

“Living as Missionary Disciples” 2017/2018

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

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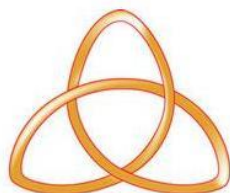
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Pastoral Team

*Rev. Robert Byrne – Pastor
Karen Smith - Pastoral Minister
Carol Fox - Director of Religious Education
Kathryn Cramer - Director of Youth Ministry
Alissa Hetzner – Director of Music & Liturgy
Lori Snyder – Parish Secretary
Carol Maurer - Parish Bookkeeper
Frederick Fitch – Director of Maintenance*

Faith Formation Commission Members

*Kathryn Cramer (chairperson), Carol Fox, Karen Smith,
Scott Smock, David Harris, Ann Fitch,
Jeanne Wilhelmi, Brandon Maurer and Keith Martus*



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

Carol Fox Email – cfox@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org

Kathryn Cramer Email – kcramer@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org

Karen Smith Email – ksmith@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday through Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *(When the office is not open, please use the voicemail system.)*

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)

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

Virtus Training

(Education for all Diocesan and Parish employees and all volunteers who have regular contact with children/youth)

In the Diocese of Saginaw, the VIRTUS Program, Protecting God's Children, has been implemented since October, 2003, and over 3,400 of our diocesan and parish employees and volunteers have participated in this three-hour program. In addition, VIRTUS provides monthly on-line bulletins on protecting children as a follow-up to participants. Whenever this program is held in your parish/cohort, or at the Center for Ministry, you are welcome to attend.

Parent Commitment

Parents make the commitment at the time of their child's Baptism to be responsible for the development of the faith life of their child. It is only through collaboration with parents that we can achieve our purpose and goals -- that being -- to assist parents in fulfilling their responsibility. Parish faith formation is the mutual effort of the parish and the family system. Parents/legal guardians are expected to support the faith development of their children and teens by:

- participating in Mass every weekend
- encouraging their child's faith life at home
- making attendance at religious education sessions and youth activities a priority in family calendar planning
- contributing to the parish through Stewardship commitment of time, talent and treasure to the extent that you are conscientiously able

Introduction to 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 religious education office and request release of your child if he/she must be dismissed early from class.

Discipline Policy

In the education/formation setting, the atmosphere is one of love and respect for others as well as self-interdependence within the community, and 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. In the event the above-mentioned atmosphere is repeatedly violated, the following assertive discipline policy takes effect:

- The student's teacher is primarily responsible for discipline in the classroom with the expected cooperation of each student.
- Any student who continues to be disruptive, and does not cooperate with the teacher will be sent to the religious education director.
- If a student is sent a second time to the director within a span of six weeks parents will be informed by the director of the discipline problem.
- If a student is sent to the director for a third time the parent must accompany the child for one subsequent class session before the child will be re-admitted into the program.

Misbehavior which may result in disciplinary action includes:

- persistent disobedience of rules and policies in the classroom
- destruction or vandalism of any church property
- verbal or physical provocation of a fight
- use of offensive language
- taking anything that does not belong to the student
- open defiance or disrespect of any staff member
- possession, selling and/or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes

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.

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. Parents of grades one and two students are especially encouraged to come into the building and pick your child up at his/her classroom.

If Your Child Misses the Bus

If a student misses the bus, they should report to the school office immediately. School office personnel will call the child's parent.

Sunday Offering Envelopes for Children

Sunday Offering Envelopes for children are available for parents to pick up in the classroom wing.

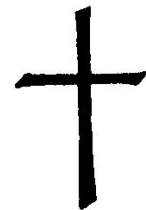
Family Ministry

(preschool - grade 12 students and parents):

- Virtus Session (*Diocesan Child Protection Program*) at Center for Ministry, Saginaw with Sr. Janet Fulgenzi, OP (*call the Faith Formation Office for dates*)
- October 7 – Blessing of Pets at 10:00 – 11 a.m. in parish parking lot
- November 21 – Advent Family Night at 7:00 p.m. (*make Advent wreaths, prayer service and refreshments*)
- Faith Activities for Families at 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. on Sundays TBA

Stewardship Class Trips

- December 6 – grades 5 & 6 visit Medilodge
- February 13 – grade 3 visits Medilodge
- March 7 – grade 5 helps at Saginaw Rescue Mission
- March 14 – grade 4 visits Medilodge
- March 21 – grade 6 helps at East Side Soup Kitchen



First Sacrament Preparation

Expectations of families requesting sacramental preparation:

- Families are registered members of Blessed Trinity Parish
- Families attend weekend Mass at Blessed Trinity Parish 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

First Sacrament Dates – 2017/2018

Rite of Enrollment – Grade Two and Older Candidates on October 8, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Mass

First Reconciliation Prayer Service– Grade Two and parents/family on December 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. *(social following service)*

Confirmation with Bishop Cistone – Grade Two and Older Candidates – Regional Confirmation TBA

First Eucharist – Grade Two on May 5 & 6, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. or 11:00 a.m. Mass *(group picture and social on May 6 at 12:00 noon)*

Sacraments of Initiation Preparation Session with Sacrament Banner Construction and Placement in Church

(This event is held on the same day as the Rite of Enrollment)

Parent/Child Preparation Session for the Sacraments of Initiation (both parents should attend if possible, but at least one is required and child) ~ October 8, 2017 at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. – prayer serve for parents and children followed by parent session with Fr. Bob Byrne; child session with Mrs. Carol Fox (childcare is provided from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.); whole family sacrament banner construction at 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in social hall followed by banner placement in church.

Reconciliation Preparation Sessions (required)

Parent/Child Preparation Session for First Reconciliation *(both parents should attend if possible, but at least one is required and child)*

Session I:

November 5, 2017 at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. - prayer service for parents and children followed by parent session with Fr. Bob Byrne; child session with Mrs. Carol Fox *(childcare is provided)*

Session II:

Parents (only) Preparation Session for Home Lessons *(both parents should attend if possible, but at least one is required)* - November 9, 2017 at 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **OR** November 10, 2017 at 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Confirmation Preparation Sessions (required)

Session I ~ Parent/Child Preparation Session for Confirmation (*both parents should attend if possible, but at least one is required and child*) ~ January 21, 2018 at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. - prayer service for parents and children followed by parent session with Fr. Bob Byrne; child session with Mrs. Carol Fox (*childcare is provided*)

Session II ~ Parents (only) Preparation Session for Home Lessons (*both parents should attend if possible, but at least one is required*) ~ January 25, 2018 at 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. **OR** January 26, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

First Eucharist Preparation Sessions (required)

Session I ~ Parent/Child Preparation Session for First Eucharist (*both parents should attend if possible, but at least one is required and child*) ~ March 18, 2018 at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Bob and Mrs. Fox (*childcare provided*)

Session II ~ First Eucharist Rehearsal on May 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. – all students and at least one parent must attend

Children's Ministry

Parish, family and catechists make up the indispensable “we” that constitutes the community of faith at Blessed Trinity Church. Our faith formation program seeks to strengthen the partnership of home, parish community and catechesis. Here, the faith, which has been caught at home and in the parish, is taught. Even though the “taught” aspect of faith formation is our primary concern, every effort will be made to link the children’s learning activities with our parish’s ministries and the concept of stewardship.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Blessed Trinity offers an additional program of religious formation for pre/K children, ages 3, 4, and 5 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. Registration forms are available in the Faith Formation Office. For more online information, please visit: www.cgsusa.org.

Sessions for 2017/2018 will begin October 3, 6, & 7:

- Tuesdays at 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.
- Fridays at 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.
- Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

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

September 24	January 14, 21, 28
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	February 4, 11, 18, 25
November 5, 12, 19, 26	March 4, 11, 18
December 3, 10, 17	April 8, 15, 22, 29

Faith for Threes, Faith for Fours and Kindergarten

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

September 24	January 14, 21, 28
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	February 4, 11, 18, 25
November 5, 12, 19	March 4, 11, 18
December 3, 10, 17	April 8, 15, 22, 29

Grade 1 and Grade 2

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

September 28	January 4, 11, 18
October 5, 12, 19, 26	February 1, 8, 15, 22
November 2, 9, 16, 30	March 1, 8, 15, 22
December 7, 14	April 5, 12, 19, 26

Grade 3 and Grade 4

Sessions are held on Tuesdays 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, 17, 24

Grade 5 and Grade 6

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

September 27	January 3, 10, 17, 24
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, 18, 25

Grade 7 and Grade 8

Sessions are held on Sundays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. with high school youth and Mrs. Cramer – watch bulletin for scheduled gatherings.

Christian Service Student Activity

- ✓ Students will send cards and write letters in support of our military troops, the sick and the homebound
- ✓ Students collect items for Emmaus House – Fall
- ✓ Students support a child in Guatemala all year
- ✓ Students support Lukulu Project – Bay City Mission Group – Spring
- ✓ Students are also encouraged to support the stewardship activities of the parish as announced by the Christian Service Commission throughout the year

Other Student Activities

- ❖ September/October – grades 4, 5 & 6 Altar Server Training
- ❖ October 17 – grades 3 & 4 Fire Drill
- ❖ October 18 – grades 5 & 6 Fire Drill
- ❖ October 19 – grades 1 & 2 Fire Drill
- ❖ October 10 – grades 3 & 4 Rosary Prayer Service
- ❖ October 11 – grades 5 & 6 Rosary Prayer Service
- ❖ October 12 – grades 1 & 2 Rosary Prayer Service
- ❖ November 21 – Advent Family Night 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ December 5 – grades 3 & 4 St. Nicholas Prayer Service
- ❖ December 7 – grades 1 & 2 St. Nicholas Prayer Service
- ❖ December 20 – grades 5 & 6 Jesse Tree Prayer Service
- ❖ January 7 – grades Pre/K – 6 Epiphany Pageant/Vocal Choir at 11:00 a.m. Mass (*report at 10:00 a.m.*)
- ❖ March 20 – grades 3 & 4 tornado drill
- ❖ March 21 – grades 5 & 6 tornado drill
- ❖ March 22 – grades 1 & 2 tornado drill
- ❖ April 24 – grades 3 & 4 Prayer Service & Ice Cream Social
- ❖ April 25 – grades 5 & 6 Prayer Service & Ice Cream Social
- ❖ April 26 – grades 1 & 2 Prayer Service & Ice Cream Social
- ❖ July 23-26 – Vacation Bible School at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church from 6:00 – 8:15 each evening



Youth Ministry (Junior High and High School)

A key in working with young adolescents is variety – creating variety in programming, scheduling, content, formats, settings, and leaders. It is our hope that with the wide variety of education and formation opportunities offered, all youth will find participation accessible and convenient as well as an invaluable experience in which to develop into mature Catholic Christians. Youth Ministry Activities for grades 6-12 youth include:

September, October, November & December

- Leader's Gathering
- Represent Youth Ministry at Catechetical Sunday ~ September 17
- Tailgate/Kick-off for Youth Ministry Gatherings ~ September 24
- Group Gatherings ~ October 1, 8 & 22
- Harvest Dance Set-up ~ October 25
- Harvest Dance ~ October 26
- Corn Maze ~ October 29
- Rake 'n Run Community Service ~ November 5
- Group Gathering ~ November 12
- National Catholic Youth Conference ~ November 16-19
- Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral and Dinner ~ December 3
- Group Gathering/Mustard Seed Collection ~ December 10
- Visit Mustard Seed Shelter ~ December 21

January, February, March & April

- Youth Ministry Leaders Meet ~ January 14
- Right to Life Event ~ January 21
- Visit Independence Village ~ February 4
- Lenten Event ~ February 11
- "Girls Night In" with High School Youth Mentor ~ February 18
- "Guys Night Out" with High School Youth Mentor ~ February 18
- Group Gatherings ~ March 4, 11, & 18
- Passion Play Weekend ~ March 24 & 25
- Group Gatherings ~ April 8 & 15
- Cardboard City ~ April 21 & 22

May, June, July & August

- Group Gathering Prayer Night ~ May 6
- Group Gathering/Senior Send Off ~ May 13
- Baccalaureate Sunday ~ May 20
- Mackinac Island Retreat
- Cedar Point Trip
- Youth Encounter Service (YES) Camp
- Service Retreat
- Vacation Bible School
- Movie Night
- Canoe Trip
- Outdoor Mass

