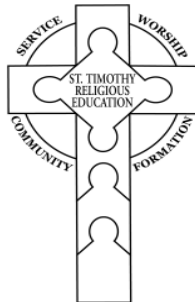


Connecting the Pieces Of Our Faith

Parish School of Religion
Education Handbook
2011-2012



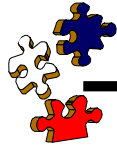
*"Connecting the
Pieces of Our Faith"*

St. Timothy Parish
Union, Kentucky



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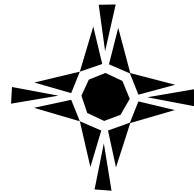
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Welcome to St. Timothy Parish Religious

Education Program, *Connecting the Pieces of Our Faith*. Just as every piece is needed to complete a puzzle, every child at St. Timothy is important to complete our big picture, our parish faith community. We offer a program to draw them into our faith, to show them how vital they are to our community. We provide developmentally appropriate instruction and hands-on activities to enhance their knowledge and help them develop their own spirituality.

Our theme for this year is
Wild About God!
We will **learn** together, **pray** together,
serve together and **play** together
during this spirit-filled year.

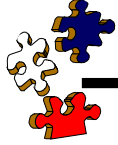


Parents are their children's primary teachers

in matters of faith. St. Timothy Parish strives to work with parents to pass on our Catholic faith and traditions. Experiencing the rhythm of the church year, understanding what we celebrate in the Sacraments, making moral decisions based on Christian values, developing a sense of wonder and respect for God - these aspects of religious formation do not come from books alone but from a home environment that teaches through example and practice. We desire to help parents with this important task. Please contact us with any questions or suggestions regarding faith instruction in the classroom or at home.

We ask that you take seriously the religious education program and its expectations. Your attitude toward the program speaks louder than words. Your help is essential, and one way to help is by volunteering in our program. This is an excellent way to show your child that you think the program is important.

Most importantly, share your faith with your children. Tell them how you learned about your faith and what that faith means to you. You are the best and most effective teacher your children will ever have!



Sacraments are some of the most memorable times of a Catholic's life. Sacraments are parish celebrations, so all children of St. Timothy celebrate sacraments here. Baptism initiates us into our community, and each subsequent sacrament marks a person's faith journey both personally and within that community. Our religious education program is privileged to assist parents as they prepare their children for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist — sacred celebrations of God's mercy and love - usually are celebrated in grade 2. Children in this program are expected to have had at least one year of prior religious education. If the child has not fulfilled the one year of prior classroom instruction, they will be required to complete prior year curriculum with the younger grade level. If the child is older than second grade, s/he or may be placed into our R.C.I.C. class to receive the more individual instruction required.

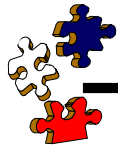
Public school students attend weekly. Second grade Parochial school students receive their religious instruction and sacrament preparation during the regular school day and join us throughout the year for specified retreats, rehearsals, and celebrations. These activities provide a great opportunity to get to know others who will also celebrate these sacraments at St. Timothy.



Parental involvement is vital. We offer practical suggestions for preparing children. It is extremely important that parents take their children to Sunday Mass so that they learn to be active participants. Additionally, Parent/Child activities have been built into the calendar.

Confirmation is offered to children in grade 8, but preparation occurs during a two-year program beginning in grade 7. Public school students in grades 7 and 8 are required to attend throughout the school year. Catholic School students in 8th grade are required to attend grade 8 PSR classes until confirmed.

These young people come together not only to learn about the Church and their faith, but to live out their faith and their call to Serve as Jesus served. We emphasize their involvement in the community of faith and their **personal decision** to say "yes" to the faith into which they were baptized. Candidates for Confirmation are required to show an understanding of the Catholic faith and be active participants in parish worship and community. They are expected to have at least two consecutive years of religious education in preparation for being confirmed. Parents and sponsors are expected to be involved in students' preparation. We will make arrangements for older students who have not been confirmed and who have had limited or no prior formal religious education on an individual basis.



Student Expectations

St. Timothy seeks to provide a safe and effective learning environment for the students who attend religious education. Behavior that is disrespectful or harmful to self, teacher or other students will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to:

- **Be** kind and polite toward others
- **Be** respectful of their teachers and demonstrate reverence in Church
- **Be** attentive and involved in class and all activities.
No cell phone use during class.
- **Be** a good steward of our classrooms and other property
- **Be** dressed appropriately. Students should dress as expected by the student's day school. Mass attire is expected for Sunday students.

If a student participates in behaviors contrary to the above expectations which the teacher judges to be disrespectful or harmful to self, teacher or other students, the student will be subject to the discipline procedure.

Creator God,
There is so much to learn, so much to understand.
Your world is full of wonder.
We have only begun to understand the forces of nature and the laws of
Your universe.
We have only begun to understand the gifts that each person brings to
the family of humankind.
We have only begun to understand You in all Your greatness and love.
Open our eyes and ears and hearts to appreciate more deeply the
wonders of creation, the beauty of persons,
and the mystery of Your love.
As we begin a new year of learning, fill us with Your understanding.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son.

Amen



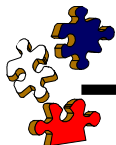
To help us throughout the year, here are some guidelines:

Attendance

It is the expectation of the PSR catechists and staff that students will attend all scheduled classes. When an excused absence does occur students will need to make up missed class work and projects. Students in the sacramental preparation classes must be held to the highest level of commitment.

Students in preparation for First Eucharist will be considered unprepared to receive the sacrament if they have missed more than three classes and/or do not attend Mass regularly and will not be allowed to receive the Sacrament with their class. *Catholic School students are expected to attend Mass and must attend all retreats and events indicated as on the calendar to receive the desired Sacrament.*

Confirmation students who miss more than two formal classes prior to Confirmation and/or do not attend Mass regularly will be considered unprepared.



Tardy Policy

Students who are between five and 30 minutes late for class will be counted as a half (1/2) absence. Students who are more than 30 minutes late will be considered absent.

If a student is removed from class it is considered an absence.

Classes meet at the parish center with the following times:

- Grades 1-3** Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.
- Grades 4-6** Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.
- Grades 7 and 8** Mondays - 7 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.
- Resource Room** Sundays (2x/mo) - 9:20a.m. to 10:00a.m.
- All Grades 1-8** Sundays - 8:05 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
- Sundays - 10:05 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
- Mondays - 5:30 p.m. - 6:40 p.m.

(classes will be held as scheduled based on minimum enrollment requirement)

Safety is a priority. All students in grades 1-8 are to be dropped off at the Parish Center. Students in grades 1-3 are to be picked up from their classrooms. Parents are to escort children across the parking lot to provide a safe environment.

Students who attend classes on Sunday mornings are to be dropped off from the lower back parking lot and picked up at their classrooms as you proceed to Mass. Parents are asked to use the door on the south end of the building whenever possible.



Cancellation of weekday classes due to bad weather will follow the Boone County Schools in most cases. If schools close or dismiss early because of bad weather, our classes will be cancelled. You will receive a call from St. Timothy's personnel if weather conditions improve enough during the day to allow us to hold classes **or** deteriorate enough to require cancellation even if Boone County schools were in session.

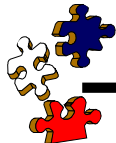
Cancellation of Sunday classes is less likely to occur due to our obligation to attend Mass. If you deem it too dangerous to travel at your child(ren)'s class time then do not do so, but classes will be held unless you receive a call from St. Timothy personnel.

Discipline Procedures

Teachers will make every attempt to handle disrespectful or harmful behaviors within their classroom according to their training and their best judgment. Teachers will use means they deem appropriate and is in keeping with guidelines approved by the Faith Formation Office.

If a student's behavior is repeatedly disrespectful or harmful, parents, DRE, and/or Fr. Bolte will be called. Once the parent or DRE is called, the student will be removed from his or her class until a parent arrives to pick up their child and will be considered absent.

If a student continues disrespectful or harmful behavior, the student and his or her parent(s) will attend a meeting with the teacher, DRE, and Fr. Bolte to create a plan to improve behavior.



Content of our program for grades 1 - 8 revolves around lessons in *Blest Are We* texts from Silver Burdett Ginn for each grade. This parish program for religious education provides a holistic scope and sequence built on the four pillars of the Catholic faith; belief, worship, living out the faith, and prayer. Each year provides students an area of study in depth while reviewing basics of our faith taught in prior years.

Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist includes instruction on forgiveness, reconciliation, the Mass and Eucharist.

Preparation for Confirmation includes the study of the life of Jesus using the Breakthrough Bible for young Catholics in the 7th grade. Instruction in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Nicene Creed, and the beatitudes through Pflaum Publishing *Gifted With The Spirit* materials supports the 8th grade Confirmation curriculum.

Program materials for our Resource and Collaborative classes for our students with learning difficulties are adapted from the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program for Catholic Education framework.

Program materials for our Early Childhood Sunday Preschool program are drawn from *Seeds and Promise* publications, as well as other sources.

(All program material and books are available for review upon request)

Contacts

Valerie Bresiger Director of Religious Education
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Deb Thomas Early Childhood Coordinator
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dthomas@saint-timothy.org



Parental & Student Acknowledgment:

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed with my child/ren the contents of the Religious Education Handbook for the 2011-2012 school year.

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Please fill out one form per family and return to your oldest child's classroom teacher.

*****Thank You! *****