

A Catechist
A Proclaimer of the Good News of Christ

Father of all families, you have called us to serve the family in truth and love as a catechist, and each one of us is a catechist.

May we be faithful to this call, rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

May we use these gifts, especially the gifts of faith, hope, and love, to serve the family as a witness to you, who are love and life and the source and destiny of all families.

Let your Spirit enlighten our mind and strengthen our heart so that we can be a path of Christ's love to families, especially those in need, the homebound and aged, the disabled and disheartened.

Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, I pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, whose mission to build a civilization of love passes through the family. Amen.

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

FAMILY HANDBOOK 2011 - 2012



The Eucharist makes the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross truly present now. "Because it is the memorial [liturgical enactment] of Christ's Passover, the Eucharist is also a sacrifice. . . . In the Eucharist Christ gives us the very body which He gave up for us on the cross, the very blood which he 'poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (CCC, no. 1365). "The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it *re-presents* (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross, because it is its *memorial* and because it *applies* its fruit" (CCC, no. 1366).

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 916-2292

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.

A New Translation of the Roman Missal

Beginning November 27, 2011 we will notice some changes in our liturgy – in particular, the words that are said in the Mass. Blessed John Paul II had announced this revised version of the Roman Missal back in the Jubilee Year 2000. The Roman Missal is the ritual text for celebration of the Mass around the world.

The unity of Christians was a primary concern of Pope John Paul II and, following in his footsteps, of Pope Benedict XVI. While we don't all worship in one language as we did prior to Vatican II, we continually strive for the language we do use to faithfully echo the prayers our ancestors passed on as the foundation of the Mass.

The new translation offers us many things to ponder in prayer. It places strong emphasis on such things as the sacredness of the Divine Liturgy, the goodness and mercy of God, and our own littleness and dependence upon him. We can hope that the new words, with proper explanation, will draw both children and adults into the sacred mysteries with renewed faith.

In change we might also find an opportunity. We will need to think carefully about what we are saying, and we may find that certain prayers that we used to say almost automatically take on new meaning. If we keep a positive attitude about the changes to the Mass, and strive to understand their significance, they can be an opportunity for renewing our worship and drawing closer to Christ.

Certain aspects of our style of worship may change, but one thing remains the same: we are one Church with one Shepherd. Let us worship with joy as we praise him with one voice!

END OF CLASS - All children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 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.**

St. Boniface PREP Catechists



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

Substitutes

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

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

St. Lawrence PREP Catechists



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

Substitutes

Mrs. Sharon Faust
Mrs. Sherry Griggs
Mrs. Sally Hilsher
Mrs. Joni Keller

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.

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

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 help for the students to become more familiar with the prayers and responses of the Mass encouraging a fuller participation.
- ❖ Confirmation program will involve youth in ministry awareness opportunities. These opportunities will help each candidate to develop an awareness, understanding and appreciation of what Christian service is about. The candidate will have the opportunity to participate in different forms of Christian ministry through service to others, and these experiences will help each candidate find ministry suited to their gifts and interests.
- ❖ 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

Safe Environment programs are part of the mandate of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002. The programs were developed consistent with the guidelines of the Catholic Church.

A key part in keeping children safe in our communities is empowering them with the knowledge about safe environments and boundaries. Through this program, the students in our Catholic schools and parish Religious Education programs will be taught these very skills in their Religious Education classes.

These themes are taught at age appropriate levels based on the following breakdown: K-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12.

The lessons help every young person, through prayer and Catholic teaching; recognize that they are special in God's eyes and the eyes of their church community.

We will rotate in a three year cycle, age appropriate, scripture based safe environment lessons.

As of the 2010-2011 catechetical years, 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 Diocesan Offices and then click on Child Protection / Safe Environment.

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. Click on Parish Life and Religious Ed.

SACRAMENT PREPARTION

- ❖ 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.