

Aquinas School Religion

Aquinas Middle School is based on the principles of St. Thomas Aquinas.

- St. Thomas Aquinas was an excellent teacher and representation of Catholicism in the sense of inclusiveness and universality. The Aquinas school models after this saint in our social justice awareness, Catholic identity and faith-sharing communities.
- Feast Day: January 28
- Patron Saint of students and Catholic schools

Aquinas Middle School students are placed into four houses:

- Joseph House
Patron Saint: St. Joseph
Feast Day: March 19
Motto: "Make a Difference"
Color: Yellow-symbolizes generosity
- Neumann House
Patron Saint: St. John Neumann
Feast Day: January 5
Motto: "Children Today, Leaders Tomorrow"
Color: Orange-symbolizes worthwhile ambition
- Seton House
Patron Saint: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Feast Day: January 4
Motto: "We Strive for Excellence"
Color: Blue-symbolizes strength and loyalty
- Xavier House
Patron Saint: St. Francis Xavier
Feast Day: December 3
Motto: "We are One, United in God"
Color: Purple-symbolizes justice, sovereignty, and royalty

Curriculum

Four books are rotated on a yearly basis:

- New Testament
- Liturgy and Worship
- Creed
- Morality

- New this year, *Catholic Reflections* encourages students to think more deeply about their faith. It includes discussion and journaling prompts, scripture passages and prayer references. Students will read, talk, connect, and reflect on each lesson.

8 Teaching Methodologies:
In the transmission of the faith, the Church uses God's own methodology as the paradigm and, with that divine pedagogy as the reference point, chooses diverse methods that are in accord with the Gospel.

- Learning through Human Experience
- Learning by Discipleship
- Learning within the Christian Community
- Learning within the Christian Family
- Learning through the Witness of the Catechist
- Learning by Heart
- Making a Commitment to Live the Christian Life
- Learning by Apprenticeship

Christ in the New Testament

Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,...
Luke 24:15

As to disciples walk along the road to Emmaus, not far from Jerusalem, a stranger, as yet unrecognized as Jesus, joins them and begins a conversation with them. The story communicates to us that Jesus patiently walks with us on our own journeys of faith and that we must open to his presence.

Unit 1

Introduction to Sacred Scripture
 Proclaim Boldly
 The Gospel of Mark
 The Gospel of Matthew
 Luke and the Acts
 The Gospel of John

Unit 2

Evangelizing the Word
 The Letter to the Romans
 The Letter to the Philippians
 The Letter to the Colossians
 The Letter to the Hebrews
 The Book of Revelation

Life in Christ Jesus

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem...

Luke 24:33

The disciples leave their encounter with the Risen Christ, just as we do, empowered to announce the God News to the other disciples and to all who seek the Kingdom of God-the love, peace, and justice brought about by the faithfulness to Jesus' message.

Unit 1

The Universal Mission
Human Dignity
To Follow Jesus
Guided by the Conscience
The Exercise of Virtue
The Grace of the Holy Spirit

Unit 2

A Pilgrim Church
To Love God Above All
A Community for Life
Integrity of Heart
People of Truth
The Lord's Prayer

Christ Reveals God's Mystery

He interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

Luke 24:27

As the disciples and Jesus continue their journey, he explains for them how his identity and meaning are revealed in the Scriptures. They begin to see that through him, the mystery of God is revealed. Jesus will be the lens through which the same mystery is revealed to us today.

Unit 1

Faith in History
Faith of the Church
The Word of God
Images of God
Divine Activity
The Holy Trinity

Unit 2

Unity from Diversity
Jesus of Nazareth
The Son of God
Jesus' Passion and Death
The Resurrection and Ascension
The Giver of Life

Christ in the Liturgy

Their eyes were opened, and they recognize him... Luke 24:31

When the disciples reached their destination, they invite Jesus to join them, and as we know, they finally recognize him as he breaks bread with them. Today we do as well, through each of the seven sacraments, where we too encounter the Risen Christ.

Unit 1

Discipleship of Today
The People of God
The Mystery of the Church
The Marks of the Church
People of Prayer
Prayer of the Church

Unit 2

History of the Sacraments
Give Thanks to the Lord
Baptism and Confirmation
The Eucharist
Sacraments of Healing
Sacraments of Service