



“Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ”

2018/2019

**Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
Faith Formation ~ Children & Youth
Parent Handbook**

Pastoral Team

Deacon Larry Deford – Pastoral Administrator Pro-tem
Karen Smith - Pastoral Minister/Interim Director of Religious Education
Kathryn Cramer - Director of Youth Ministry
Alissa Hetzner – Director of Music
Lori Snyder – Parish Secretary
Carol Maurer - Parish Bookkeeper
Frederick Fitch – Director of Maintenance



Faith Formation Commission Members

*Kathryn Cramer (chairperson), Karen Smith, Ann Fitch,
Selena Friend, Daniel Martuch, Carol Kager, Laura Morris, and Jeanne Wilhelmi*

Parish Contact Information

Parish Office Telephone Number - 989-652-3259
Parish Fax Number - 989-652-2206
Parish Web Site: www.blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org
Parish Email – lsnyder@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org
Karen Smith Email – ksmith@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org
Kathryn Cramer Email – kcramer@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *(When the office is not open, please use the voicemail system.)*

Inclement Weather Policy

Closing of the parish offices and/or cancellation of faith formation sessions/activities due to bad weather will be based upon cancellation of school in the Frankenmuth School District. If Frankenmuth schools are closed for the day, then our offices are closed and our faith formation activities will also be canceled for the day/evening. If school is in session and weather conditions worsen throughout the day, our evening classes/activities will be canceled if Frankenmuth School District evening activities are cancelled.

Components

The following ministerial components are offered:

- ✓ **Catechesis** -- educational & sacramental programs and processes for all ages
- ✓ **Stewardship** -- opportunities for all ages
- ✓ **Evangelization** -- retreats, days or times of prayer and reflection, etc.
- ✓ **Community Life** -- opportunities to build community through gatherings and social times
- ✓ **Advocacy** -- making the needs of the individual members of the community known in order that our programming responds to perceived needs
- ✓ **Pastoral Care** -- supporting individuals and families through personal difficulty, transitions and spiritual growth
- ✓ **Leadership Development** -- empowering individuals and families to minister to one another by providing proper training opportunities
- ✓ **Worship & Prayer**-- providing prayer opportunities within a variety of settings

Philosophy

Blessed Trinity Parish Faith Formation Exists To:

- foster personal and spiritual growth
- draw all people to responsible participation in their faith community and in the world
- empower individuals and families to become living disciples and witnesses to Jesus Christ
- enable all parishioners to live, minister, share and serve
- assist parent/s or legal guardians to fulfill their role and assume their rights as the primary religious educators of their children
- help the whole parish community nurture and support all family configurations (single, single parents, dual parent, legal guardians, adults with/without children)

Catechesis is essential for developing a personal relationship with Jesus as the foundation for discipleship.

"At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth...To catechize is to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person...Catechesis aims at putting people in communion with Jesus Christ..." (Catechism of the Catholic Church #426)

Policies

Absences for Children/Youth ~ if children or youth are unable to attend a scheduled formation session, please call the parish office to inform us.

Early Release of Students ~ parents are required to come to the Faith Formation Office and request release of your child if he/she must be dismissed early from class.

Missing the Bus for Faith Formation ~ if a student misses the bus, they should report to the school office immediately. School office personnel will call the child's parent.

Parking Lot Safety ~ to ensure the safety of our students, please park in the designated parking areas only. Do not stop along the building and wait for your child; a car parked along this area limits visibility and is hazardous, and inhibits normal church business. Parents of grades 1 and 2 students are especially encouraged to park in the lot and come into the building to pick up their child at his/her classroom.

Discipline ~ in the education/formation setting, the atmosphere is one of love and respect for others as well as self-interdependence within the community with a joy of sharing with others for the good of all. The purpose of discipline is to help students move from external control by an adult to inner self-direction. Discipline is positive; that is, its focus is on "do" rather than "don't." Students are led to anticipate the consequences of their behavior.

First Sacrament Preparation/Session Information

Expectations of families requesting sacramental preparation:

- Families are registered members of Blessed Trinity Parish
- Families attend weekend Mass at Blessed Trinity on a regular basis
- Children of catechetical age must be at least in grade two and must have attended a religious education program or Catholic school the year prior to requesting sacramental preparation

There are four required Parent/Children Preparation Sessions for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. Both parents should attend the scheduled sessions if possible, but at least one is required to accompany child. Sessions will begin with prayer, followed by separate breakout sessions for parents and children. Childcare can be provided as needed by families (*please let Director of Religious Education know in advance so arrangements can be made*).

Dates and times for Sacramental Sessions will be listed on the calendar and in the parish bulletin, and listed on the parish website. Celebrations will be scheduled with the pastor/pastoral administrator and made available to families in a timely manner.

Christian Service Student Activity

Listed below are a few examples of the service projects our youth are involved in. Students are also encouraged to support the stewardship activities of the parish as announced by the Christian Service Commission throughout the year (watch the weekly bulletin for a list of current offerings):

Elementary Grades:

- ✓ Send cards and write letters in support of our military troops
- ✓ Send cards to sick and homebound
- ✓ Collect items for Emmaus House
- ✓ Support a child in Guatemala
- ✓ Support Lukulu Project
- ✓ Visit area nursing homes and assisted living facilities

Youth Ministry:

- ✓ Rake 'n Run Service Event
- ✓ Mustard Seed Shelter Collection and Visit
- ✓ Visit area nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- ✓ Assist with Vacation Bible School

2018/2019 Faith Formation Class Calendar

Faith for 3's, Faith for 4's, Faith for 5's

Sessions are held on Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

September 23, 30	January 13, 20, 27
October 7, 14, 21, 28	February 3, 10, 17
November 4, 11, 18	March 3, 10, 17
December 2, 9, 16	April 7, 14, 28

Children's Liturgy of the Word (for grades 1-4)

Sessions are held on Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

September 23, 30	January 13, 20, 27
October 7, 14, 21, 28	February 3, 10, 17
November 4, 11, 18	March 3, 10, 17
December 2, 9, 16	April 7, 14, 28

Grade 1 and Grade 2

Sessions are held on Thursdays from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

September 27	January 10, 17, 24, 31
October 4, 11, 18, 25	February 7, 14, 21, 28
November 1, 8, 15, 29	March 7, 14, 21
December 6, 13, 20	April 4, 11, 25
	May 2

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Sessions are held on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

September 25	January 8, 15, 22, 29
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	February 5, 12, 19, 26
November 6, 13, 27	March 5, 12, 19
December 4, 11, 18	April 2, 9, 23, 30

Grade 5 and Grade 6

Sessions are held on Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

September 26	January 9, 16, 23, 30
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	February 6, 13, 20, 27
November 7, 14, 28	March 6, 13, 20
December 5, 12, 19	April 3, 10, 24
	May 1

Youth Ministry

Sessions are typically held on Sunday evenings, September through May. Retreats and activities are held during the summer months. For more info, check the bulletin or "like" our Facebook page: BTC-Youth.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Blessed Trinity offers an additional program of religious formation for children ages 3-9 called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

This is a Montessori-based set of activities in a space called the "Atrium." Within the Atrium, the child has the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with God through an introduction to Scripture narratives and the Liturgical traditions of the Catholic Church.

- ✓ Level I is offered for children ages 3-6
- ✓ Level II is offered for children ages 6-9

Registration forms are available in the Faith Formation Office. For more online information, please visit: www.cgsusa.org.