

Faith Formation HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

Louis Murgia

(407) 277-1702 ext. 103

lmurgia@btccorl.org

Brandie Akos

Blessedtrinity.lt@gmail.com

(407)277-1702 ext. 102

Yliana Soto

(407) 277-1702 ext. 106

ysoto@btccorl.org

OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE



RECONCILER OF SINNERS

Our Mission Statement

The Family Faith Formation program at Blessed Trinity Parish is dedicated to providing adults, youth, and children with the knowledge, experiences and skills necessary to become faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus.

In keeping with their age, they will assume responsibility as vital members of the parish and be able to participate in the Church's mission to proclaim, celebrate and serve.

Admissions/Registration

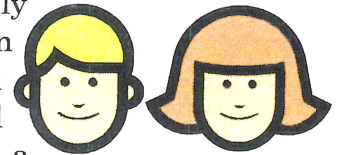
REGISTRATION POLICY

Families must be registered in the Parish in order to enroll their children in Faith Formation. Those enrolling their children for the first time must provide a copy of each child's Baptism Certificate. Registrations for new students takes place in August 2023.



STATEMENT OF GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

It is expected that each family become actively involved in Blessed Trinity's Faith Formation Program and Parish in order to model a living, conscious and active Christian faith, and to reinforce the values and attitudes for living that faith. The family and their children also agree to act in accordance with these values and attitudes. Failure of a family member to act in a truly Christian manner or cooperate fully with Blessed Trinity Parish may lead to the removal or non-registration of the family member participating in the Faith Formation Program.



CUSTODY ISSUES

If parents are divorced or separated a copy of the custody agreement pertaining to the Faith Formation of the child must be kept on file in the Faith Formation office.



FINANCES AND OTHER CONTRACTED FINANCES



Definitions – Pre-K –5th Grade Registration fees are as follows: **\$65** for one child, **\$60** for the second child, **\$45** for third child and no fee after the third child. Edge(6, 7, 8th Grades) and LifeTeen (9th-12th Grades) 5\$ Processing Fee Plus DONATION. For the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation there is a fee of **\$45** per child. These fees are used to purchase student textbooks, materials for retreats, as well as other classroom materials needed for class. If a family is unable to pay the registration fee for financial reasons, or needs to make payments, please contact the Parish Bookeeper, Dennis Beckwith, to make special arrangements.

Textbooks: Each student is issued a textbook for the year. Your child's catechist's will send home the chapter pages taught that day, every week. Please take sometime to go over the lesson with your child. If your child is absent you are responsible to cover the material they miss. Remember, you are their **primary teachers** of the Faith.

Discipline/Rules

Because the class time is limited, each catechist will set up simple classroom rules in order to maximize instructional time and minimize distractions. If consistent discipline issues occur with a student, parents will be contacted to discuss the situation and how to resolve it.

In order to provide the best learning environment for all students we ask that students **do not** bring cell phones, Ipods, handheld games, and other toys to Faith Formation. Our class time is limited and the catechists cannot afford any unnecessary distractions.

Attendance

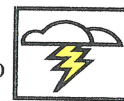
Regular attendance at Religious Education classes is an important factor in deepening a child's understanding of our triune God through the study of Scripture, Prayer, Church teaching, and Community. If an absence is unavoidable please notify Mr. Louie by e-mail at lmurgia@btccorl.org. The catechist of your child's class will be notified. The material missed will be provided so that you can help your child review it before the next class.

Arrival and Dismissal

For your child's safety and protection, all students are to be taken to and picked up from their assigned classroom by one parent or person specifically authorized in writing by the parent(s). Students should be picked up promptly at the close of their class session. **At dismissal time students will not walk to their cars. Pre-K through 5th grade children are to be signed in and signed out of their classrooms by parents. 6th-8th Grades must be signed out. The Religious Education program can only be responsible for students whose parents follow this dismissal policy.**

No student is to be allowed to leave the Parish Center until the parent(s) or assigned person comes in for pickup. Older siblings will not be allowed to sign out younger siblings. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

Emergency Class Cancellation

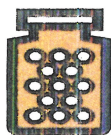


As we look to the new year, we would like to make everyone aware of our class/meeting cancellation guidelines. Religious Education classes will generally be cancelled during any weather emergency, such as a hurricane, tornado, or severe weather conditions. Our primary concern is for the safety of our children and families.

Safety and Health

MEDICATION

Medicine is never dispensed by those in the parish Faith Formation Program. If children require medicine, parents come to the class to dispense it themselves or to make other arrangements. Parents need to inform the Faith Formation Director and catechist of any special medical condition or needs of their child. All such information will be kept confidential.



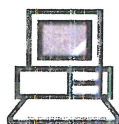
FINGERPRINTING POLICY of the Diocese of Orlando has mandated that any adult or young adult (14 years or older) working with children must be fingerprinted and background checked. Therefore, only fingerprinted individuals will be allowed in the areas in which classes are being held. *If you would like to be a hall monitor or classroom assistant, please contact the Faith Formation Assistant, Yliana Soto.*

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND PREVENTION

Every family is expected to read the "Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention Booklet" of the Diocese of Orlando. There is also a Safe Environment video online through the Diocesan website (www.orlandodiocese.org). Pursuant to state law, we are required to report suspected child abuse, and we will follow Diocesan policy on such matters.

CHILDREN'S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION RULE

Every family is expected to read the policy of the Diocese of Orlando on internet safety.



Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Parish Policy on Catechesis/Preparation

In accordance with Sacramental policies and guidelines approved by the Bishops of Florida, March 6, 2000 Sacramental Catechesis takes place in a parish based program.

- Registration for First Holy Communion Preparation takes place in June or August
- **A copy of the participants baptism certificate is required to complete registration.**
- Living the life of a practicing Catholic is normative and expected. This means parents and children participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church, which includes worshiping with the community (Sunday mass) each week.
- Blessed Trinity offers preparation for Reconciliation and Communion to children, in 2nd grade and higher. **They must also attend regular Religious Education Class.** Exception: Children/adolescents are enrolled and participating fully in Catholic school.
- Adults who have been baptized but never catechized may need the process of the RCIA.
- Children, adolescents, and adults must complete catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation before beginning Preparation for First Holy Communion.
- Children, adolescents, parents, and adults must participate in the Advent and Lent Parish renewal on Reconciliation.
- There are **two half-day sessions for Reconciliation (Fall) and three First Holy Communion (Spring) sessions** which include prayer and age appropriate catechesis AND MASS PARTICIPATION. **Full Participation is the norm and Mandatory. (see calendar)**

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Parish Policy on Catechesis/Preparation

- Missed sessions will be “made up” at a date given in the future. Sports, ETC... are NOT acceptable excuses for Formation Preparation on the TRUE PRESENCE OF JESUS
- Children/adolescents participate in the rehearsal.
- Following the Parish guidelines for the Day of First Holy Communion is expected/required.

CONFIRMATION Parish Policy on Catechesis/Preparation

In accordance with sacramental policies and guideline approved by the Bishops of Florida, March 6, 2000 sacramental catechesis takes place in a parish based program

- A copy of your baptism certificate is required before beginning preparation.
- Living the life of a practicing Catholic is normative and expected. This means full participation in the sacramental life of the Church, which includes participating in Mass with the community each Sunday.



Confirmation

- Children/adolescents must have a solid background in religious education before sacramental catechesis for confirmation (preparation) begins. This takes place through parish religious education or Catholic school.
- Candidates for Confirmation at Blessed Trinity do not begin immediate preparation for confirmation until they are 14 years old (must be fifteen on the day of Confirmation) and/or in 10th grade.
- Immediate preparation for Confirmation includes retreats, 7 sessions which involve prayer and catechesis, plus meetings with their sponsors between the sessions. They must also attend regular Religious Education Class. Exception: Children/adolescents are enrolled and participating fully in Catholic school. Full participation is the norm and Mandatory. Sports, ETC... are NOT acceptable excuses for Formation Preparation.
- Parents of adolescents are required to participate in an orientation session and the immediate preparation sessions.
- Parish sponsors of adolescents are required to participate in the orientation/training sessions, the immediate preparation sessions, and to meet with the adolescent they are sponsoring once between each preparation session using provided materials.
- Adults seeking Confirmation participate in the parish preparation process, which includes the immediate preparation sessions, meetings between sessions with their sponsor. Making a spiritual retreat during the time of preparation is expected. Both adolescents and adults are expected to continue a life of service through one of the ministries in the parish.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

These sessions are for those interested in becoming Catholic. Sessions are offered for:

- Children, Teenagers, and Adults who have never been baptized.
- Children, Teens, and Adults who were baptized in another Christian tradition and never catechized.

FULL COMMUNION CLASSES

- Children, Teens, and Adults who were baptized in another Christian tradition and have some knowledge of the faith.
- High school students who were baptized Catholic but never had instruction in the Catholic faith.

*Each situation is unique and people are placed based upon their specific needs.

Classes for RCIA meet on Sunday mornings beginning with Mass at 10AM and concluding around 12:30 .

Communication

Parents will be notified about various activities of the program through flyers, bulletin announcements, texts, and email. Due to high cost in postage and shipping charges, the Faith Formation Office will be using email addresses as the primary means of communication. We will also send text messages with important reminders. It is required we have your cell number and phone carrier (ATT, Verizon...) in order to text you in the event of an emergency. Mailings and phone calls will be used only occasionally. We are here to serve the Religious Education needs of our children, youth, and adults. If you have any questions comments, or suggestions please feel free to share them with your child's catechist or contact: Louie Murgia, Brandie Akos or Yliana Soto (See the cover page of this Handbook for details).

Curriculum

Preschool Formation (4 and 5 years old)

"Seeds" from Pflaum. Will teach young children about our Catholic faith. Familiarize children with the Catholic sacraments, liturgical rituals, symbols, and seasons. Help form children's moral lives, standards, and values. Teach children how to pray. Give children the words and tools they need to talk about God.

Elementary Formation (Grades 1- 5)

The Word of Life series is published by Augustine Institute. The General Directory of Catechesis (no.226) states "Children thus perceive and joyously live the closeness of God and of Jesus made manifest by their parents." Simply put: Parents are the primary educators of their children. In order to accomplish this, parents are asked to attend Faith Formation once a month at the beginning of a new unit with their child. Teachers will still teach on Sundays, but parents will take a more active role in the catechism of their child.

We look forward to partnering with you to fulfil your Baptismal promise to raise your child in the faith of the Church.

Middle School Formation (Grades 6- 8)

EDGE is a youth group gathering open to all 6th-8th grade students. During the school year, we meet in the Parish Center, 6:30pm until 8:00pm on Wednesday's throughout the school year from September-May, as well as select dates throughout the summer. We feed your body & soul! Food, faith and fun, guest speakers, hands-on activities, song, prayer, games, movies, personal reflection, and question and answer sessions. We share our lives and the stories of our own faith, doubts and triumphs.

High School Formation (Grades 9- 12)

Any high school students currently attending grades 9-12, Catholics or non-Catholics are invited to attend our Life Teen program! We meet on Sundays throughout the calendar school year from September-May as well as select dates throughout the summer months! Make sure to follow us on Instagram & Facebook for the latest updates!

The Diocese of Orlando has adopted “Circle of Grace” to assist children to set appropriate boundaries in all situations.

Parents will decide to allow their child to have the Catechist give the lesson at Blessed Trinity (OPT IN) or teach their child at home (OPT OUT) Receipt of the packet and signing acknowledgement of receipt is mandatory. The option to teach the lesson is up to each parent.

Program Overview

Each Grade’s Section Includes Thorough Leader Guidelines and Instructions

Clearly stated Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives

Handouts needed for Prayers, Lessons, and Activities

Extensive Vocabulary List

Kindergarten through Grade 2 What is the Circle of Grace?

The Spotlight: Feelings, Touch, and Secrets,

Safety Plan

(First and Second Grade build on the Kindergarten material reinforcing the above important concepts.)

Grade 3 What is the Circle of Grace

Boundaries and the Limits of our Circle of Grace

Action Plan

Grade 4 Internet Safety and our Circle of Grace

Grade 5 Understanding the Influence of the Media on our Circle of Grace

Grade 6 Circle of Grace: Pieces of the Puzzle

Safe Relationships: Putting the Puzzle Together

Boundaries: Every Piece Has it’s Border

Safety PLAN: When Something does not Fit

Grade 7 Saying No to Disrespect: Honoring Everyone’s Circle of Grace

Grade 8 How to be Morally Responsible in Today’s Culture

Grade 9—Grade 12 “A Cloud of Witnesses”

Mary and Joseph who said Yes to God

What to do when Your Circle is Broken, Action PLAN

Expectations

Parents:

Faith and Spirituality are nurtured and grown within the family.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore, the parents play a vital role in the faith development of their children. Families catechize by their attitudes, values, and beliefs. We accept the responsibility to assist you in this task. All students should be celebrating Sunday Mass with their families and our church community. We ask you to make sure your child attends classes regularly and that you take an interest in your child’s class work and homework. We ask you to teach your child to pray, and help her/him to develop Catholic Christian values. Together, we can assist your child to develop and mature in her/his spiritual life.

Students:

All students are expected to share in the Faith learning participating in classroom activities and discussion. We expect students to behave in a Christian manner at all times showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students.

Catechists and Aides:

As role models, Catechists will provide a loving, Christian atmosphere within the learning environment so that children will be able to grow in their Faith. They will prepare and teach the designated curriculum incorporating multicultural and multiple intelligence insights into the many activities.



Who are the La Salette Laity? An invitation to you

They are Catholic laity inspired by the Apparition of Our Lady of Salette who want to connect themselves more closely to our Weeping Mother and the principles of Spirituality contained in her message at La Salette. As Our Lady requested in her merciful apparition, these devoted people pray each day, reflect on the scripture and her message and make her message known whenever the opportunity arises. La Salette Laity are in over twenty countries around the world and have established programs of ongoing formation, living and ministering as co-missionaries, connected with the La Salette Missionaries.

La Salette Laity are open to anyone 18 years of age or older who would like to grow daily in their knowledge and appreciation of the La Salette Apparition and her mandate to make her message known. There are no costs involved in becoming part of the La Salette Laity. It simply requires brief reflection time each day and willingness to attend local presentations about the La Salette topics and the lifestyle of La Salette Laity.

To become a member of the La Salette Laity, a person is asked to make a commitment to three actions:

1. **To reflect daily** using a "La Salette Laity HandBook".
2. **Pray daily** an Our Father and a Hail Mary.
3. **Learn more about** the four topics of La Salette Spirituality.
4. **Participate in a Ministry** in your parish, workplace and community.

For more info Contact Fr. Jim Henault at jahenault@msn.com, Carlos Bernard at cbernard@orlandodiocese.org or Louie Murgia at lmurgia@blessedtrinityorlando.org.



Memorare to Our Lady of La Salette

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for us on Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep us faithful to Christ, your Son. Having done so much for your children, you will not now abandon us.

Comforted by this consoling thought, we come to you pleading, despite our infidelities and ingratitude.

Virgin of Reconciliation, do not reject our prayers, but intercede for us, obtain for us the grace to love Jesus above all else. May we console you by a holy life and so come to share the eternal life Christ gained for us by his cross. Amen.

Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you. Amen.

Oracion a Nuestra Senora de La Salette

Acuerdate, Nuestra Senora de La Salette de las lagrimas que has derramado por nosotros en el calvario. Acuerdate tambien del cuidado que tienes siempre por tu pueblo, para que en nombre de Cristo, se deje reconciliar con Dios. Y mira si después de tanto haber hecho por tus hijos podrias acaso abandonarlos.

Reconfortados por tu ternura, oh Madre, aqui nos tienes suplicándote a pesar de nuestras infidelidades e ingratitudes.

Confiamos plenamente en tí, oh Virgen Reconciliadora. Haz que nuestro Corazón vuelva hacia tu Hijo. Alcánzanos la gracia de amar a Jesus por encima de todo y de consolarte a ti con una vida de entrega para la Gloria de Dios y el amor de nuestros hermanos. Amen.

Nuestra Senora de La Salette, Reconciliadora de los pecadores, ruega siempre por nosotros que recurrimos a ti. Amen.