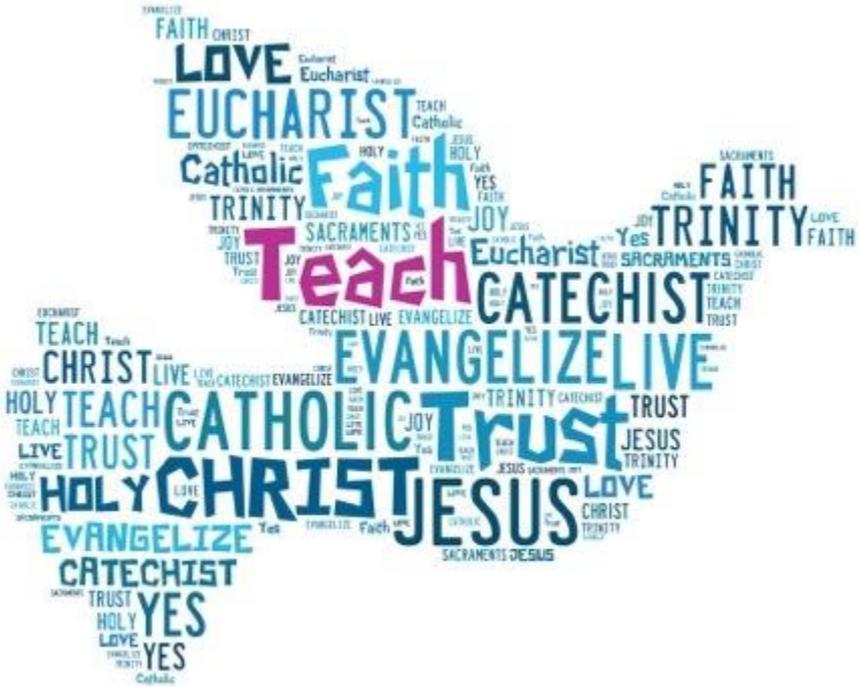


MOST HOLY TRINITY PARISH FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK



ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

MOST HOLY TRINITY PARISH
FAITH FORMATION TEAM
2017-2018

Early Childhood	Regina Matarazzo
First Grade	Sandra Nazario
Second Grade	Michael Ziobro
Third Grade	Barbara Page and Eileen Ziobro
Fourth Grade	Constance DeStefano Amberly Warner
Fifth Grade	Cyndi Finno
Sixth Grade	Elizabeth Gesualdi
Seventh Grade	Daniela Rivera
Eighth Grade	Mary Krayeski
RCIC	Carol Moore

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STANDARDS

Parents are the first educators of their children in matters of faith. As parents, you are the primary models of faith for your children. It is your responsibility to review and discuss with your child the material presented in the faith formation classes.

Parents are asked to help financially support the program through the yearly registration fee of \$50.00 per child. For children preparing for the sacraments (i.e. Reconciliation / Eucharist or Confirmation) an additional fee is assessed. This fee covers supplemental materials, classes, and the day of reflection.

Registration

All public school children in grades 1-8 are to attend religious formation classes. Classes are held once a week on Sunday mornings from 9:00am to 10:15am at the Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco.

All families must be registered in the parish before children can be enrolled in the religious formation classes. In addition, the child's sacramental records must be on file in the parish office.

Cancellation of Classes

In the event that classes needed to be cancelled, notification will be given via, WSBG 93.5 FM on the radio or on the web at www.mht-poconos.org or the Remind call system.

Behavior

Our goal is to surround our children in an environment of Christian love and respect. In the classroom, it is expected that all students will be respectful and attentive. Catechists and aides are called to mirror the welcoming, affirming, and loving model of Jesus Christ. When attending church it is important to maintain a sense of reverence and silence in for to preserve the sacred and prayerful environment of this space.

Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from class for any reason, we ask that you send a note when your child returns. If your child misses two consecutive weeks, the Religious Education Office will contact you. If your child has *excessive unexcused absences he/she may not proceed to the next year*. The importance of attending each scheduled class cannot be overemphasized. It is difficult for the class to move forward as a unit, as well as for individual students to experience a sense of continuity, when attendance is erratic.

Dismissal

To ensure their safety, students are not permitted to leave the lobby unaccompanied by a parent, or another authorized person. If it is necessary to pick up your child before the designated release time, please inform the Catechist before class so that arrangements can be made to have your child brought from the classroom to the parent waiting area. This will help greatly to avoid distractions in the classrooms.

Mass Attendance

In faith formation classes, the students learn about the Bible and various aspects of our ancient and rich Catholic Tradition. They also learn how to respond with lives that reflect their faith in Jesus Christ. They also need to be able to celebrate their faith within their parish community on the Lord's Day, particularly by serving in various liturgical ministries at their assigned class Mass.

Volunteers

We are grateful to our Volunteers for their commitment on behalf of our children. To create a safe environment for our children the Diocese of Scranton requires that all volunteers attend the 'Virtus' training program entitled, *Protecting God's Children*, complete federal background checks, obtain state child abuse clearances, sign a code of conduct and complete a child protection course. These programs help Church volunteers understand, identify the signs, and prevent child abuse. Without this training, no one will be allowed to work with children in program.

The Diocese of Scranton has also implemented "Safe Touch Program" and "Formation in Christian Chastity" for all children. These programs are annual programs.

Parish and Diocesan Requirements for Sacramental Preparation

Two (2) years of preparation are required for the reception of the following Sacraments:

- Reconciliation/Eucharist
- Confirmation

The *purpose* for this two-year program is to ensure that:

- Each student is involved in a structured faith formation program and well prepared for each Sacrament.
- Families together with their children are given sufficient time to grow together in their faith.

The *reason* for this two-year program is that the content for the Sacramental Programs is over and above the fundamental curriculum for each instructional year.

Special Considerations for Registration

If registering from a different Parish, a parent or guardian is required to provide verification of the child's previous instruction. A standard diocesan test will be given to determine the appropriate grade level.

The intervening years between the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation **are not optional; they are required.** If a child does not participate in the instructional years, specifically, the third, fourth and fifth grade years of instruction, they will be required to attain knowledge of material covered in those years according to the diocesan curriculum, and pass the corresponding test(s).

Families who have not participated in the sacramental preparation will be assigned to RCIC / RCIA case by case (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Children / Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*).

General Requirements for Receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation Including RCIC – RCIA

Requirements for First Reconciliation

The child must:

- Attend faith formation classes and required sacramental preparation classes
- Attend Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation
- Know the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, Grace before meals and the Act of Contrition
- Have an Understanding of sin and forgiveness that is age appropriate

Requirements for First Holy Eucharist

In addition to fulfilling the requirements for Reconciliation the child must:

- Have an understanding of the Mass and the real presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Eucharist.
- Attend all classes for both the faith formation and sacramental preparation programs
- Attend the day of reflection

Requirements for Confirmation

The Confirmation Candidate must:

- Have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist
- Attend faith formation classes regularly
- Attend Sunday Mass regularly and have Mass card signed
- Complete the required service hours
- Submit a report written on the selected Confirmation name or corresponding Saint
- Select a sponsor in good standing with the Catholic Church, (married in the Catholic Church, active in the parish and living the Christian life) and can submit a sponsor card based on their standing
- Attend and participate in all sacramental preparation classes and retreat

The Commitment of Participants in the Religious Education Program

Parent Responsibilities

- To make God your first priority
- To take your child to Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation and have Mass card signed.
- To make sure your child arrives on time and is picked up promptly from faith formation classes
- To make sure your child is prepared for class, does the homework, and studies for tests and quizzes
- To attend parent meetings
- To support the teachers and assistants, remembering that they are volunteers

Students Responsibilities

- To attend Mass regularly
- To participate in class and submit work in a timely manner
- To follow the example that Jesus sets for us by being a respectful and responsible Christians

Catechist's Responsibilities

- To prepare and conduct class in harmony with the teaching of the Church, and the requirements of the Diocese of Scranton.
- To be well prepared to teach each class
- To attend Mass regularly
- To attend in service classes and parent meetings

Parent, Student and Staff Agreement Form

Please sign and return when you register for the new academic year. All parents and students must read and sign one agreement per child.

Staff
(Clergy, Catechists, and Aides)

We promise by God's grace to live our commitment in the formation of your child, so they may grow in Wisdom, Knowledge, and Grace as disciples of the Lord in the Catholic Church.

Parent(s)

After reading this handbook, I fully understand the policies of Most Holy Trinity Parish's Faith Formation Program. Furthermore, I will strive by God's grace to be a responsible and caring Christian and to make God my first priority in my child's life. I will accept the responsibility of taking my child to Mass on the Lord's Day and on Holy Days of Obligation. Also, I will make sure my child arrives and is picked up on time every week.

Student

As a student, I will attend Mass regularly and treat my fellow students and teachers with respect. I will participate in weekly classes and I will complete and submit all homework assignments. I will give my best effort every week and follow the example set for me by Jesus, my parents, and teachers.

Please sign and detach

Parent(s)

After reading this handbook, I fully understand the policies of Most Holy Trinity Parish's Faith Formation Program. Furthermore, I will strive by God's grace to be a responsible and caring Christian and to make God my first priority in my child's life. I will accept the responsibility of taking my child to Mass on the Lords Day and on Holy Days of Obligation. Also, I will make sure my child arrives and is picked up on time every week.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student

As a student, I will attend Mass regularly and treat my fellow students and teachers with respect. I will participate in weekly classes and I will complete and submit all homework assignments. I will give my best effort every week and follow the example set for me by Jesus, my parents, and teachers.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Vision Statement for Faith Formation

Our vision is that parish community life will be the wellspring for lifelong Catholic formation and learning. Through participation in parish life, all individuals and families will deepen their communion with Jesus Christ flowing from this relationship. All the baptized will embrace a living, explicit, and fruitful profession of our faith.

