

Prayer for our Family — Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Heavenly Father, you have given us the model of life in the Holy Family Nazareth. Help us, O Loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign. May it be deeply contemplative, intensely Eucharistic, revived with joy.



of

Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow in family prayer.
Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families,
especially in their distressing disguise.
May the Eucharistic heart of Jesus make our hearts humble like his
and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way.
May we love one another as God loves each one of us. more and more each day,
and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins.
Help us, O Loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, prayer for us. St. Joseph, pray for us.
Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us. Amen.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Fr. Tom Burdick, Pastor

Pastoral Associate	Olivia Obregon
Elementary Coordinators (1-5)	Connie Aldorando & Rosie Diaz
Middle School Coordinators	Martha Wagner & Traci Griggs
Life Teen/Confirmation Coordinator (9-12)	Vonnie Mulhall
Sacrament Preparation Parent Coordinator	Max Groninger

Plus our very valuable Catechists, Catechist Aides and Volunteers

Contact Numbers:

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish Office (During regular office hours)	951 325-7707
Emergency Number for grades 1—5 during class sessions	951 378-4231

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Faith Formation program of 2008-2009

As parents and/or guardians of your children, you are truly their primary catechists, and it is the Church's duty and privilege to assist you in that very important work (GDC, no. 227). Consequently, the members of the Faith Formation team are dedicated to serving the families of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish by sharing their faith, knowledge and experience with you. It is our hope that during this year, we can learn and grow together so that we may all become more active participants in the Body of Christ.

Since family participation in our programs is our number one goal, we encourage parents or guardians to be active participants in their children's programs. Towards that end, we have a variety of volunteer positions available for parent participation in the Faith Formation program. The catechesis program is one in which the assistance from parents and guardians is necessary in achieving its goal, that is to bring the message of Christ to our young people. You may have noticed that a volunteer sheet was added in our registration packet. It is our hope and expectation that you would join the faith formation team with your time and talent wherever you can. In addition to instituting a family centered catechesis program, Faith Formation is working to provide a variety of activities that, when added to a family's regular Mass attendance and reception of the Sacraments, can provide the children of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta parish with the foundations they need to grow in faith and love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

Thank you for your support. The Faith Formation Team



Faith Formation

Formation in the Catholic tradition is a life-long process. In this thought, Blessed Teresa Parish offers ongoing Faith Formation opportunities for all ages. Our approach is based on the Catholic teachings of the Catholic Church and will focus on the weekly Sunday readings with emphasis on its meaning from the age-appropriate point of view.

Faith Formation begins from the home as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity and service are the rules. Home is well suited for education in the virtues.

Parents are the most vital part of our children's faith formation. We at Blessed Teresa want to assist and support you in your efforts.

Class Attendance

Please always arrive on time for class. Students who arrive late not only miss a vital part of the lesson, they disrupt the catechist and the other students. Students who are 20 minutes or more late to class will be marked absent.

Regular class attendance throughout the entire length of the student's Faith Formation is very important for the program builds from week to week and from year to year. Consequently, registering your child in the Faith Formation program every year will assure their reception of age appropriate knowledge of Catholicism which will help them build a deep and reverent relationship with Jesus Christ.

Attendance is particularly important for those students who are preparing to receive the Sacraments, and is therefore monitored quite closely. **Parents and Guardian please note that, any Sacramental Preparation absence(s) will require a make-up session. Irregular attendance may necessitate a postponement of the reception of the Sacrament.**

SACRAMENT PREPARATION PROGRAMS FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION Grades 2 to 12

At Blessed Teresa Parish, a child may begin his/her formation of faith in First Grade. In Second Grade a child may begin the preparation for the reception of Reconciliation (Penance). If following this process, a child will be prepared for the reception of their First Communion in the Third Grade.

An older child beginning the sacramental process, will follow the same process of preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the first year, and Sacrament of Eucharist in the second year.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Every child who is preparing to receive either First Reconciliation or First Communion must participate in and satisfactorily pass a Sacrament readiness interview with a member of the Faith Formation team. PARENTS MUST ATTEND THE SACRAMENT READINESS INTERVIEW WITH THEIR CHILD.

Classes

Students preparing for the reception of either First Reconciliation or First Communion must be enrolled in, regularly attend and satisfactorily pass the weekly Faith Formation classes in which he or she is enrolled.

The preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion is instructed by the parents or guardians outside of the standard Faith Formation classes. Consequently, the parents or guardians are to attend monthly meetings that are designed to help them prepare their children for the reception of the sacraments.

Since parent or guardian attendance at the above meetings is very important, they are asked to sign in when they arrive.

Lack of regularly attendance by the child in the weekly Faith Formation classes or by the parent or guardian in the parent preparation classes will result in the postponement of the reception of the sacrament by the child.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Since the safety of the students is of primary concern to all of us at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, the Faith Formation team wishes to assure all parents and guardians that those who will be in contact with our children have met the following requirements.

They have been fingerprinted and have passed the background check process.
They have attended and successfully completed a workshop on the Safe Environment Policy for the Protection of Children.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the safety of your children.



Prayers



Since parents are the primary religious educators of their children, it is their responsibility to see to it that their children know their prayers. A list of prayers that need to be learned at every grade level will be provided to you by the Faith Formation team.

Communication

Parents and/or guardians are urged to comply with the following guidelines:

- Attend the parent/guardian orientation meeting.
- Read the Sunday bulletins and any materials sent home with your child.
- See to it that your child attends classes regularly.
- Drop off and pick up your children in a timely manner.
- Notify the teachers and aides if you think you may be late in picking up your children.
- Notify the teachers and aides of any changes or additions of authorized adults picking up your child. This procedure must be in writing only.



Confirmation Preparation

The Confirmation program is a three-year program.

Year One: Pre-Confirmation Class

The student is to attend one year of Faith Formation prior to entering the two-year Confirmation preparation program. The student will do an in-depth study of the Creed and its meaning to the students. Students who enter this year will commonly be in the ninth or tenth grade.

Year Two: Confirmation I

The first year of Confirmation preparation will be devoted to a study of moral issues and an overview of Catholicism. Students in this year are commonly in the tenth or eleventh grades.

Year Three: Confirmation II

The second year will be devoted to a study of the Sacrament of Confirmation with stress on the preparation for the reception of the rite itself. Confirmation is commonly received by students in the eleventh or twelfth grades.

Sunday Teen Nights In addition to the weekly sessions, the confirmandi will gather once a month at the Teen Mass scheduled on Sunday at 5pm. After Mass, the confirmandi will remain for Teen Night. This evening session will include activities, a teaching by a invited speaker, and food and drinks will be provided. **Please note that the confirmandi will not attend a class during the week when these Sunday Teen Nights are scheduled.** Pre-Confirmation will be included in this Sunday activity.

Service Projects within the community will be a component that our confirmandi will participate. A variety of community projects and outreach programs are being checked out as possible activities for our Confirmation program.

Attendance: Any absence(s) will require a make-up session(s) on scheduled Saturdays.

Real Presence

*Let my heart be a wide and welcome harbor
where my children come to rest.
May these arms stretch wide and strong
to hold his fear, her hurt, their tattered sense of self.*

*May there be a solidness within me
on which their pain may crash
and recede
and I remain.*

*Let my presence be an island to them
in storm-tossed seasons,
rising up from troubled waters to offer
shelter, respite, and firm dry ground.*

*May they find in me
a haven to tend to battered souls
until the day the certainty of such solid ground
launches them to sail uncharted waters unafraid.*



Tom McGrath

**Check out these websites for
Catholic families**

**harcourtreligion.com
faithfirst.com
catholicscomehome.org
domestic-church.com
Catholic-kids.com
Osv.com (Our Sunday Visitor)
lifeteen.com**



Guidelines

Creating an atmosphere for learning and sharing is very important to the Faith Formation process. Therefore, in order to do this, we must insist on certain rules and guidelines. In the registration packet, a “Commitment Form” was signed by parents and children so that the approach to faith formation is one of commitment and utmost importance. Please share and discuss with your children.

Dress Codes

Clothing makes a statement about who we are and even about who we wish to become. Even our public schools insist in a certain standard. A church environment naturally demands a bit more.

- No midriff tops
- No tube tops
- No micro skirts or short shorts
- No visible undergarments
- No inappropriate T-shirts

Electronics

Please do not bring the following. We cannot be responsible for these expensive items if they are lost or damaged. Their use is also distracting to the youth and takes away from the experience for those around them. Parents, please be aware and do not allow your children to bring these items.

- No i-Pods
- No headphones
- No games

If they must absolutely bring cell phones, they **MUST** be turned off during the session. If a parent needs to reach their son or daughter, you may call 951-378-4231 (grades 1-8). Pre-Confirmation, Confirmation I & II will provide their students with their home/cell number.

Guests

We are gratified that our youth feel comfortable enough at Faith Formation to invite friends and relatives. But because they are not registered, we have no way of knowing who they are in case of emergency or whether their parents would wish them to participate in a Catholic faith forming experience or not. Prior to bring guests, we ask that you obtain a “Permission Slip” and have them signed by the **guest’s parent or guardian.**

Taking students to and from classes Grades 1—8:

Please be prepared to park your car and walk your child into the building where the classes or activities are being held.

Once inside of the building, please sign your child in for the classes. This must be done by a parent, guardian or the authorized adult stated in the “Release Form” in the registration packet.

At the end of class, the students will be kept in the building until a parent, guardian or authorized adult comes into the building and signs the child out.

Under no circumstances will a child be allowed to “catch a ride home” with another person without the express written approval of a parent or guardian.