



History

Founded more than a century ago by St. Katharine Drexel, Holy Family Classical School is responding with joyful enthusiasm to the perennial example of our saintly foundress. Her own classical education in her youth prepared the way for her love of the Blessed Sacrament and for a life completely centered on Christ. Her days spent adoring Our Lord led her to great acts of service. Among her most important works of mercy was her establishment of schools across the country, including Holy Family. We are truly blessed to continue today the great work begun by Mother Katharine!



St. Katharine Drexel, Foundress

Catholic Identity

As the Cathedral's and the Bishop's own parish school, we remain joyfully committed to maintaining strongly our Catholic identity in every aspect of our curriculum and culture. Taking as a guide Archbishop J. Michael Miller's book *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools*, we aim to make visible in our community the five essential marks of a Catholic school: supernatural vision, Christian anthropology, communion, Catholicism in the curriculum, and the faculty's and staff's faithful witness to the Gospel in both professional and private life. These five marks coalesce into a single, integrated whole in Holy Family Classical School's following goals ...

The *Imago Dei*

At Holy Family Classical School, making visible the five essential marks of a Catholic school can be understood through three aims which gather all the five marks into one—reverence, rigor, and relationship—which have their basis in a proper anthropology, one in which each student, male or female, is welcomed and loved as a person, unique and irrepeatable, made in the image and likeness of God.

Reverence

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Only with reverence, that is to say, is there wisdom.

Holy Family Classical School embraces the truth that all subjects ultimately refer back to God, who created and sustains all that exists. Integrating the Faith into every subject teaches reverence by showing that God is all in all. Time is therefore set aside each week for Mass and Adoration, because reverence for God in this world cannot be fully or properly understood outside of reverence for His sacramental Real Presence among us.

Faith and science both attest to the one truth that all things are created by God and for Him, and that God never ceases to draw us to himself in a manner which accords with our God-given nature. Reverence for ourselves and for the world around us—created according to God's own intelligent design—is an indispensable precondition for learning. *Rocks are hard and water is wet.* All created things have a nature, including us.

Only a strong education, one rooted in reverence for reality, therefore frees us to be ourselves, male or female, as God created us to be. Freedom in the truth of our created being and of our being created: this alone makes us capable of giving of ourselves to others. This last kind of reverence—for others—is impossible without reverence for God and creation.

Rigor

Academic rigor at Holy Family Classical School arises directly from reverence for God, creation, and one another. Cherishing ancient Greco-Roman learning, which the Congregation for Catholic Education has called our “perennial philosophical inheritance”, Holy Family embraces a complex view of God, ourselves, and the place of the human person in history and in creation. Pursuing wisdom in learning is a complex and rigorous operation which has taxed even history's most brilliant minds.

Our curriculum is a study in academic excellence. With history itself as the ordering principle, each grade's sequence of studies is tied to the timeline of the development of Western civilization. Each grade's work for the year is tied to one of the major epochs—ancient, medieval, renaissance, and modern. Latin is studied in all years, as are art, architecture, poetry, and music. Grammar, logic, and rhetoric—the trivium—combine with arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy—the quadrivium—to give our students a well-rounded preparation for their next step in life after Holy Family Classical School.

Relationship

Reverence and rigor find their most complete expression in relationships at Holy Family Classical School. Indeed, our ambitious goals for education are not possible without first establishing a strong relationship between the school and each student's parents. Catholic education has been described as “extended and cooperative home-schooling”—an approach to parochial education in which parents and teachers work together as a team to educate students in reverence, rigor, and right relationship to God, creation, and one another. The fruit? Joy. Love. Friendship. Curiosity. We the faculty and staff invite you to join us in this great renewal!

HOLY FAMILY CLASSICAL SCHOOL

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