

**SAINT BONIFACE / SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH
REVEREND MSGR. STEPHEN D. MCGOUGH, PASTOR
DIANNE FISHER, DIRECTOR OF RELIGION**

FAMILY HANDBOOK 2010 - 2011



***Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love* —2010 Theme**

A Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world. Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of harmony and fruitful love. Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the Sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. May all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit.

**St. Boniface Sunday PREP Class Time:
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Kindergarten to 8th Grade
St. John Neumann Regional Academy
Franklin Street Campus
(Beside St. Boniface Church)**

**St. Lawrence Sunday PREP Class Time:
9:15a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Kindergarten to 8th Grade
St. Lawrence Parish Center
(Formerly St. Lawrence Rectory)**

St. Boniface Phone:
Sunday Morning – School Office 326-3728
St. Lawrence Phone:
Sunday Morning – PREP Office 322-7076
Rectory Phone:
Monday – Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm
326-1544

PREP MISSION STATEMENT

***IT IS OUR MISSION* to provide an atmosphere of learning by fostering a spirit of peace, joy, love, unity, communication, cooperation and service. We will strive to respect the teachings, traditions and law of the Roman Catholic Church.**

***OUR MISSION UNDER THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON*, in union with our Holy Father, the Pope, is to strive to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of the people we serve, through prayer, by faithful catechesis, encouraging a life of faith, and developing leadership expressed in service to others.**

REGISTRATION

It is necessary to register all students and to update student information throughout the year in case of change in address, phone number, emergency contact, or health concerns. Forms are available at Rectory Office and on the parish web site: saintbonifaceparish.org.

Book Fee:

St. Boniface – St. Lawrence - \$15 per child \$25 two children no more than \$40 per family

If the book fee is a hardship for a family, please contact the Pastor requesting that the fee be waived

COMMUNICATION – The church bulletin will be the main source of communication. Please check this information each week as dates and times are subject to change on short notice. Church Bulletin can be found on the parish website: SAINTBONIFACEPARISH.ORG.

EMERGENCY CLOSING - Please listen to local radio for any announcements concerning the emergency closing of PREP. Every effort will be made to inform you of such closings in a timely manner.

DO NOT LEAVE UNATTENDED – It is important that every step be taken to not leave young people unattended. If you bring your child early to class, please stay with them until the Catechist arrives.

TARDINESS - It is important that every effort be made to develop the habit of punctuality. We encourage families to help your child to see the importance of responsibility for promptness in attending their class.

VISITORS AND GUESTS – Students may bring a classroom guest any Sunday. Visitors and Guests will be expected to follow classroom rules.

END OF CLASS - All children in Kindergarten through Grade 3 will be released at the end of class only to a parent. If there are other arrangements, then a parent must write a note to be given to the teacher for permission for a child to leave class with anyone other than a parent. All children in St. Boniface School must leave through school doors next to the narthex of the church.

MASS ATTENDANCE – from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood that being a Christian isn't a private matter. We are called to be Christians together; while we can and should engage in the private worship of God throughout the week, our primary form of worship is public and communal, which is why Sunday Mass is so important. We make sacred the day of Christ resurrection by coming together as the family of God and receiving Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Please attend Mass together as a family at least on Sunday.

SAFETY RULES

- **Appropriate behavior and common courtesy are presumed and expected at every grade level. Each student is expected at all times to reflect his/her training regarding good manners and consideration for their classmates, the instructor, and others.**
- **Students are not permitted to take open container drinks to the classroom. Spills can result in falls and injury.**
- **It is expected while attending PREP class that each of us will dress and groom ourselves to meet fair standards of safety and modesty.**

ILLNESS / ACCIDENTS

- **When a student becomes ill or is injured during PREP time, every effort will be made to contact a parent / guardian. If this is not possible, the designated alternate adult will be contacted.**

- ❖ Students attending Catholic school or PREP Classes along with their parents are encouraged to participate in the Parish sacramental preparation programs and activities for the sacraments.
- ❖ Students who attend Catholic School are not required to attend weekly parish religious instruction, but need to learn about the sacrament they will receive and participate in the parish group activities, as in retreats, group Mass, large group socials and large group service projects.



Reconciliation and Communion

- ❖ A child must be in his or her second year of Catholic education or religious education classes to be eligible for the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist.
- ❖ The spiritual and liturgical preparation (retreats, workshops, rites, parent meetings, sacramental preparation sessions and rehearsals) occurs immediately prior to the celebration of the sacraments. This preparation takes place at the individual student's parish, which is the setting for the sacramental celebration.
- ❖ The children will be asked to participate in the once-a-year special event of the crowning of the statue of Mary during the month of May (see date on the PREP Calendar). Mary always points us to Jesus, her son, Lord and the source of our strength. The children will be asked to wear his or her First Communion outfits again at this Sunday morning celebration.
- ❖ Older students (3rd grade and above) who have not received the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist are encouraged to participate in religious education introductory classes.



Confirmation

- ❖ In the Diocese of Scranton, children who have attained the age of twelve and/or who are in sixth, seventh or eighth grade are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sacrament program at St. Boniface and St. Lawrence Parish is being reviewed by the Pastor and Director of Religion under the Diocesan *Called to Holiness and Mission* guidelines.
- ❖ The students will be offered participation in a two-year preparation program designed by the parish that will include learning prayers, active in service, participating in retreats, and a help to the students to become more familiar with the prayers and responses of the Mass encouraging a fuller participation.
- ❖ Confirmation is not an end, but a beginning of a life of service. In the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation the parish will guide those who are preparing to receive the sacrament in age-appropriate avenues of service within the parish and the community. The students will be guided in reflecting on this service: How do I serve? What do I do? Who benefits from my service? How do they benefit? How do I benefit from performing this service?
- ❖ The program that will be offered at St. Boniface and St. Lawrence Parish will ensure that parents and sponsors are involved in the catechetical preparation of the children for Confirmation.
- ❖ By providing a two-year preparation program, the instruction should help incorporate the participants more firmly in Christ, strengthen their bond with the Church, associate them more closely with the Church's mission, increase in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and help them bear witness to the Christian faith in words and deeds.

VIRTUS

Safe Environment Children's Program

The Charter to Protect Children and Young People enacted by the U.S. Bishops in 2002, and the subsequent Church norms approved by the Vatican, give every diocese the mandate to establish educational and training programs that will help everyone to recognize and deal effectively with the problem of child abuse.

To fulfill this requirement, the Diocese has chosen the "Protecting God's Children for Adults" component of *VIRTUS*, which is aimed at establishing and maintaining a safe environment for all children. *VIRTUS*, derived from the Latin word meaning moral strength and excellence, represented a behavior and way of life in ancient times that aspired to the highest moral code and appropriate human interaction. The modern-day program which carries its name aspires to uphold these values.

A key part in keeping children safe in our communities is empowering them with the knowledge about safe environments and boundaries. The Safe Environment concept will be taught in our religious education classes in terms of unconditional love in the context of our religious education lesson.

As of the 2010-2011 catechetical year, because this program is mandatory, revised and part of the curriculum, opt-out forms are no longer necessary. For more information please go to the Diocese of Scranton website: www.dioceseofscranton.org. Click on the link Compliance/Safe Environment/VIRTUS.

Formation Program in Christian Chastity

A program of formation in the Christian virtue of chastity has been approved to be used in parishes of the Diocese of Scranton. The program was introduced in the parish religious education programs in the spring of 2009.

Formation in Christian Chastity offers resources to parents of children in kindergarten through eighth grade to help them to supply their children with the Catholic Church's teaching on the virtue of chastity. For children in grades five through eight, the program provides lesson plans to be used in the classroom that support the teaching being done at home by parents.

Formation in Christian Chastity draws on the writings of Pope John Paul II and is designed to help children to develop an awareness of the dignity of the human person and the holiness of the human body. Just as we form children in the virtues of joy, kindness and generosity, we must form them in modesty and chastity.

The program provides age-appropriate lessons to be used by families and by teachers that are consistent with sound Catholic teaching on the virtue of chastity.

For the first four years, parents will be provided with letters that outline a series of teaching points on a particular theme, e.g., the beauty of God's creation. The themes are developed in a manner that is appropriate to the age of the children. For grades five through eight, there are parent guides and basic classroom presentations that complement one another and focus on moral teachings of the Church.

For more information please go to the Diocese of Scranton website: www.dioceseofscranton.org.

St. Boniface PREP Catechists




Support Coordinator	Ms. Julia Ryan
Kindergarten Aide	Mrs. Jessica Beckman TBA
Grade One	Mrs. Becky Knight
Grade Two	Mrs. Michelle Betts
Grade Three	Mrs. Lisa Edkin
Grade Four	Mrs. Karen Rider
Grade Five	Mrs. Karen Balestino
Grade Six	Mrs. Heidi Ryan
Grade Seven & Eight	Mr. Greg Deck

Substitutes

Mrs. Sue McCusker
Mrs. Denise Tobin
Mrs. Janet Ingalls-VanDine

St. Lawrence PREP Catechists



Kindergarten	Mrs. Janetta Dudek
Grade One	Mrs. Amy Persun
Grade Two	Mrs. Lisa Anthony
Grade Three	Mrs. Jennifer Manning
Grade Four	Mrs. Cathy Bachman
Grade Five	Mr. Gregg Anthony
Grade Six	Mrs. Margy Foran
Grade Seven & Eight	Mrs. Nancy Bashista
Class Room Aide	Mrs. Molly Eisley

Substitutes

Mrs. Sharon Faust
Mr. Johnny Gonsalves
Mrs. Sherry Griggs
Mrs. Sally Hilsher
Mrs. Joni Keller
Mrs. Sue Nolan

The Pastor and the Director of Religious Education reserve the right to amend the handbook at any time.

For more information on the program contact:
Mrs. Dianne Fisher, Director of Religion
Phone 322-3278 or E-mail address: ACTSOFFAITH@yahoo.com

Teaching Children to Pray

Although teaching children the faith of the Church is essential, faith is not complete without prayer, because it is through prayer that children form a personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

As little children learn to pray to the Father, even learning the Our Father, they experience the Father's love for them. Likewise, as children grow and mature, they are called to make their own personal act of faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. However, they can only do so if their relationship with Jesus has been nurtured in prayer during the course of their youth.

Moreover, children are to learn to pray to the Holy Spirit for wisdom, guidance, holiness, and knowledge and for the power to overcome evil and to do what is right, good, and just. It is likewise within the context of prayer that children can learn to call upon Mary and all the angels, their guardian angel and saints as well as their patron saint for help and protection.

What is equally important as teaching children to pray is for parents to pray with their children. It is in praying together the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Rosary, the Memorare, the Act of Contrition, and other prayers that children realize that their own prayer is not simply something that children do, but that it is also a "grown-up" thing to do. It is particularly important that boys and girls witness and participate not only in the prayer of their mother but also in the prayer of their father.