

2008 / 2009 Registration Packet

for Children & Families



- *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
3 1/2 to 12 years old

- *Growing In Faith Together*
1st - 6th Grade *and* parents

- **Family Home Study**
K — 6th Grade

- **Junior High Ministry**
7th and 8th grade



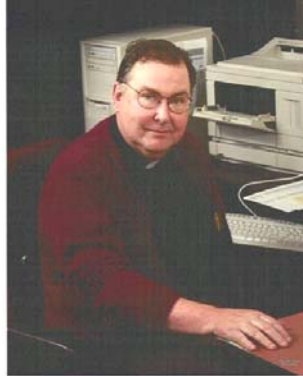
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christian Formation Office

Lenexa, Kansas

Rev. June 1, 2008

From the Pastor



Dear Christian Formation Parents:

Welcome to our Christian Formation Programs. We are happy to have your family enrolled and hope that the coming year will be a learning experience for all of you. This packet is intended to assist you and your family with information about the coming year.

Our programs are intended to assist you as a parent in the religious formation of your children. We are very aware that you are the primary educators of your children. We can never assume that role, nor do we wish to. Our purpose is to partner with you and your family, helping all develop a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith and a closer relationship with God in your lives. To this end our programs include instructions about Jesus and His teachings. We also try to provide some practical or formational experiences of prayer, liturgy, and retreats. We also welcome families who have children with special needs into our religious education programs. Children with special needs can be included in sacramental preparation and all areas of our parish life.

You may notice some differences in our approach to faith formation compared to traditional classes. These differences reflect our growing understanding that knowledge of our faith and deepening of our faith is a lifelong endeavor. The most notable difference is in our GIFT program. We moved from a child's only program to a family centered one. We have reduced the number of sessions, increased the time, added a meal, and required the participation of at least one parent at each session (in many instances the whole family participated). We believe these sessions are much more effective, and in fact, they are fun. Moving to these catechesis assemblies helps parents fulfill their vows they made when they had their children baptized; to be the "first teachers" of the faith. A natural by product of these catechesis assemblies will be adults, especially parents, growing in their understanding of our beautiful faith so that they may in turn share that with their children, and other young people.

We are grateful to our parishioners who assist in teaching, or catechizing, our young people. We hope that you will work with them and assist them when they need your help, as together we build the Kingdom, for the glory of God.

Peace,

Fr. Tom Dolezal

FAQ's regarding
Religious Formation for Children and Families
At Holy Trinity Parish
ages 3 1/2 to 8th Grade

Who is eligible? All registered families of Holy Trinity parish.

What programs are available? We offer 3 choices of faith formation for families with children up to 6th grade: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), GIFT, and Family Home Study. Seventh and 8th graders are invited to attend our Junior High Ministry. Specifics for each are given on pages 5 - 6 of this packet.

Is everything the same as last year? Each year we continue to evaluate our programs and discern how we as a parish can continue to move towards life-long, whole community catechesis. Religious education for children is one aspect of the “bigger picture”.

When do I register? Now! Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes fill quickly. The sooner your form is returned, the easier for us to prepare! Letters will be sent early September to notify you of class placement and specific starting dates. We regret that **those registration forms turned in after Aug. 31st may not be processed till October 1st.**

How do I register? Fill out both sides of the registration form, pg 7 & 8. Return it along with payment to Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 9150 Pflumm, Lenexa, KS 66215. Make checks payable to: Holy Trinity. ***Include a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if they plan to celebrate their First Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation.***

What about sacraments? Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation each have a focused time of preparation. This preparation is in addition to regular religious formation programs. All programs are appropriate for those receiving sacraments. Indicate on the registration form which sacraments you would like your child or adolescent to prepare/receive. The Christian Formation office will contact you regarding Baptism. Information regarding Reconciliation or Confirmation will be mailed out in the late summer while information regarding First Communion is usually mailed in January. *Note: There is no additional fee for those preparing for sacraments.*

What can I do to help? On the back of the registration form are several specific opportunities available for anyone wishing to assist us.

What if I am confused? Please call either Stuart at 913-895-0606, or Kathleen at 913-895-0607. For questions specific to 7th or 8th grade, call Kris Walters at 895-0604.

How much will this cost? What if I can't pay? The opportunity for continued faith formation is offered to all families and individuals regardless of their ability to pay. To help offset the cost of materials and supplies, the suggested gift amounts are:

GIFT/CGS/Jr. High	\$70.00 for one child \$120.00 for two children \$150.00 for three or more children
Family Home Study	\$40.00 for one child \$50.00 for two children \$70.00 for three or more children

How do parents help their children learn about the faith?

- + One of the best ways to help your child, is to nurture and continue to grow in your own faith life. Holy Trinity offers several different opportunities including: School of Faith, parish retreats, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd trainings and parish missions. Work shops and other events in the diocese are often listed in the bulletin throughout the year.
- + Attend mass together.
- + Be supportive and interested in your child's questions and concerns.

Select from the following programs:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)—Within a prepared environment (atrium) children and catechists together nurture their relationship with Jesus. Presentations based on the Bible and Liturgy help the children encounter the living God.

- 3 1/2 years (by September 1st) - 6th grade
- uses a Montessori approach for religious formation
- meet weekly with a catechist, except when there is a Parish Mission
- 3 levels:
 - Level I 3-6 years of age
 - Level II 6-9 years of age
 - Level III 9-12 years of age
- September through May
- not available for those children in Holy Trinity School 1st & 2nd grade or HTCCC 3yr. old, 4 yr. old, or T—K classes (these children attend during school hours). **Note:** HTS kindergarteners wishing to attend do need to register.

Class time and day: On the registration form please make 2 choices for time and day, as these classes tend to fill quickly. Occasionally additional class times become available. If all classes are full, your child's name will be put on a waiting list and placed in a class if space becomes available.

3-6 year olds - Level I has 6 times available this year.

Mon. 9:00-10:30 am; 4:30-6:15 pm
Wed. 1:00-2:30 pm; 4:30-6:15 pm; 6:00-7:45 pm
Thurs. 4:30-6:15 pm

6-9 year olds - Level II has 4 times available this year.

Mon. 4:30-6:15 pm
Wed. 4:30-6:15 pm; 6:00-7:45 pm
Thurs. 4:30-6:15 pm

9-12 year olds - Level III has 4 times available this year.

Mon. 4:30-6:15 pm
Wed. 4:30-6:15 pm; 6:00-7:45 pm
Thurs. 4:30-6:15pm

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) — families experience God together in a program that exposes them to prayer, scripture, doctrine, and liturgy. Emphasis will be placed on family life and supporting households as “domestic church”. These are called catechetical assemblies since we come together as a larger family to pray, share faith, eat, learn about our rich heritage, and have fun.

Our GIFT Catechetical Assemblies are designed for families with children in:

- 1st—6th grade
- Generally meet every other Wednesday of the month, 6-8 pm
- One parent (or other adult) expected to attend with child (we welcome the entire family)
- Includes a meal for the family
- September—May
- Held in Fr. Quigley Faith Formation Center

Family Home Study—An opportunity for the entire family to share in the experience of catechesis on your own time schedule at home.

- Kindergarten—6th grade
- day and time of your choosing
- Monthly mailings
- can be year round

Junior High Ministry—Team members plan and implement the sessions following a calendar of church events and topics. Parents are invited to attend or help with any portion of these evenings. A typical evening begins with dinner immediately following our Sunday night mass and is composed of 4 parts:

Gather—a time to welcome and build community

Proclaim—the main topic or message of the evening is presented

Break—through small group discussion or other means the teens explore “how does this apply to me?”

Send—closing prayer and announcements. Parents are asked to attend the “send” portion of the evening.

- Any child in 7th or 8th grade
- Gather Sunday evenings after the 5pm mass
- Weekly sessions end at 8 pm
- September — April
- We also offer 2 weekend retreats per year

Note regarding confirmation and service hours: Teens preparing for confirmation should be striving to live a life of Christian stewardship—responding in time, talent and treasure to God’s love. As part of the preparation process, they will be asked to complete reflection sheets on three different service experiences. More information will be given at the parent meetings, September 11th and 13th.

Emergency Information:

List two neighbors or relatives who will assume temporary care of your child(ren) if you cannot be reached.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ How known _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ How known _____

Family Profile-for ALL families to consider

The following information will be treated as confidential.

1. Is there anything that would be helpful to know about your child or your family (illness/death in the family, single parent, different religious beliefs, areas of difficulty for the child such as trouble reading, areas of self-consciousness, allergies, etc)? If the information is about a specific child please specify which child has the need.

2. Does your child have any special needs such as physical impairments, cognitive impairments, ADD, ADHD, learning disabilities, vision impairments, hearing impairments, medical or behavioral conditions? If so please give name of child and details.

3. Depending on your responses to the above questions, someone may be contacting you to get more information about how we can best serve your child.

The best time to reach me , _____(name), is ____: _____am/pm at _____(number)

Gifts and Ministry

All members of Holy Trinity Parish are blessed with their own unique gifts. We invite you to share with us those areas of interest and experience that make you unique. We also invite you to mark those areas of ministry in which you feel called to assist us.

Please initial those marks so that we can identify the parent.

Please circle and initial areas of interest (I) or experience (E)

- I E - Education/formation of children
- I E - Communication/media
- I E - Music
- I E - Sacramental prep
- I E - Social justice
- I E - Worship/liturgy
- I E - Disabilities
- I E - Community outreach/service
- I E - Catechist: grade level _____
- I E - Catechist assistant
- I E - Other: _____

Specific areas in which we need your help:

- _____ classroom assistance (para support)
- _____ Children’s Liturgy assistance
- _____ monthly cleaning of atrium
- _____ cut & copy materials for atrium
- _____ 1st communion retreat
- _____ Confirmation retreat
- _____ hospitality/ food –GIFT or Jr. High
- _____ calligraphy
- _____ group facilitators-GIFT or Jr. High
- _____ woodworking repairs
- _____ catechist assistant for CGS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Received _____ Check # _____ Cash _____