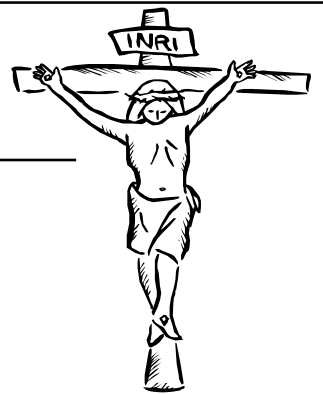


St. Boniface Catholic Church

Faith Formation
Handbook
2009-2010



Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace be with you and welcome back to another year of Faith Formation at the Church of St. Boniface! We have a lot of new and exciting events for you and your children this year, so be prepared for a fun and learning-filled year. Please take a moment to look over our handbook.

Faith Formation is an on-going life-long process that forms, informs and transforms us to become disciples of Jesus Christ. I invite each of you to become an active participant in this process. May each of us come to know Jesus Christ more intimately and enter into communion with Him.

Our parish's committed volunteers and staff look forward to another year of sharing our Catholic faith with your children. I greatly appreciate your continued cooperation and support, and I ask for your prayers as we begin this school year. Please know that you and your family are in my prayers.

In Christ,

Michelle Davis

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Director of Faith Formation

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Mission Statement

God, whose love is infinite, created us in His image, to know, love and serve Him in this world and to live forever with Him in heaven. It is the first duty of parents to impart this knowledge to their children. St. Boniface Faith Formation program will then collaborate with parents to continue to teach children the heritage of truth and grace which Christ left us. It is the hope of this parish program to proclaim the teachings of the Catholic Church by which we might all attain our salvation.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word is an opportunity for young children to attend Mass with their parents while still receiving education that is age-appropriate. During the "Liturgy of the Word" (readings, homily, creed, and intercessions) young children will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a lesson. Prior to the First Reading, Fr. Balluff will invite these children to join their catechist in the Fellowship Hall. They will return to their parents during the offertory song.

- This program at St. Boniface is available to children ages 3 and up who have not yet received First Communion. Children in grades 1 & 2 may attend Children's Liturgy of the Word *in addition* to their Wednesday Faith Formation classes.
- There is no fee for Children's Liturgy of the Word and registration is not required.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held during the Sunday 10:30 am Mass at St. Boniface each week beginning on Sunday, September 20th.

General Information

Tuition:

In order to provide text books and other materials for our Faith Formation program, we charge a small fee per student. Parishioners of St. Boniface pay \$40.00 per student; non-parishioners pay \$60.00 per student.

Severe Weather:

If the local school districts have early dismissal or are closed due to the weather, St. Boniface Faith Formation classes will also be canceled. If schools are not closed but there are severe weather changes during the day, we will make every attempt to contact schools to make an announcement of our class cancellation. If it is too late to make that announcement, an attempt will be made to contact each home with the information. If you question whether or not class will be held, please call the Faith Formation office at 446-1224. If we do not cancel, please use your own judgment.

Attendance:

Continuing Christian development requires students to attend classes regularly at all grade levels. If your child will be absent, you must inform the Faith Formation office prior to class. Students will not be permitted to leave class early without permission from their parents or guardians.

Communication:

Please watch the Sunday bulletin and/or the parish website for Faith Formation updates! Flyers and letters will be sent home with your student as needed.

www.stboniface-stmary.org

Criminal History Background Checks:

Your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. All employees as well as all school volunteers who have regular or unsupervised contact with minors are subject to criminal background checks and must attend a VIRTUS Training Session and sign the volunteer code of conduct.

Student Participation:

The study of the Catholic faith is about building a relationship— coming to know and love the Person of Jesus Christ. Like any relationship, effort must be put forth by both people. The following qualities will help our students grow in this relationship with Christ and will help our catechists maintain a positive learning environment for all of our students:

- A **willingness** to learn, participate, and grow in their faith
- A **great respect** for the rights of others and their property, with a particular respect for their catechists
- An **attentive responsibility** for one's work and actions
 - ⇒ Food and drink are not allowed on a regular basis. Students should ask their catechist's permission to bring food and drink into the classroom.
 - ⇒ Toys, games, electronic devices, ipods, cell phones, and the like are NOT allowed in the classroom.
 - ⇒ Students should thoroughly complete any homework assignments given by their catechists.

Discipline Policy:

If a student fails to follow the rules outlined above, or other rules implemented by his/her catechist, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom. This discipline violation will be discussed by the student, catechists, and director. Upon a second violation, both the student's parents and Fr. Balluff will be notified. Upon a third violation, there will be a meeting with Fr. Balluff, the student and his/her parents to draw up a probation contract.

Sacrament Preparation

First Reconciliation & First Communion

The second grade curriculum focuses on preparing students for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion.

A **parent meeting** will be held on Wednesday, October 7th at 5:15 pm in the school building to discuss preparations for both sacraments.

First Reconciliation

Our Parent/Child Gathering is on Saturday, December 5th at 10:00 am in the school.
The Celebration of First Reconciliation is on Saturday, January 23rd at 10:00 am in the Church.

First Communion

Our Parent/Child Gathering is on Saturday, February 20th at 10:00 am in the school.
The Celebration of First Communion is on Sunday, April 25th at 10:30 am Mass.

Confirmation Preparation Program

The St. Boniface Confirmation Preparation Program is designed as a two year program, completed during the 9th & 10th grades. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:30. Each year includes class sessions, service projects, and other faith events. Students also attend a weekend Confirmation preparation retreat at some point during their preparation.

Students are expected to attend all classroom sessions, service projects, retreats, and fulfill their Sunday (or Saturday night) and Holy Day obligations for Holy Mass.

A **parent/student meeting** will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm in the school. All 9th & 10th grade students are expected to attend with at least one parent.

The celebration of **Confirmation** will take place on Saturday, April 17th at 10:00 am at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis.

The parish "**Welcoming Mass**" will be held for the newly confirmed students on Sunday, April 18th at the 10:30 am Mass.

Faith Formation Classes

Grades 1-10

Faith Formation classes are offered on Wednesdays for children in grades 1-10.
All classes are held in the school.

Faith Formation Class Times

Grades 1-6 ~ Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15pm
Grades 7-10 ~ Wednesdays from 7:15-8:30pm

As of today, this is our **Wednesday** schedule:

September:

9– Catechist Training
16– Confirmation Parent Meeting
23– Faith Formation Kick-Off
30– Class

October:

7– Class & 2nd Grade Parent Meeting
14– NO CLASS (MEA)
21– Class
28 – Class

November:

4– Class
11– Class
18 – Class
25– NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

December:

2– Class (Confessions Grades 3-10)
9– Class
16– Class
23– NO CLASS (Christmas Break)
30 – NO CLASS (Christmas Break)

January:

6– Family Safety Fair (Grades 1-6)
13– Class
20– Class
27– Class

February:

3– Class
10– Class
17–Class (Ash Wednesday)
24– Class

March:

3– Class (Confessions Grades 2-10)
10– Class (Stations Grades 1-3)
17– NO CLASS (Spring Break)
24– Class (Stations Grades 4-10)
31 – NO CLASS (Holy Week)

April:

7– Class
14– Class
21– Class
28 – Class

May:

5– Final Class & Rosary
12– Catechist Appreciation Dinner