Hi! My name is Melissa Castellano and I'm very excited to be the new Director of Religious Education at your wonderful parish of the Blessed Sacrament. I've had the honor to work with the staff, volunteers, and of course Father Rodelio, and met many parishioners and you have a very spiritual and loving environment. I hope to get to know all of you better. My goal as the DRE is to continue a traditional CCD program with age-appropriate classes in a loving and nurturing environment with fidelity to the catechism and other teachings of the Catholic Church.

I am working on ideas to grow the enrollment numbers of our program. I am also looking for catechists to teach. If you have a love of the faith and would like to share it others, please contact me at <u>blessedsacramentre@gmail.com</u> If you love Jesus, you can teach others about Him, no teaching experience needed! I will help you with teaching materials and put together crafts, etc.

Here's a little bit about myself so that you may get to know me better. I have been a DRE for the past 8 years at Saint Joseph the Worker. I taught as a catechist for 12 years prior to that at Saint Francis Xavier. This past year I recently recertified with the diocese as a master catechist. I also spent four years going to diaconate classes with my husband who was ordained in 2020 and works full time at Saint John the Baptist parish.

I married my high school sweetheart, Jeremy two months after we graduated high school, and we celebrate our 30th marriage anniversary this August. We have two amazing children. Isabelle who is 19, and Braxton who is 21. They are both attending Utah Tech. State University in St. George. We have two gentle giant Saint Bernard's, a brother and sister litter mates. I have been called to several parishes over the years to serve, and I look forward to serving your parish community it is a very special place where the Spirit fills your heart!

I look forward to meeting you all and thank you for your warm welcome!