

# Most Holy Trinity



## On Eagles Wings

2009-2010 Handbook

“**Faith** and **Reason** are like two **wings** on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the **truth**; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the **truth** – in a word, to know Himself - so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of **truth** about themselves(Fides et Ratio)”

“...I bore you on **eagles’ wings** and brought you to **Myself** (Ex 19:4).”

Dear Parents and Students,

It is with great hope and joy that we begin another year of religious education here at Most Holy Trinity. As we begin this new year, I would like to present you with an overview of the service we aim to provide you with.

“The specific aim of catechesis...is in fact a matter of *giving growth*, at the level of knowledge and in life, to the seed of faith sown by the Holy Spirit with the initial proclamation and effectively transmitted by Baptism (CT, 20).”

These words of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, are foundational for our religious education program. It is our goal to “give growth” to the people of our parish. By the grace of God the church has provided us a tool that is a “sure teaching norm (FD, 3)” for aiding and directing the growth of our faith. This tool is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. All of the textbooks we use in our program are directed by the *Catechism*, up until high school, where the texts cover the *Catechism* itself.

Our devoted catechists, guided by Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, lead our students in their *growth* through their textbooks and classroom activities. Under this direction, it is our hope and prayer, that the students who pass through our program may develop a mature and lasting understanding of their faith.

I would like to welcome all of our students back to this year’s classes. Please feel free to call me if you have any concerns about your child or if you would like to visit the classrooms. May God grant His blessing on us all as we enter the new school year.

Sincerely,

Andrew Halfman  
Director of Religious Education  
Most Holy Trinity Parish  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Most Holy Trinity Office of Religious Education is dedicated to providing the students of Most Holy Trinity Parish catechesis that is directly in line with the teaching of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. By the grace of God, the Church has provided us with a tool for aiding and directing the growth of our faith which is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Therefore, it is the aim of the program that the catechesis follows the subsequent points:

- Catechesis must be systematic, not improvised but programmed to reach a precise goal
- Catechesis must deal with essentials, without any claim to tackle all disputed questions or to transform itself into theological research or scientific exegesis
- Catechesis must nevertheless be sufficiently complete, not stopping short at the initial proclamation of the Christian mystery such as we have in the core of the Catholic faith
- Catechesis must be an integral Christian initiation, open to all the other factors of Christian life

It is the ultimate objective of the program that upon completion students will have developed an intimate relationship with Christ that will allow them to *think* like Jesus, *judge* like Jesus, *follow* Jesus' commands, and *hope* as Jesus invites us to.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone has a responsibility to serve. We need volunteers as catechists, mentors, classroom assistants, office help, and for special activities. Please help our program by calling the religious education office.

## REPORT CARDS & GRADES

Each student enrolled in religious education will receive a report card. For grade school classes, the year is divided into two semesters. Parents will receive a progress report at the end of the first and third marking periods. At the conclusion of the second and fourth semesters, parents will receive a report card. The grading scale follows that of Fowler Public Schools. It is as follows:

A	100-95	B-	85-83	D+	73-71
A-	94-92	C+	82-80	D	70-68
B+	91-89	C	79-77	D-	67-65
B	88-86	C-	76-74	E	< 65

Any student receiving an "E" will be expected to complete makeup work before advancing to the next class. The catechist and DRE will determine what work is to be made up.

## **INTRODUCTION TO POLICIES**

**Discipline Policy-** With classes ranging from 45 to 75 minutes, it becomes imperative that the religious education classroom setting is not disrupted. With limited class time, every minute is precious. It is the catechist's responsibility to maintain a classroom environment that is suitable to learning. Students who choose to disrupt the classroom setting will be given a verbal warning, reminding them of acceptable classroom behavior. If the student's behavior continues to disturb the classroom, it is the catechist's responsibility to remove that student, sending them either out into the hall or, for a more severe violation, to the Director of Religious Education. The discipline policy is as follows:

1. The student's teacher is primarily responsible for discipline in the classroom with the expected cooperation of each student.
2. Any student who continues to be disruptive, and does not cooperate with the teacher will be sent to the religious education director.
3. If a student is sent a second time to the director within a span of six weeks, the parent will be informed by the director of the discipline problem.
4. If a student is sent to the director for a third time, the parent must accompany the child for one subsequent class session before the child will be re-admitted into the program.

### **MISBEHAVIOR REQUIRING DISCIPLINE**

- Persistent disobedience of rules and policies in the classroom
- Destruction or vandalism of any church property
- Verbal or physical provocation of a fight
- Use of offensive language
- Taking anything that does not belong to the student
- Open defiance or disrespect of any staff member, this includes a refusal to complete class work
- Possession, selling and/or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

Closing of Religious Education sessions/activities due to bad weather will be based upon the cancellation of the Fowler School system. If Fowler Public Schools are closed for the day, our religious education classes will also be canceled for the day/evening. Our evening classes will be canceled if Fowler Public Schools evening activities are canceled.

Cancellations will be known through radio stations; FM 99.1, 94.9 and 100.7, or TV Channels 10 and 6.

### **ABSENCES**

Our catechists are required to maintain attendance records so if your child will be absent from class, please notify the catechist or call the Religious Education Office at 593-3174. Your child's attendance record will be included in the report card.

## **PARENT COMMITMENT**

Parents make the commitment at the time of their child’s Baptism to be responsible for the faith development of their child. A child is a minor, and the parents are responsible for them until the age of 18. Therefore, in fulfilling the promise made at Baptism, parents are responsible for the faith life and religious development of each child until age 18.

It is through collaboration with parents that we can achieve our purpose and goals—that being—to assist parents in fulfilling their responsibility. Parish Faith Formation is the mutual effort of the parish and the family system. Parents/legal guardians are expected to support the faith development of their children and teens by:

- 1. Participating in Mass every weekend**
- 2. Encouraging their child’s faith life at home**
- 3. Making attendance at religious education sessions and youth activities a priority in family calendar planning**
- 4. Contributing to the parish, through time, talent and treasure to the extent that you are conscientiously able.**

## **CURRICULUM DESIGN**

Our curriculum is designed to help the students objectively understand who they are, who God is, and the relationship that is proper between the human person and God, and how this relationship determines how we are to act towards one another.

## **GRADE LEVEL THEMES**

Each grade focuses on a particular Catholic theme. The grade level theme relates to the typical experiences and questions of children at their particular age, as well as opportunities for mass, prayer, and acts of charity.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word...Sunday Weekly Leader Guide – Treehaus Communications  
Grade One..... Who Has God’s Life? – Ignatius Press  
Grade Two..... Who Loves Me Always? – Ignatius Press  
Grade Three..... Who is Our Examples? – Ignatius Press  
Grade Four..... We Follow Jesus – Ignatius Press  
Grade Five..... Our Mission of Love – Ignatius Press  
Grade Six..... The Old Testament - Ignatius Press  
Grade Seven..... Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life– Ignatius Press  
Grade Eight..... Church History-Ignatius Press  
Grade Nine..... Understanding the Catechism – Sacraments and Liturgy  
Grade Ten..... Understanding the Catechism – Morality  
Grade Eleven..... Theology of the Body for Teens – Ascension Press  
Grade Twelve..... Fundamentals of Faith by Kreeft and Hind’s Feet on High Places by Hurnard

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's formation must be balanced; focusing first upon learning the teachings of the faith and then relating those teachings to their own life and acting upon them. It is our goal to begin introducing the themes of the faith to our children, often times with activities that allow them to start incorporating the faith into their everyday life so that from the beginning each child will be able to understand who God is and what He means to them.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word is presented during the 10:30 am Mass for young children to help them implement scripture according to their level of understanding.

## SACRED HEART KIDS CLUB

Students in grades 1 – 4 will have the opportunity to learn about the Sacred Heart of Jesus every First Friday after school. Sacred Heart Kids Club students are escorted by an adult from Waldron on the first Friday of each month from October through June, school is in session. **Students need to have a permission slip from their parents each time.**



## **1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Religious Education**

A dedicated catechist prepares classes that help students gain knowledge of their Catholic Faith while preparing them for participation in the inner life of the church – the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Students will be released from Waldron three times a week to attend 40 minute classes. Religion classes begin the first full week after Labor Day and end the last week of May.

## **4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education**

These students learn from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition how Jesus instructs us to deal with the events of our lives today, as they continue growth towards maturity in the Catholic faith. More opportunities are provided for students to grow in their awareness of Christian service to the world around them as well as global outreach. Students attend religion classes on release time from Waldron, twice a week, from September through May.

## **9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education**

High School religious education meets on Monday nights and will be centered on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Catechism is made up of four different sections including Sacraments and Liturgy, Morality, Creed, and Prayer. Each of these sections will be covered by each of the four grades so that by the time the student has attended all four years of religious education classes, they will have covered the entire catechism. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade will cover Sacraments and Liturgy to help prepare them for confirmation. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade will study Morality.

### **High School class dates are:**

September: 21, 28

October: 5, 12, 19, 26

November: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

December: No Class

January: 4, 11, 18, 25

February: 1, 8, 15, 24

March: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

# SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

## **Expectations of families requesting sacramental preparation:**

1. Families are registered members of Most Holy Trinity Parish
2. Families attend weekend Mass at Most Holy Trinity Parish on a regular basis
3. Children of catechetical age must be at least in grade two, have attended grade one of religion or equivalent and must attend sacramental preparation.

Eucharist/Reconciliation- Students in grade two will be in preparation for these two sacraments according to the Code of Canon Law and the guidelines of the Diocese of Lansing.

## **Preparation sessions-**

Students will be prepared during their regular religion classes as well as home preparation.

## **Reconciliation-**

- Oct. 13 6:30 pm - Parent/Child session in the Old Hall  
Nov. 29 6:30 pm - Reception of Sacrament in the Church

## **Eucharist-**

- Nov. 1 10:30 am Mass- Enrollment Mass  
Jan. 10 6:30 pm - Old Hall- Parent/Child workshop  
Jan. 23 9:00 - Noon First Communion Retreat  
Feb. 7 10:30 am Mass- Second Celebration  
April 27 6:30 pm First Communion Picture / Rehearsal  
May 1 4:30 pm Mass of First Communion

**Confirmation-** Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a two year process. Students in grade nine will begin their preparation, with Confirmation administered during their sophomore year. The development and guidance of the graces received in this sacrament continue through 12<sup>th</sup> grade religion classes.

## **September**

- 12 & 13 – Confirmation Retreat Sat 10 am – 8:30 pm; Sun 8 am – 11:30 am.
- 27 – Confirmation Class 9:30-10:30 am

## **October**

- Schedule interviews with Andrew Halfman or Adam Halfman
- Oct. 12 – Confirmation Rehearsal following 7 pm Mass
- Oct. 19 – Mass of Confirmation 7 pm

## **February**

- Feb. 7 – Confirmation Workshop 7 pm in Msgr. K-13 Hall for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade children who wish to be confirmed and their parents

## **FAITH FORMATION TEAM**

Rev. Dennis Howard – Pastor

Mr. Andrew Halfman – Director of Religious Education, 7<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mr. Adam Halfman – Director of Youth Ministry, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, & 9<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mrs. Mary Jo Weber – Elementary School Catechist

Mrs. Susie Hurren- Religious Education Secretary

Mrs. Joyce Goerge – 4<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mrs. Dana Thelen – 4<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mrs. Linda Shannon – 5<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mrs. Debra Rehmann – 5<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mrs. Debra Henning – 9<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mrs. Nicole Goerge – 10<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mr. Jeffrey Rehmann – 10<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mr. Brian Spitzley – 11<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

Mr. Daniel Spitzley – 12<sup>th</sup> grade catechist

## **EDUCATION COMMISION MEMBERS**

Rev. Dennis Howard

Mrs. Patty Koenigs knecht

Mrs. Denise Young

Mr. Fred Epkey

Mrs. Patty Feldpausch

Mrs. Anne Hufnagel

Mrs. Debra Thelen

Mrs. Cari Smith

Mrs. Michelle Smith

Mr. Andrew Halfman

Mr. Steven Schafer

Mrs. Karen Bengel

Mrs. Rebecca Feldpausch

## **PARISH OFFICE INFORMAITON**

Religious Education Office- (989) 593-3174

Rectory- (989) 593-2162

MHT School- (989) 593-2616

DRE: mhtdre@gmail.com

Please feel free to call the office at anytime. If someone is not there, please leave a message on the answering machine.

Religious Education Office Hours: Monday through Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.