Communion Retreat-April 10th
5. Works of Mercy Coordinator-Grade 7-12
6. Education Community Committee

Q&A

Any Questions?

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community
Creating Catholic Disciples
www.stthomasnewton.org
920-726-4228

Cathylee Dreiling
Religious Education Coordinator
stthomasccd2000@gmail.com