

Encountering the Living Christ Sacred Heart Faith Formation Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

When your child was baptized, the priest said a prayer of blessing, which states that you are the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith and asks that you be the best of teachers. Truly, the ways of faith are caught more than they are taught. Your Catholic Christian lifestyle in the house, at work and when relaxing will be one of the greatest lessons in faith your child(ren) will receive.

Additionally, worshiping as a family is essential. I hope that you are comfortable praying together as a family. There are many

opportunities for this to happen from before meals and bedtime, at the beginning of a trip, when a family member is sick,

in celebration, in thanksgiving and so on.

Please be sure to witness to your faith by participating in the Eucharistic celebration with your child each weekend and

receiving the sacrament of reconciliation as needed. Home should be a place where Catholic literature is found and symbols of our faith. Your constant example to your child is invaluable. In fact, without your constant witness what we teach in the

classroom is hollow.

Our Parish pledges its support to you in teaching the ways of faith. We do this through the Liturgy as well as by offering Faith Formation classes. Please collaborate with our dedicated teachers by assuring the regular attendance of your child(ren) at class, asking about and reviewing material being studied and

otherwise making it clear that what they are learning is important to you.

God's blessings on you and your family,

Fr Ian

God, source of all peace,

You who sent your Son into this world to live and die in the name of peace, Show us that deep peace that surpasses all understanding.

Faith Formation for Children

Pastor

Rev. Ian J. Williams

Pastoral Associate/DRE

Karen Vidler

We offer Classes for Grades 1-8

Mission Statement:

We, the people of Sacred Heart Parish in the Diocese of Gary, are called to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in sharing the good news of our salvation. Building on our rich Tradition of welcome and friendship, we seek to foster a growth in faith in all the members of the parish through the following:

On-going education

Active participation in the liturgy

A loving concern for the needs of others

A responsible use of God's spiritual and material gifts

Vision:

The Faith Formation Program at Sacred Heart offers Catholic Christian education for children so they can come to an awareness of God's love, celebrate that love sacramentally, and show his love to others by living out the mission statement addressed above.

Web Site:

www.sacredheartlp.org

Visit our website to view the church bulletins, information and pictures. On the **Faith Formation link** there are Registration Forms, Confirmation information and Activity Release Form. **Coming Soon** will be the parent handbook, calendar, newsletters, pictures, curriculum, lessons, homework.....

Curriculum:

We adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church as it is expressed through the Gospels, Church Doctrine, Tradition, documents and councils. We follow the Faith Formation guidelines of the Diocese of Gary promulgated by Bishop Melczek. We live out our Mission Statement and instill our Vision.

- * Relationship with Jesus Christ
- * Catholic Tradition & Teachings
- * Prayer & Spirituality
- * Liturgy & Worship
- * Church Community
- * Serving Others

** Instilling the above by utilizing the 'Blest Are We' series, Bibles, story telling and other books, prayer, Class Mass, projects, skits, music, discussion, homework and home projects, service in the community, inviting parents and speakers to the classroom, seasonal events, being models of our faith and **relying on you, the parents, to be the foundational role model of faith in their lives.**

Class Mass

Over the course of the year, each class will lead the congregation at the 10:30 Mass. Based on age level ability, the young people take on as many of the ministries at the liturgy as possible. These include: Altar Servers, Lectors, Greeters, Assisting Ushers, Gift Bearers, Music Ministry and Art and Environment. The intent of the Class Mass is that over the course of eight years the youth gain a greater knowledge of the Mass and familiarity with the ministries and preparation that are required for a Sunday liturgy to take place. This should lead to a greater and more knowledgeable participation on their part in the Divine Liturgy.

Prayers

In this handbook is a list of prayers by grade level. It is strongly encouraged that parents work with their children at home to ensure that these basic Catholic prayer practices are a part of their lives. Prayer before and after meals, before bed, before going off to school in the morning, coming to Mass each Sunday are just a few examples of how to teach your children who we are as Catholics and what we believe.

Student's Books & Supplies

Students will be given their books, folders and paper for notes at the beginning of the school year. **Homework, assignment notes and parent letters will be placed in the folders. Please make sure you check your child's folder each week.** Also, please make sure their name is in their book. It will be the student's responsibility to take their book, folder and homework home and bring their book to faith formation each week. If a student has misplaced their book please call the teacher and/or DRE at the church office 362-2815.

Progress Reports:

Progress Reports will be sent home at least twice a year (Dec. & May). The teacher will determine the format (phone call, note home, progress report form, etc.). This is to inform parents on how well their child is doing and if there are any concerns.

Registration:

Registration for all students returning to Sacred Heart Faith Formation will take place in the spring and at the end of the summer. A baptismal certificate is required for first time registration for those that are not baptized in Sacred Heart Church.

Tuition:

In order to provide the best growing and learning opportunities possible we need assistance with the cost for the program.

Parishioners:	\$70.00 for one child
	\$100.00 for two children
	\$120.00 for three or more children

Non- Parishioners: \$100.00 per child

Tuition is due at the time of registration. If the total payment cannot be made at that time, a payment schedule can be arranged with the DRE.

Time of Class:

**Classes for grades 1-8 are held on Sunday
mornings from 9:15 to 10:20AM.**

Arrival:

School doors open at 9:00 AM

Students should be in their classroom and be ready to begin at 9:15 AM. It is important that the student is punctual.

The Stations of the Cross

Can be found in prayer books at Catholic Book stores

The Most Holy Rosary

Students receive a 'How to Pray the Rosary' booklet in the month of October in Faith Formation class. Also can be found in prayer books, or on special cards sold in Catholic Book stores.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that You are in three divine Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches. Because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying in Your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, MY Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Act of Love

O my God, I love You above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because You are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask the pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created: And you will renew the face of the earth. O God, on the first Pentecost you instructed the hearts of those who believe in you by the light of the Holy Spirit: Under the inspiration of the same Spirit, give us a taste of what is right and true and a continuing sense of His joy-bringing presence and power through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen

Absence/Absenteeism:

It is most essential that students be present for each and every class. Each lesson builds on the previous one and a session missed is an experience lost.

If your child needs to be absent please notify the teacher as soon as possible. You may also call the school on **Sunday morning (8-10:30 AM) @ 219-362-4822** or call the Church office Tuesday–Friday and speak with the DRE @ 219-362-2815 or email: Karen@sacredheartlp.org

If your child is going to absent for an extended period of time, then you need to contact the teacher and/or DRE right away. The teacher can plan with you the necessary material for you and your child to work on together at home. The teacher will expect the material to be turned in when the student returns to class or at a specific date determined by the teacher and you.

Cancellation of Class:

If classes are cancelled due to weather conditions, radio stations WLOI 1540 AM or WCOE 96.7 FM will announce the closing or you will be notified by phone. There will also be a 'NO Faith Formation' sign posted on the door of the building.

If classes need to be canceled for other reasons a note will go home with each student, it will be posted on the website under Faith Formation and an announcement placed in the bulletin.

Safe Environment Program

Along with the Virtus program for all adults the diocese also requires a program to educate children to help keep themselves safe. This program also known as the 'Body Safety Program' is given each year to all Faith Formation students, their parents and teachers. However, upon parent request a student can be dismissed from the program. Notes, brochures and other informational literature will be sent home and put on the website describing the program, the organization presenting it and the date it will be at Sacred Heart Church.

Virtus

Also known as 'Protecting God's Children' this training program was established by the US Catholic Bishops to educate all adults on child molestation prevention. It is a required training for all adults(18 years and older) in every parish in the country who work with children. That includes, teachers, assistants, any volunteers, crossing guards, youth ministers, RCIA for children and so forth. Training sessions take place at various sites around the diocese and are either on a Saturday or in the evening during the week. Included in this program is an online portion that takes a year to fulfill.

Parking and Traffic

Bach and Pulaski streets or parking lots should be used to drop off and pick up students.

Crossing Guards

Jay Gentile Robert Thompson Marty Martin Bruce Kehoe

If you would like to volunteer; Contact the Church office @ 362-2815

Catholic Youth Ministries

Teens for Christ Middle School Youth Group

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm at one of the La Porte

Parishes. Check the bulletin or contact the Church office.

Tri-Parish High School Youth Group

Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm at St. Peter's Parish Center

Youth for Truth

For all high school and college age students. Meets at St. Joseph's Church. For more information contact Lynn Vershay 369-1955.

Sacrament Policy

Baptism

The purpose of Baptism Preparation is to instruct parents on the Theology and Ritual celebration of this Sacrament. contact Fr. Ian Williams @362-2815

Reconciliation

Formally prepares students to celebrate this sacrament in *Grade 2*. The Diocese requires that they have attended and actively participated in **one full year of Catechetical instruction prior to the Sacrament's reception, whether that be in the First Grade or RCIA. Also, students need to attend and actively participate in the Second Grade year.** The sacrament will be administered during the Lenten Season. Participation in the Reconciliation program requires attending two special meetings prior to receiving the sacrament for both students and parents

Eucharist

Formally prepares students to celebrate this sacrament in *Grade 3* given that they have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Preparation for First Communion involves parent participation and is separate from general curriculum. Participation in the Eucharist program requires attending two special meetings prior to receiving the sacrament for both students and parents.

Emergency Evacuation Plans

Fire

Fire drills will be conducted in the fall and spring. An official plan of action has been established and the evacuation plan is posted in each classroom.

Bomb

Bomb threat drills are conducted in the same manner as a fire drill.

Earthquake

In the event of an earthquake warning, students are instructed to get under desks or tables for protection.

Tornado

Tornado drills will be conducted in the fall and spring. Catechists guide students to safe areas within the building.

Prayers By Grade Level

First Grade

Sign of the Cross

Grace Before Meals

Grace After Meals

Glory Be

Our Father (knowledge of)

Hail Mary (knowledge of)

Third Grade

Prayers 1st-2nd Grade

Apostles Creed (knowledge of)

Angel of God (knowledge of)

Morning Offering(knowledge of)

Stations of the Cross

(knowledge of)

Fifth Grade

Prayers 1st-4th Grade

Act of Faith, Hope & Love

Second Grade

Prayers 1st Grade

Act of Contrition

Jesus Prayer

Ten Commandments (knowledge of)

Our Father

Hail Mary

Fourth Grade

Prayers 1st-3rd Grade

Most Holy Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

Luminous Mysteries

Glorious Mysteries

Sorrowful Mysteries

Hail Holy Queen

Fatima Decade Prayer

Sixth Grade

Prayers 1st-5th Grade

Nicene Creed

(knowledge of)
Spontaneous Prayers
Stations of the Cross
Nicene Creed
Seventh Grade
Prayers 1st-6th Grade
Come Holy Spirit
Angelus (knowledge of)
Nicene Creed

Spontaneous Prayers
Eighth Grade
Prayers 1st-7th Grade
Litany (knowledge of)
Novena (knowledge of)

Prayers

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Grace After Meals

We give Thee thanks for all Thy gifts almighty God. You live and reign forever. Amen

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the end of our death. Amen.

Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Jesus Prayer

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Ten Commandments

Can be found in the back of your child's religion book

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and live everlasting. Amen.

Fatima Decade Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us; save us from the fire of hell; take all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass through out the world.

I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for all the intentions of our bishops and of all the Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father for the month. Amen

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven
(*all bow during the following three lines*): by the power
of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man. For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one
holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one
baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Angelus

P: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary
R: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. (Hail Mary)
P: Behold the handmaid of the Lord
R: Be it done unto me according to your word. (Hail Mary)
P: And the Word was made flesh
R: And dwelt among us (Hail Mary)

Let us Pray: Pour forth we beseech you O Lord Your grace into our hearts. That we to whom the incarnation of Christ Your Son was made known
by the message of an angel and by His passion and cross be brought the glory of His resurrection through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Litany

A Liturgical form of prayer consisting of a series of
invocations where responses are the same for a number in succession.
For example: during the Feast of all Saints Liturgy
(P: St. Dominic R: Pray for us P: St. Catherine R: Pray for us.....
R: all holy men and women pray for us)

Novena

A prayer which is said for nine days.

Confirmation

Confirmation candidates are formally prepared to celebrate this sacrament by attending catechesis classes specifically provided for this preparation in Grade 8. **Two year prior formation is necessary. (Students must attend 6th grade & 7th grade prior to the 8th grade Confirmation year.)** The student needs to have had the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist. The sacrament will be administered based on the Bishop's schedule. Participation in the Confirmation program for students and parents requires special meetings, community service and faith sharing with a sponsor before receiving the sacrament. The students will also be required to participate in two day retreats.

Anointing of the Sick

For all members of the Church, usually twice a year within the context of a Mass, but anytime upon request or emergency, Contact Fr. Ian Williams @ 362-2815

Marriage

For those couples who are seeking marriage in the Church. Contact Fr. Ian Williams @362-2815 for registration or information 6 months to one year prior to the wedding.

Vocations

For those feeling called to and/or seeking more information on religious life or the priesthood contact Fr. Ian Williams @362-2815 or Fr. Kevin Huber at the Vocations Office @ 769-9292.

RCIA/RCIA for children

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (and children)

For those seeking entrance into the Catholic Faith. For more information contact Fr. Ian Williams or Karen Vidler @ 362-2815.

In the RCIA for children program the student will be placed in their grade appropriate **Faith Formation class from 9:15-10:20 am as well as attend the RCIA in the Liturgy of the Word format. This format requires the student and family to attend the 10:30 Mass.** Then after the Homily Fr. Ian will call forward the RCIA students and their catechists. Then they will leave to go across to the school building for a 30 minute instruction time. RCIA for children requires that the students be in the program for **one full year with instruction and prayer before saying yes to Catholicism and receiving Sacraments.**