

St. Timothy Homeschool Fellowship

Class Offerings

2025-2026

Moms of St. Tim's

Open to all moms

Moms of St. Tim's is a community of Catholic women who are seeking to support and encourage each other in our faith and in our vocation as mothers! We meet weekly during the school year from 9:45-11:00 in the Parish Library for fellowship, Lectio Divina (Scripture study), and prayer. Please reach out to Erika Nieves for more information

(Erika.nieves@iws.edu). We'd love to have you join us!

**Free nursery provided for 9 months-4 years*

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 1

3-6 years old

Registration: \$95 supply fee per child for the 2025/2026 school year

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven." -Matthew 19:14

CGS is a Montessori-based religious education that draws children deeper into relationship with Christ and His Church through hands-on encounters with Scripture and the Liturgy. Level 1 focuses on God's love for us through Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The Eucharist is introduced through learning the names of the articles and important gestures. Mass is presented as the gift of our Good Shepherd.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Level 2 – Registration Closed

6-9 years old

Registration: \$95 supply fee per child for the 2025/2026 school year

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven." -Matthew 19:14

CGS is a Montessori-based religious education that draws children deeper into relationship with Christ and His Church through hands-on encounters with Scripture and the Liturgy. Level 2 focuses on our relationship with God through the parable of the True Vine. Moral parables, salvation history, and the prayers of the Mass are also introduced.

Lived Theology with Ms. Alyssa

4th-8th grade

Registration: \$12/class per student to be paid by semester on the first day of class, plus \$15 supply fee per year

Enjoy fellowship and fun while growing in faith through Scripture and prayer! We will explore different theological topics throughout the year and learn to apply them to life through various spiritual practices, such as Lectio Divina, Eucharistic Adoration, prayer and journaling, and praise and worship.

Intro to Theology with Mr. Joe

8th-12th grade

Registration: \$45 supply fee per student per semester to be paid on the first day of class

This course will be an introduction to Catholic theology, largely following St. Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Theologiae* as a guide. Students will explore how faith and reason work together in the search for truth as we dive into basic apologetics. Finally, as we focus on applying the gift of faith to our lives, we will focus particularly on the virtues—both natural and supernatural—as the path to a good and holy life.

Physical Education with Ms. Michelle

3rd-7th grade

Registration: \$10/class per student to be paid by semester on the first day of class, plus \$50 supply fee per year

Learn Physical Education with Ms. Michelle! Our P.E. class is everything you would want in an organized weekly physical fitness class- fun and social physical games and exercises, sports, and coordination drills in a fun and safe environment. We'll learn how to play the basics of soccer, badminton, hockey, and other sports in a fun and recreational setting- no previous sports or class knowledge required! This beginner friendly class will be the perfect way to exercise and play sports with other peers!

Art and Science Explorers with Ms. Rachel and Ms. Emily

Pre-K3 - 2nd Grade

Registration: \$35 supply fee per student per semester, to be paid on the first day of class

Get ready for a world of wonder and creativity in our Art & Science Explorers Class! Designed for curious minds from Pre-K3 through 2nd grade, this fun-filled class will alternate weekly between imaginative art projects and hands-on science experiments. Young artists will learn key art concepts as they paint, sculpt, and craft, while budding scientists will dive into the subjects of chemistry, physics and electromagnetic radiation through playful, age-appropriate experiments. The class fee will help cover the cost of supplies. Due to the hands-on nature of our class, we kindly request that parents of Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 students participate alongside their children and that parents of K-2nd grade students rotate through a volunteer sign-up to assist in the class. So grab your paint brushes and your lab goggles to come explore, create and discover with us!

Financial Literacy with Ms. Alyssa

8th-12th grade

Registration: \$10/class per student to be paid by semester on the first day of class, plus \$25 supply fee per year

This high school course is designed to help students develop real-life financial skills through a practical, values-based approach. Topics include budgeting, saving, banking, credit, loans, taxes, and insurance, with an emphasis on wise and responsible stewardship. Students will also strengthen foundational math skills like working with percentages, ratios, and basic algebra to support financial decision-making. The course encourages thoughtful, faith-informed choices about money and prepares students for confident financial independence in the future.

Private Math Tutoring with Ms. Alyssa

Grades 7-12 (or as requested)

\$40/hour

Offering one-on-one tutoring for high school students in Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and SAT Math Prep. With several years of classroom teaching experience and a passion for making math understandable and approachable, I help students build confidence, master foundational skills, and prepare for success in class and on standardized tests. Sessions are tailored to each student's needs, whether they're catching up, staying on track, or aiming ahead.

Teacher Bios

Ms. Alyssa Hart

My name is Alyssa Hart, and I was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. I earned my undergraduate degree in International Affairs from Florida State University and have lived in the Tampa area for the past eight years. After college, I worked full-time with an interdenominational campus ministry serving students at the University of South Florida. In 2022, I was joyfully received into the Catholic Church on Easter through OCIA at Christ the King.

For the past four years, I've taught high school-level math—including Geometry, Math for College Algebra, and Data and Financial Literacy—at a private K–12 school here in Tampa. I'm currently in the process of transitioning out of full-time classroom teaching but remain passionate about education and investing in young people. I love learning, studying theology, playing sports, singing, traveling, spending time with family, and going to the beach.

I'm excited for the opportunity to continue teaching in a homeschool co-op setting and look forward to partnering with families this school year!

Ms. Michelle Caluag

Hi there! I am a traditional Catholic living in Tampa. I am originally from the island of Guam, and then moved to the US when I started college at the George Washington University. I then moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, and then to Tampa in 2023.

Day to day, I work in Marketing- and I also currently teach P.E. classes and Taekwondo classes at JMJ Tampa Bay. I also teach martial arts at Crosskick Taekwondo. I am a former Guam National Taekwondo Team athlete and am currently ranked top 10 in the USA in my division. I also played Basketball in middle school and high school.

I've been teaching children sports and Taekwondo since high school, and can't wait to continue sharing joy at St. Timothy's homeschool community!

Mrs. Caren Sarkis

I have a Masters of Divinity, as well as a Masters of Education degree. After completing my M.Div., I went through RCIA and have been Catholic for 16 years. I taught in both public and Catholic schools before staying home to raise and homeschool our four boys. I have been CGS Level 1 trained since 2023 and will receive training for CGS Level 2 this summer. I love the CGS model of catechesis and look forward to walking alongside your children as they deepen their relationship with God!

Mrs. Anne Perez

For as long as I can remember, for as long as I've known the love of Jesus, I've wanted to share his love with others. I got a bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Education/Catechesis, participated in a 9 month school of mission in Rome, Italy, and then served in the Church through catechesis and mission work. I later married the love of my life and then completed my master's degree in Marriage and Family. Now I homeschool my two boys and in 2023, I was certified to teach Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), Level 1. During that course, I realized one of my greatest prayers was being answered - a way to introduce my children, from the youngest age, to encounter Jesus, to know him and to love him. CGS allows for that encounter in so many beautiful ways. I love teaching CGS Level I, and I am excited to be trained in Level 2 this summer! I look forward to working with your children in the coming year!

Mrs. Cathy Stipanov

As a homeschool parent of 20 years, I discovered faith formation is a lifelong journey that is best nurtured in the home and with the support of our parish community. I've been blessed to serve in the Faith Formation program at St. Timothy's for the past 15 years—as both a catechist and a member of the core team. I studied Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville before serving as a missionary with the Community of Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. That Franciscan formation ignited my lifelong passion for serving our Church through catechesis. Most recently, I trained in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. I am inspired by this beautiful Montessori approach to spiritual formation through nurturing a child's natural sense of wonder and desire for relationship with Jesus. I am excited to be a part of that journey!

Mr. Joseph Nieves

I was born in Puerto Rico but spent most of my childhood in Maryland and Florida. After graduating from FSU with my bachelor's degree in International Affairs, I worked as an active duty Air Force Intelligence officer for 10 years, during which time I earned my Masters in Theology from Christendom College. In 2023, I left active duty and joined the Reserves so that I could serve in full-time ministry in the Church, and I currently serve as Faith Formation Director at St. Timothy. My wife, Erika, and I have homeschooled our three kids for the past 4 years and are grateful to be a part of the homeschool fellowship here at St. Timothy. I love reading and studying Scripture and theology, and I am looking forward to being able to explore these topics with our high school students this year!

Mrs. Rachel Bordelon

Baptized into the Roman Catholic Church as an infant, my Catholic faith has always been a part of my life, but continues to grow with the help of my devout husband and three (soon to be four) beautiful children. I was born and raised here in Tampa and attended UF for my Bachelor of Health Science degree. After undergraduate school, I completed a year of service with a non-profit organization where I served the dual role of Child Advocate and ICU Patient Advocate at St. Joseph's Hospital. Shortly thereafter, I moved to Missouri for medical school and then moved back here to Tampa to complete my residency in Pediatrics at USF. For the past few years, I've been blessed to be able to stay at home with our three children and have enjoyed homeschooling our oldest daughter. I'm looking forward to exploring and creating with your little ones in our Art & Science Explorers Class in the coming year!

Mrs. Emily Plasencia

Hi! I'm excited to be co-teaching the Art & Science Explorers class this coming year for St. Timothy's Homeschool Fellowship. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I was homeschooled and raised in an evangelical Christian home. I went on to earn my bachelor's degree in psychology from Harvard University, where I also had the privilege of serving as captain of the softball team my senior year. After marrying my husband Nick, I moved to Tampa in 2012. I earned my master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida and later served as the head of program evaluation for Hillsborough County Public Schools' federal programs.

In November 2022, I entered the Catholic Church, and continue to be amazed by the beauty of the Catholic faith. My greatest joy is raising our three children alongside my husband as we all learn and grow in our faith. This will be our fourth year homeschooling. I love hiking, baking, crocheting, and camping—and especially enjoy sharing those passions with our kids.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year of learning together!