



MOST HOLY TRINITY PARISH

St. Ann's Church · St. Bernadette's Church · St. Mary of the Mount Church

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SACRAMENTAL FORMATION PROGRAMS

The Diocese of Scranton established a series of directives in 2004 for children and their families when preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. The following statement is taken from the diocesan directives.

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ.

The tasks of catechesis consequently constitute a totality ... the maturation of the Christian life require that it be cultivated in all its dimensions: knowledge of the faith (Word), liturgical life (Worship), moral formation, prayer and belonging (Community), and missionary spirit (Service.) When catechesis omits one of these elements, the Christian faith does not attain full development." (GDF 87)

Children who attend Catholic Schools are required to attend scheduled parish programs of formation, e.g. retreats, Masses, reconciliation services, day of reflection, and practices. Children in Catholic Schools are not required to attend regular CCD classes in the Parish.

The above statement is anchored in the Code of Canon Law #777: "In accord with the norms established by the diocesan bishop, the pastor is to make particular provision: that suitable catechesis is given for the celebration of the sacraments; that children are properly prepared for the first reception for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, and Confirmation by means of a catechetical formation given over an appropriate period of time."

The Parish of Most Holy Trinity has established the following *program of formation* for the children preparing for First Reconciliation and Eucharist.

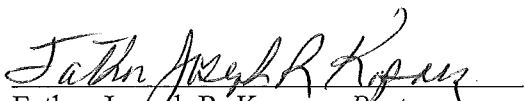
- one retreat for the children
- two sessions for parents
- three formation sessions for each of the sacraments for all the of children followed immediately by participation at Mass
- scheduled practices the week of the sacramental celebration

The pastor and the catechetical teams of our parish strive to be consistent with the universal law of the Church and the directives of Diocese of Scranton. On the reverse side of this letter is a list of the rationale for the specifics of our sacramental formation programs.


We hope and pray that the process of formation and preparation for the foundational sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation will be a blessing for the children, their families and our parish community.

The rationale for the three (3) classes of formation in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation follow:

- To reinforce and supplement the religious education received in CCD classes and during religion classes in the Catholic School
- To develop a sense of community among the children that can be fostered in an instructional setting
- To evaluate in a supportive way each child's preparedness for reception of the sacrament
- To give them a forum during class time to discuss what they see and hear at Mass: the readings, the homily, symbols, and ritual gestures.
- To use the physical church building as a teaching tool
- To promote active participation at Mass
- To attend Mass as a class and using the opportunity to teach the order of the Mass, the parts of the Mass, church posture and behaviors
- To instill that the reception of a sacrament is a community celebration
- To introduce the children to members of the parish at Mass
- To develop relationships for both children and parents with key parish personnel
- To encourage families to participate in the preparation and to attend Mass
- To instill the importance of the sacraments in their everyday lives
- The ultimate goal is meaningful preparation that leads to lifelong participation in the sacraments


Father Joseph R. Kopacz, *Pastor*


Dorothy Lewis, *Director of Religious Education*


Daniela Rivera, *Sacramental Prep Instructor*


Eileen Ziobro, *Sacramental Prep Instructor*

I have read and understand the policy of Most Holy Trinity Parish Sacramental Program and if my child misses more than one class for the preparation of sacraments they will be retained for a later date.

Parent(s): _____

Date: _____