

ST. BLASE CATHOLIC CHURCH



Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation Guide Book

*St. Blase is a welcoming Catholic community
where the love of Jesus Christ
is learned and lived, sung and shared.*

ST. BLASE PARISH OFFICE

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Priest in Solidum

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Pastoral Associate

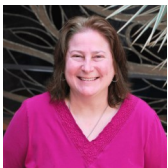
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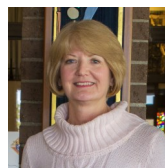
1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation

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Anthony Howell

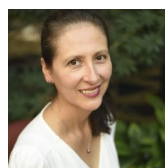
1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation



Linda Wilkins

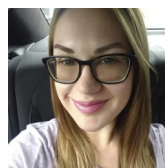
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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

We are excited to be partners with you in catechesis for your children—to pass on the message of Jesus, to foster Christian community, to invite them to prayer and worship, and to motivate them to a life of service. As we begin together, we remind you of your awesome power as Christian parents. What we do is minimal compared to the great work you are constantly doing in your home. Your children will learn what it is to be Catholic in today's world because of you: your faith and values are what they witness seven days a week. Thank you and keep up the good work!!!

Acknowledging the various needs of families, Saint Blase Church offers a number of different options for the faith formation of children and young adolescents. In all cases, we respect the parents as the primary educators of their children and seek to assist and reinforce this role. All programs use approved textbooks and/or age appropriate materials. In all cases parents are an integral part, both in teaching their children and modeling the faith in the home.

Regular attendance is essential for the effectiveness of our parish faith formation programs. The curriculum is designed to foster ongoing learning that may be diminished by absences; however, we realize that the nature of childhood includes occasional illness. If an absence, please notify the coordinator by email or phone. Missed chapters are to be completed at home.

We expect your children to also behave in a responsible manner while in Faith Formation sessions. If there is a problem with inappropriate behavior, you will be contacted by the Faith Formation Coordinator.

Included here are the guidelines for participants in the programs and expectations for families, as well as what families can expect from the parish. Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions or comments. We are here to assist you.

SUNDAY PARTICIPATION AT MASS

Families are *expected* to worship at mass together on Sunday. Why? The mass is our source and summit of all Catholic living and learning; without regular worship participation, all our efforts in faith formation will be ineffective. It is important that the children practice their faith regularly by attending mass in addition to joining in faith formation sessions and study at home. If you don't attend regularly at St. Blase, please discuss with our Director of Religious Education, and request the weekly form available to be filled out for the mass attendance outside of St. Blase.

Said another way, children and youth of catechetical age may not begin preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation unless they weekly participate in Sunday liturgy. It is the parish's responsibility to verify this participation prior to any child or youth beginning preparation sessions.

This is done in many ways but may include notice of active participation as an altar server, joining a choir, or by checking family weekly contribution participation. *If you are unable to support your parish through a financial contribution, just drop in your empty envelope in the collection basket at mass. This will be recorded. Financial contributions may also be made electronically. See www.stblase.org for more information.*

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES

A copy of the Baptismal certificate must be submitted at the time of registration for all children NOT baptized at St. Blase. If you do not have a copy of the Baptismal Certificate simply call the parish of Baptism; they will send it to you.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM DETAILS

. . . ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL TIMES . . .

Participants in all Faith Formation Programs should arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the start of the program. This allows the sessions to begin on time and avoids disruptions.

- **PRESCHOOL:** Tuesdays at 6:30—7:30pm twice a month. Children must be in attendance with their parent/guardian during the entire time of this program. Enjoy the interaction between God, your child & yourself, a sacred time.

- **GRADES 1-6:** Tuesdays at 6:30 – 7:45pm, twice a month.
ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm: Parents must sign-in their children at each FF session at their assigned classroom. Please leave a valid phone number of where you can be reached during that time.

DISMISSAL @ 7:45 pm: Parents must sign-out their children by going to their child's class. Catechists will only release children to their parent or to the designated adult whom you specifically identified on your FF registration form. Any exceptions must be written in a letter and given to Diann Chase prior to session starting.

HOME SCHOOL - Must first be approved by Diann Chase—DRE. Chapters are done at home and will be checked periodically throughout the faith formation year.

- **GRADE 7:** Wednesdays at 6:30 – 7:45pm, twice a month.

ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm teens will go directly to their assigned classroom.

DISMISSAL @ 7:45pm: Parents must come in and sign their teen out in their assigned classroom. Young people will not be allowed to walk out to waiting cars in the parking lot.

ABSENCES Teens are required to do the chapter taught in class as a home chapter.

HOME SCHOOL - Must first be approved by Diann Chase—DRE. Chapters are done at home and will be checked periodically throughout the faith formation year.

- **GRADE 8:** Thursdays at 6:30 – 7:45pm twice a month.

ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm teens will go directly to their assigned classroom.

DISMISSAL @ 7:45pm: Parents must come in and sign their teen out in their assigned classroom. Young people will not be allowed to walk out to waiting cars in the parking lot.

ABSENCES Teens are required to do the chapter taught in class as a home chapter.

HOME SCHOOL - Must first be approved by Diann Chase—DRE. Chapters are done at home and will be checked periodically throughout the faith formation year.

In the rare event that a young person or child needs to leave early, the parent/guardian will need to provide written notification to the Section Coordinator and the catechist.

****Please note that meeting day/times may change as needed for scheduling purposes**

MORE... CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM DETAILS

SPECIAL NEEDS -

If your child has medical or learning needs, such as allergies or ADD, ADHD, autism, etc. please note them on the Faith Formation registration form in the appropriate section and bring them to the attention of Diann Chase - DRE. This will enable us to provide a better learning environment for all participants.

NOTE: If your child has behavioral issues that can not be controlled in the classroom, you will be contacted by the Director of Religious Education. There are two possible options. 1.) to HOME SCHOOL your child, teaching them the material from your home with assistance from coordinator or 2.) For special needs kids, call St. Ephrem's Parish on 17 Mile & Dodge Park. St. Ephrem offers a Special Needs Faith Formation Program. Call 586-264-2777 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

Additional copies can be downloaded from the parish website: www.stblase.org

COMMUNICATION

Since we are partners in the faith development of your children and are committed to serving the needs of adults and youth, we want you to be aware of all that we are doing during faith formation sessions. Therefore, we will make every effort to keep you informed about the activities through, email, the Flame (our parish bulletin) and the parish website (www.stblase.org).

NOTE: Our primary means of communication is [email](#) or [St. Blase Facebook](#). "Friend us!"

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

Parents, your greatest job on this earth is to protect your children from unduly harm. By attending a three-hour PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP free, you will learn how to better protect your children from sex predators. **NOTE:** All volunteers in any Catholic Church (catechists, aides, hall monitors, etc.) who come in contact with children *must* attend a PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP. Go to www.virtusonline.org to register at a location near you. Click on Archdiocese Detroit, MI. Are you having difficulties registering on-line? call the Parish Office for assistance.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS:

In the event of inclement weather, St. Blase will cancel religious formation sessions when Utica Community or Warren Consolidated Schools cancel classes. When this is necessary, every attempt will be made to contact parents/guardians prior to the scheduled religious formation session. Please make sure we have an accurate email address. In the event of an emergency after a session has begun, detailed safety procedures and plans are in place to aid the catechists. Catechists are instructed to keep their class of young people together; minors will not be released until the Section Coordinator has determined that the threat has passed and it is safe to do so.

FIRE & NATURAL DISASTERS:

Fire and disaster plans are in place to provide for the safety of all. In the event of an emergency evacuation, all persons will exit the building according to the designated route for their location (Church, Hospitality Center, Thomas Merton Room, etc.) and gather at the north end of the parking lot on the BERM. Please do not stay in the building looking for your children; this action will endanger the safety of those trying to exit the building by creating confusion and congestion. In the event of a tornado, children will be moved to the safest places in the Church building as possible.

MEDICAL:

Religious Formation Staff and Catechists never dispense or administer any medication to young people. Parents will be contacted immediately in the event of a medical emergency using emergency phone numbers as you indicated on your registration form or parent sign-in sheet for all grades.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY CONCERNS:

For the protection of the youth and the adults who work with them (catechists, parents, chaperones, etc.) all faith formation sessions and activities for youth must meet the criteria of being observable and interruptible. Sessions/activities will be held in open spaces (for example, the social center) or rooms that contain open doors or windows on the doors. This will enable the Faith Formation Staff to observe and monitor all youth-centered sessions/activities and interrupt them when appropriate. In addition, St. Blase Parish will follow the guidelines of the Archdiocese Safe Environments Office in handling all allegations of sexual misconduct. These guidelines are available from the diocesan office or from the Parish Business Manager.

ALL SACRAMENTS...see Faith Formation Calendar for specific dates.

- Weekly mass attendance is a pre-requisite and is required/expected for anyone seeking to receive a sacrament.
- Please provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate to the office if not baptized at St. Blase.

Reconciliation for the First Time . . .

Children may celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time beginning at the **age of seven or older**. **Parent-Child Preparation classes begin in October**. A child must be at least age seven and understand the difference between doing something wrong on purpose (knowing right from wrong) or if the incident was an accident. There are three Parent-Child Reconciliation sessions to prepare for this sacrament. All children should have made their 1st Reconciliation by 4th Grade. Contact Christina Willson or Anthony Howell if your child missed this window of opportunity.

The Sign of the Cross & Act of Contrition must be memorized before celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Adults who have never experienced the sacrament or who have been away for a time and wish formation or guidance, please contact Dr. Mary Dumm, Pastoral Associate.

There is the opportunity for private celebrations of the sacrament every Saturday at 3:00 PM. Communal celebrations are scheduled during Advent and Lent. The Sacrament of Penance may also be made by appointment by calling Fr. Randy Phillips, Pastor.

Eucharist for the First Time . . .

Commonly, children prepare for Eucharist for the first time beginning at the **age of seven or older**. **Parent-Child Preparation classes begin in January**; reception of Eucharist is always the 3rd Week of Easter. It is important that children have sufficient knowledge and are carefully prepared so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity. For seven year olds or older, the process begins at home and is developed by weekly mass participation and is supported by formal Faith Formation programs which include 4 Eucharist Parent-Child sessions from January — April. Questions to ask yourself as you determine your child's readiness:

- ♦Does your child care about the Mass? Are they eager to receive Communion?
- ♦Is your child easily distracted at the liturgy, or are they beginning notice of the parts of the Mass?
- ♦Do they sing the hymns and acclamations?
- ♦Do they pray with the assembly?
- ♦Do they listen attentively during the Liturgy of the Word?
- ♦Do they ask specific questions about the mass or symbols in church?

The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be must be memorized before celebrating the sacrament. For more questions, contact Christina Willson or Anthony Howell—Eucharist Coordinators

Confirmation . . .

Practicing Catholic Adolescents, **8th grade or older** who wish to celebrate Confirmation may register for Confirmation Prep classes. **These preparation classes begin in the fall** with the Sacrament of Confirmation being celebrated in the Easter Season. Confirmation preparation also includes a Retreat. Candidates for Confirmation will seek the spiritual help of a selected sponsor who is baptized Catholic and in good standing. Forms must be completed in a timely manner and mass attendance is mandatory.

The Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be & Act of Contrition must be memorized before celebrating the sacrament. For questions, contact Diann Chase - Confirmation Coordinator.

BASIC PRAYERS TO PRAY AND TEACH IN THE HOME BEFORE RECEIVING SACRAMENTS.

(Before receiving Sacrament of Eucharist, first 4 prayers must be memorized)

(Before receiving 1st Reconciliation, Sign of the Cross & Act of Contrition must be memorized)

(Before receiving Confirmation, all 5 prayers must be memorized)

1.) Sign of the Cross +

(use right hand to sign)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2.) Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

3.) Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

4.) Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

5.) Act of Contrition

O my God, I am sorry and repent with all my heart for all the wrong I have done and for the good I have failed to do, because by sinning I have offended you, who are all good and worthy to be loved above all things. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid the occasions of sin. Through the merits of the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ, Lord, have mercy. Amen.

YOUTH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Children's/Youth Offering envelopes are available for our children and teens to use at weekly **mass**. They are available at the Information Desk or Parish Office in a box of 52 undated envelopes, free of charge. The envelopes are to be used the same way as the adult envelopes with a few exceptions:

These donations will not be counted and recorded for tax purposes. (Since most of the children/youth don't file their own tax returns, this shouldn't be a concern.)

Also, envelopes will not be mailed to the home. When they are in need of another box, you can simply come to the Parish office for a refill.

Why give the children/youth this option to use Offering Envelopes? Did you know studies have shown that starting the practice of "giving" at a young age helps form the healthy habit of donating as adults. When we share our TREASURE, we begin to realize that ALL WE RECEIVE is a GIFT from God. Our Ushers report that it is amazing to see the excitement when the young people of our parish help their parents by placing the envelope in the basket. Allowing your child or young person to give something to the church and an offering to God may be the beginning of a long life habit of being charitable to God and to good causes that they will encounter throughout their lives. This is one more example how we here at St. Blase give our children the chance to take ownership in their church.

It doesn't have to be a monetary donation—it can be a picture of how special God is in your child's eyes. It can be words of encouragement to others. Creativity is key when using God's Talents. When we give of ourselves the love that is God, His love spreads to others! This is a wonderful way to get your child active in the church, and it can also be used to count as mass attendance if your child is in our Faith Formation program.



SPARKS & EMBERS

YOUTH GROUP



What is Youth Group?

Youth group is a safe space where those in Middle and High School can come together and share food, have fellowship, make friends, have some fun, and dive deeper into faith without even realizing it! We invite all those in grades 6-8 (Middle School – Sparks) and 9-12 (High School – Embers) to join us on Sundays, from 12:30pm – 2:30pm. All are welcome!! You just have to be open to being part of an amazing group of youth! We will be here every Sunday! No need to register, just need contact information when you drop off your kiddo. Let's have some fun diving deeper into our faith, playing games, sharing stories, and letting youth be youth! God is good! All the time!!

For more information, contact Diann Chase in the Parish Office.

Youth Group FAQ's

Youth Group for Middle (grades 5-8) and High (grades 9-12) School meets on Sundays from 12:30pm to 2:30pm starting in the Social Center. The Embers and Sparks will hopefully grow and become a strong ministry that empower youth to seek God while having fun! There have been some questions regarding Youth Group:

What is Youth Group? Youth Group is a safe space where youth can come together, build friendships, have fellowship, enjoy some food, play games, and learn about our amazing faith!

Do you only meet once? Nope! We are here every Sunday from 12:30pm – 2:30pm so if you miss one week, come back for another week. This is not a “formal” teaching group so if you miss a week, you just come the next week. There are no books to worry about and no syllabus – you just come and be present with an open mind and heart. This is the youth's group (hence – youth group). We only ask that you give it more than a one-week trial. The first weeks of meeting are always a bit awkward as we learn to grow as a group. Everyone is always welcome at any time! Don't think you can't belong because you miss a meeting – you are always welcomed!!! Join us!

What if we aren't Catholic? No worries there either! It is open to the community so the youth can bring their friends. We only ask that everyone respects each other and remember that it is a safe space.

Do we need to register? Parents/guardians need to sign in the youth and provide contact information so there is no need to register.

What topics do you discuss? We do ministry lessons based on what the Holy Spirit decides. Normally, it is liturgical, but it can vary depending on what the youth bring to the group. It is ever-changing and reflects the Living Word of God. The only rules we have are to be respectful of each other, the youth leaders, our space, and be open to what is being discussed. Also, you must have fun!

Will there be events? Of course! They will be planned throughout the year, but know we are just starting out so events will come as the year unfolds.

Hopefully this answers the big questions, and we hope to see our youth be a part of this amazing ministry! God is good! All the time!!

LITURGICAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN

THE ASSEMBLY:

Know first that **YOU**, the assembly, are one of the most important liturgical participants at Mass! Come each week to make up the Body of Christ in the pews and raise your voices!



USHER IN TRAINING:

To arrange for your responsible child to help pass out parish bulletins after mass.

Contact:

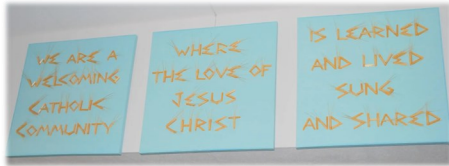
Jim Richard,
(586) 755-7876



GREETER MINISTRY:

All or part of your family would greet people as they enter church for Mass.

Contact: Ceil Toepel, (586) 243-6980



CHILDREN'S OFFERING ENVELOPES

A box of undated envelopes are available at the Parish Office.

These children's donations will not be counted and not recorded for tax purposes. Studies have shown that starting the practice of giving at a young age helps form the healthy habit of giving as adults. Our Ushers tell us that it is amazing to see the excitement when a child drops their own envelope in the collection basket at mass.



PRESENTATION OF GIFTS OF BREAD & WINE:

What a joy and privilege to represent the community by bringing up our gifts of bread & wine to the Lord! Ask an Usher 10 minutes before mass, or, to ensure your family brings up the gifts at a particular mass, call **Mary Dumm** a week prior.



ALTAR SERVERS:

Child must be responsible, not easily distracted and tall enough to reach the altar and lift candles. Altar Server Training Dates to be announced.

Contact: Mary Dumm,
marydumm@aol.com



KINDRED YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY:

Grade 1 through age 18

Our YMM will meet on Wednesday's from 5:00-7:00pm. We need both instrumentalist and

vocalists. So, if you sing or play any instrument, join us! We are happy to help, teach and support new choir members and new musicians!

Contact: Alicia Bryson, *Director of Youth Music Ministry*, brysonmusicstudio@gmail.com

ST. BLASE



YOUTH CHOIR

ALTAR CARE:

Adults are needed to take home and launder altar linens or help to do light cleaning in church. Children may assist if supervised by a parent.

Contact: Mary Pernicano

LITURGICAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS, TEENS & CHILDREN

TAKE EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND:

What a great experience to
bring along your child or teen!
Contact: Lisa Grembi



Listed are just some liturgical opportunities
offered at St. Blase. There are many more!
Lector, Sacristan, Mass Coordinator,
Communion Minister, etc. **Contact Mary Dumm**
to learn more about these and others, too!

REMNANT MUSIC MINISTRY:

Contemporary music ministry open to adults
and teens. Rehearsals are Monday evenings
at 7pm.

Contact: David & Susie Taylor, *Directors of
Music*, susan.taylor@stblase.org OR
david.taylor@stblase.org

VOICES IN PRAISE CHOIR:

Traditional choral music ministry open to adults.
Rehearsals are from 6:30-8:30pm every
Thursday from September to June. The VIP
sings 2-3 liturgies/ month and one liturgy /month
during the summer.

Contact: David & Susie Taylor, *Directors of
Music*, susan.taylor@stblase.org OR
david.taylor@stblase.org

HOSPITALITY: DONUT SUNDAY

How about helping with set-up and serving
bagels and donuts after 9:00 am or 11:00 am
Sunday Masses, October through May?

Contact: Rose Lotito

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is a
group of parish members
interested in the
beautification of the

St. Blase parish grounds. Using our God-given
talents and the bounty and beauty of God's gift
of nature we will strive to create a peaceful
garden setting for all to enjoy.

Contact: Emily Tchorz



CHRISTIAN SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

MCREST:

Providing food for the homeless
in Macomb County. One week
during the summer in July,
St. Blase delivers food to the
homeless of Macomb County. During the week
they may volunteer to prepare the food that is to
be delivered and help with clean-up.

Contact: Lisa Grembi (586) 268-2244



LENTEN FISH FRY

Assist in various responsibilities helping with our
Lenten Fish Fry every Friday during Lent and on
Ash Wednesday. Assist with order taking,
curbside delivery and online orders.

Contact: Jim Lotito at (586) 596-5272

CEREAL COLLECTION

Include your child or teen by having them bring
in a box of cereal to mass on the second
weekend of each month (except Nov and Dec).
Cereal is delivered to the Macomb County
Emergency Food Program. Drivers are needed
to make this cereal delivery between the hours
of 8am-3pm, Mon-Fri.

Contact: Lisa Grembi (586) 268-2244

PLASTIC WITH A PURPOSE

This group crochets plastic bags together to
create sleeping mats for the homeless. All are
welcome to join this group, no crochet
experience necessary. This ministry meets the
first Monday of the month from 1:30—3:00pm.