

What's the process for registering?

Parents may register students for STARE by completing a registration form at the parish office. The following documents will be required for registration:

- Birth certificate
- Certificates for any sacraments the child may have already received (from any denomination)

What does it cost?

There is no cost for STARE, but donations for the cost of materials, books, and special event items are greatly appreciated.

What is the attendance policy?

STARE students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes throughout the year, particularly those who are preparing to receive a Sacrament.

Frequent absences are likely to result in delayed Sacraments. Missed classes are not able to be made up.

Anything else?

STARE students and their families are NOT required to be registered parishioners of St. Mary's Church. However, in order to fulfill the five Precepts of the Church and reinforce the principles of the Catholic Faith as taught in class, STARE students and their families are expected to go to Mass every week and on all Holy Days of Obligation.

STARE students who have not yet made their First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church should not partake of the Eucharist at Mass yet.

MASS TIMES

At St Mary Church

<i>Saturday Vigils:</i>	<i>5pm & 7pm</i>
<i>Sunday:</i>	<i>7am 8:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 2:30pm Spanish 5pm 7pm</i>
<i>Daily (Mon, Wed, Fri): (Tue, Thu)</i>	<i>6:30am, 9am, 12pm 6:30am, 9am</i>
<i>Saturday:</i>	<i>9:00am</i>

At Holy Cross Academy

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>8:30am & 10am</i>
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at

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church



1009 Stafford Ave.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Phone: 540-373-6491

STARE Directors: Catherine Weeks
and Glenn MacLeod

DRE: Dr. Katherine Evans
kevans@stmaryfred.org

What's STARE?

STARE is the St. Thorlak Adaptive Religious Education program, a ministry of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church.

STARE implements an adapted version of Christ Our Life, the curriculum used by the regular Religious Education program of the parish. STARE also uses tactile, concrete learning tools to prepare students for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation on an individualized timetable.

Who is STARE for?

STARE is designed for students with diverse, diagnosed learning or physical disabilities whose spiritual and religious educational needs are not able to be met through traditional Religious Education and SPRED (Special Religious Education) classes.

Students in elementary through high school are welcome to enroll in STARE. However, STARE is limited to students who are verbal and demonstrate independence in their personal care needs.

The availability of STARE classes is dependent upon on the number of volunteers. More than one STARE class may be offered each year. Classes will be established based on the age and ability of the students.

What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

Baptism



Baptism is the "gateway" for the other sacraments. If a student has never been baptized, this will be his or her first sacrament.

First Holy Communion



First Holy Communion is the first partaking of the Eucharist: the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ, under the "accidents" of bread and wine.

Confirmation



Confirmation is the "calling down" of the Holy Spirit, like the apostles received at Pentecost. It completes one's baptism and fully initiates the recipient into the Catholic Church.

What's the STARE motto?

The STARE Motto is: *In Silencio Sapientia* ("In Silence is Wisdom"). This principle acknowledges that, for many students with ASD-1, Downs Syndrome, and other neuro-processing conditions, wisdom and intelligence are often internal and deep, even if not always expressed through traditional social or verbal channels.

STARE seeks to transform "silence" from a perceived deficit into a sacred space for reflection, catechesis, and divine connection.

We believe every student deserves to experience the fulness of the Catholic faith through consistent, meaningful faith formation and adaptive teaching methods that respect their love of God.

Where and when does STARE meet?

STARE meets weekly throughout the school year only. It does not meet during the summer.

STARE is offered on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:15pm during the school year at Holy Cross Academy in Stafford only. Snacks are not provided.