

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.*

Mission Statement 2006

Fall-Spring Parish Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday 9:00-7:00pm

Friday 9:00-3:00pm

Saturday 9:00-4:00pm

Parish Office closed for lunch daily: 12:00-1:00pm



St. Blase Catholic Church

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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.

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

Descriptions

... Youth Ministry: Grades 9-12 ...

Youth Ministry is a lifestyle that encourages young people to witness to their faith by word and example. At St. Blase our teens are invited to be an integral part of the many ministries and activities in the parish. Music ministry, Catechists, Lectors, MCREST, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters at mass, Commissions and Parish Council are just a few examples of the ways our teens can be involved in parish life. In addition, teens gather together for weekly Youth Ministry sessions, held Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Teens are led by a team of Youth Ministers who act as mentors for the teens. Sessions include faith sharing, speakers, prayer, social gatherings and community service opportunities. Throughout the year there are also various other opportunities for service, fun and growth in faith. Retreats, prayer and works of charity and justice give our Youth time to reflect on and form their lives after the model of Jesus. All teens are welcome—any time! Coordinator is Joe Wilseck.

... Faith Formation: Grades 6-8 ...

Catechesis for young adolescents seeks to not only pass on the faith, but also to empower these young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ today. Sessions are twice a month, covering Church topics as God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church, Liturgy, Sacraments, Morality, Justice and Prayer. We accomplish this energetic program by inter-active learning activities, teachings and fellowship. 7th & 8th grades are considered foundational years prior to the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Coordinator is Alice Doppel.

... Faith Formation: Grades 1-5 ...

Approximately twice-a-month, Faith Formation sessions are held on Tuesday evenings. On the off-weeks, chapters from the children's textbook are to be completed at home with the help from a parent. See the back inside cover of your child's textbook for the "2011-2012 Chapter Spreadsheet." Coordinator is Anne Krus.

... Faith Formation: Age 3—Kindergarten ...

Preschool—K Program consists of two parts: Family Moments and Music & Praise. Both child and parent(s), or other significant adult in the life of the child, participate together in each session of the Early Childhood Program. The Preschool—K Program is a monthly 1½ hour session offered on a Saturday morning. Activities include storytelling, crafts, games, prayer, and song. A Music & Praise Session is offered in the middle of the month on a Saturday morning for 45 minutes which fosters the spirituality of the child through song, movement, and the use of instruments — all focused around the life of Jesus. Coordinator is Janel Mariani.

... Home Study: Grades 1-8 ...

This is an option for families unable to participate fully in above programs. Consideration is given on a case by case basis. Contact specific coordinator.

Children's Faith Formation Program Details

... Arrival & Dismissal Times ...

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

- **PRESCHOOL:** Saturdays at 10:00am, twice a month. Arrive @ 9:50am. Children must be in attendance with their parent/guardian during the entire time of this program. Enjoy the interaction between God, your child & yourself.
- **GRADES 1-5:** Tuesdays at 6:30 – 8:00pm, twice a month.

ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm: Parents must sign-in their children at each FF session at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Please leave a valid phone number of where you can be reached during that time.

DISMISSAL @ 8:00 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 Anne Krus prior to session starting.

- **GRADES 6-8:** Wednesdays at 6:30 – 8:30 pm, twice a month.

ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm: Sessions will begin in Church with prayer. Parents may stay for prayer and general teaching in Room 3 between 7:30 – 7:55 pm.

DISMISSAL @ 8:30 pm: Parents will connect with their son/daughter in the gathering space. There will be adult supervision until young people are picked up by their parent/guardian. (Children will not be allowed to walk out to waiting cars in the parking lot... parents must come in and gather their child.)

- **GRADES 9-12: YOUTH MINISTRY:** Sundays at 1:30 – 3:30 pm every week. An adult will supervise teens until they are picked up or walk home.

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.

... Summer Circle (Vacation Bible School) ...

Summer Circle is a vibrant week-long Vacation Bible School program scheduled each year in June. All stops are pulled to create this powerful faith formation experience that engages children in bible stories, song, games, crafts and community service. Volunteers are needed too! All can join in on the fun! Registration is in the spring time. Coordinator is Barb Ziarko.

More... Children's Faith Formation Program Details

SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has medical or learning needs, such as allergies or ADD, etc. please note them on the Faith Formation registration form in the appropriate section and bring them to the attention of the Section Coordinator. This will enable us to provide a better learning environment for all participants. If your child has special learning needs that we at St. Blase cannot accommodate, St. Ephrem's Parish on 17 Mile & Dodge Park offers a Special Needs Faith Formation Program. Contact Alice Doppel, Director of Children's Faith Formation 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 religious 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](mailto:) or [St. Blase Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stblase). "Friend us!"

Emergency Procedures

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 group 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, Social Center, Room A, 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 a safe place in the Church building.

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 Grades 1-5.

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.

Sacramental Preparation For Children

General Information

The National Catechetical Directory tells us that “the sacraments, symbolic actions that effect what they symbolize, celebrate the coming of the Spirit at special moments in the life of the community of faith and its members, and express the Church’s faith and interaction with Christ.” Sacraments are opportunities for people already in God’s grace to gather and celebrate that fact through symbolic action, ritual, and prayer.

Many recent Church documents tell us that parents are the primary educators of their children in faith. Sacraments celebrate in the parish community what has already been happening in the home, the domestic Church. Sacraments are lived long before they are celebrated, and will continue to be lived long after. Deciding to celebrate a sacrament involves a commitment for life, not one that ends with the liturgical celebration. *Therefore, the sacramental preparation programs for children include the participation of the whole family, particularly the parents.*

Faith Formation programs are offered for all ages: Preschool—K, Grades 1-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12 (Youth Ministry). These programs are essential to an understanding of the Catholic tradition and lay the foundation for a lived faith and discipleship. Immediate preparation for sacraments places greater emphasis on one’s relationship with Jesus and builds on this foundation. With this in mind, we ask that a child participate in religious formation sessions for a minimum of two years prior to the preparation for the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Doppel, Director of Children’s Faith Formation or Mary Dumm, our Pastoral Associate.

Parish Policy Regarding Preparation for Sacraments of CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST & RECONCILIATION

Because “Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace...entrusted to the Church” and “They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 1131), it is essential that we as a parish take preparation and reception of these sacred mysteries with seriousness as well as great joy.

In order for children to engage in preparation for sacraments, they must be participating members of the Church. Their parents promised at the child’s baptism to “train them in the practice of the faith.” Without this training, children are not ready to begin to understand or experience the grace poured out in the sacraments.

It is the policy of Saint Blase Parish that children and youth of catechetical age must weekly participate in Sunday mass in order to, at the appropriate times, prepare for and celebrate the reception of the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation.

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.*

... Reconciliation for the First Time ...

(Sign of the Cross & Act of Contrition must be memorized before celebrating this sacrament. (*Prayers, p. 20.*)

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.

Children may celebrate the sacrament for the first time **beginning at the age of seven**. Preparation begins 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 the incident was an accident. There are three Parent-Child Reconciliation sessions to prepare for this sacrament. Contact Reconciliation Coordinator, Alice Doppel.

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

... Eucharist for the First Time ...

(Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be must be memorized before celebrating the sacrament. (*See Prayers, pg. 20.*)

Preparing for First Communion is an initiation process for baptized Catholic children. Parents know their children their best and they are aware of the home environment created to develop a faith relationship with God. Commonly, children prepare for Eucharist for the first time **beginning at the age of seven**. It is important that they have a sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity. For seven year olds, the process begins at home, is developed by weekly mass participation and is supported by formal Religious Formation programs which include 4 Eucharist Parent-Child sessions from January — April. For more information about Eucharist Preparation, contact Alice Doppel. Questions to ask yourself as you determine 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?

... Confirmation ...

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition & Glory Be must memorized before celebrating the sacrament. (*See Prayers, pg. 20.*)

“By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” LGII Candidates for Confirmation seek the spiritual help of a sponsor.

Practicing Catholic Adolescents (9th grade or older) who wish to celebrate Confirmation, please contact Joe Wilseck, Coordinator. Formal preparation begins in November with the Sacrament being celebrated in the Easter Season.

Celebration of Other Sacraments

Sacraments of INITIATION: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, R.C.I.A., Infant Baptism

... Adults ...

This process is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of adults, the **RCIA**. This is a gradual process of conversion, initiation and catechesis for unbaptized adults, adults baptized in another Christian denomination (not Catholic) or adults who have been baptized Catholic, but have not completed their initiation (have not yet celebrated First Eucharist and Confirmation). This rite takes place within the community of faith and includes “not simply the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, but also all the rites belonging to the catechumenate (RCIA #2).”

The process provides individuals who are interested in becoming Catholic the opportunity to journey with others in faith through prayer, study of the Catholic tradition, and reflection on the Scriptures. Contact Joe Wilseck, Coordinator of RCIA.

... Children ...

This form of the Rite of Christian Initiation is intended for children not baptized who are at least 7 years old. As with adults, this is a gradual process that takes place within the community of faith and includes conversion, initiation, and catechesis. If your child has not been baptized or baptized in another faith, please bring this to the attention of the Parish Staff when registering, or call Joe Wilseck, Coordinator of RCIA.

... Infant Baptism ...

Parents requesting baptism for their children must be practicing Catholics consistently worshipping in our parish before the baptism of their baby. Baptismal preparation involves several steps. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to begin this process before the birth of their child. Contact Mary Dumm, Pastoral Associate

Other Sacramental Information

... Anointing of the Sick ...

Please notify the parish office when there is a serious illness in your family. Anointing is intended for critical moments at the onset of illness, the progression of a serious disease, or a notable weakening in the physical condition of an elderly person. Do not wait until the person is near death. To schedule a celebration of the sacrament, please contact our pastor, Fr. Randy Phillips.

... Marriage ...

Marriage, of course, is not merely a human invention. As Catholics, we believe marriage is intended by God to be an intimate communion of life and love. Marriage represents to the community the unbreakable bond of love that exists between Christ and the Church. Because marriage is a sacrament in the Catholic Church, we have definite beliefs about marriage which differ from those in our popular society. As you begin your preparation it is important that you reflect on these beliefs as a couple and with the church community.

The energy and effort a couple puts into the preparation process for their life commitment is intended to provide the basis for a strong and successful marriage. A successful marriage is one that shares values, good communication, and a deep faith in God and one another. Preparation must begin at least six months in advance. The first step in marriage preparation is a meeting with our pastor, Fr. Randy Phillips. Call the office to make an appointment with him.

... Holy Orders ...

Vocations, or the work we do for God, come in many different forms. Sometimes persons are called to the vocation of marriage and parenthood, other times to the life lived as a single person. God may also call persons to work in the church as a Lay Ministers, sharing their gifts and talents in a particular ministry. Or God can call women to religious life or men to religious life, the priesthood or diaconate. If you want to learn more about Lay Ministry in the Church, religious life or Holy Orders, contact Fr. Randy or Mary Dumm.



... Catholics Come Home ...

Were you raised Catholic but do not come to Church anymore? Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your Church? Is there a Catholic in your family who feels like they don't belong in Church? Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today? Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again? Contact our Pastoral Associate Mary Dumm.

... Annulments ...

If you have experienced the pain of divorce, when you feel it is time, we invite you to consider the process of applying for an annulment. An annulment is a declaration by the church court which states that a marriage was never sacramentally binding according to church law. A declaration of nullity does not mean a marriage ceremony never existed, but rather that this union did not exhibit those qualities of a true sacramental life. This procedure has no effect on the status of your children. If you have questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact either Fr. Randy Phillips our Pastor, or Mary Dumm, our Pastoral Associate.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

“Adult faith formation by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ . . . must be the ‘central task in the catechetical enterprise,’ becoming ‘the axis around which revolves the catechesis of childhood and adolescence.’ ” (US Bishops, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within US #5*) Saint Blase Church, through many different venues, offers adults opportunities to live and grow in their faith. Some of our annual events are listed here. Please check our parish bulletin and website (www.stblase.org) for further details.

... “Echoes of Faith PLUS” Classes ...

Five adult faith formation classes called “Echoes of Faith Plus” are designed for the catechist or average parishioner who wants to get “updated” in the church’s teachings. What age were you when you stopped going to catechism classes? If you are or some day would like to be a catechist, you could be working towards catechist certification. Call Alice Doppel for more information.

Adult & Catechist Faith Formation Topics: "Echoes of Faith Plus"

Workbooks are \$5 each. Approx. 2 hours of watching CD Rom in workbook required prior to each session.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|--|
| Wednesday, Oct. 12 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “The Learner” Methodology |
| Wednesday, Jan. 11 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “Specific Grade Level” Methodology |
| Wednesday, Feb. 8 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “Catholic Morality” Theology |
| Wednesday, Mar. 7 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “Liturgy & Sacraments” Theology |
| Wednesday, Apr. 25 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “I Believe/We Believe” Theology |

... Adult Bible Study—Weekly ...

Adult Scripture study takes place every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. This study is lectionary-based; each session focuses on the readings for the coming Sunday. No registration is necessary.

... Little Rock Scripture Study ...

This adult Scripture study combines personal Bible reading and study, small group faith sharing, video lecture, and prayer in an informal setting on Monday mornings. Call the parish office for times as it sometimes fluctuates. Little Rock generally focuses on a specific book of the Bible, so participants may choose the areas of interest and times that are convenient for them. Registration is necessary for each individual topic, and there is a fee to cover the cost of the participant’s book.

More Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

... Women's Breakfast ...

These breakfasts for women provide a morning of fellowship, song and prayer featuring a special guest speaker who addresses issues faced by adult Christian women. Each event includes a catered breakfast. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... Men's and Women's Retreats ...

Throughout the year various retreat opportunities are offered. The specifics vary according to the needs of the community. There are days of reflection as well as weekend and evening opportunities. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... CAFÉ Catholic Adult Formation & Education ...

This enrichment series is offered once a month on a Monday evening to provide adults with opportunities to deepen their faith through prayer, study, reflection, and interaction with others adults in our faith community. Sessions are focused on a variety of topics, such as art and faith, grief and loss, spirituality, ethics, and Church history. No registration is necessary. Each topic is stand-alone. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... Peace and Justice ...

Our Justice and Peace Committee offer many speakers, trips and events to explain and promote Catholic Social Teachings. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... Parish Library ...

The Parish Library contains many books, periodicals, and videos that are available for checkout and use by adults and children. They cover a wide range of topics. The library is open weekly during regular office hours.

Manners Matter at Sunday Worship

Sunday worship is the source and summit of the Christian life (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10). As Catholic Christians, our most fundamental obligation is to assemble to celebrate the Eucharist each and every Sunday and holyday. Our approach to the Mass is not “something we have to do”—but something we would never dream of not doing. In gathering together each week, we celebrate in ritual form, the ministries of worship, education, service, and administration which we commit ourselves to each and every day by virtue of our baptism.

CELL PHONES:

Please remember to always silence your cell phone before Mass begins.

CHILDREN'S MASS BOOK:

If you have an older edition of the “With Jesus Always” Children’s Mass Book/Reconciliation Book and want the prayer changes to our Roman Missal beginning Advent 2011, email alice.doppel@stblase.org. Alice will email you a copy of those changes so you can cut and paste them into your existing Children’s Mass Book. (Children received this book when they previously went through reconciliation or Eucharist preparation.)

TEENS & ADULTS GATHER HYMNAL:

Our “Gather Hymnal” contains much more than just music—it also has the prayers we say at mass! Beginning Advent 2011, there will be some word changes to some of our prayers. (Roman Missal) You will find these new words/prayers either in the front cover or back cover of our Gather hymnal. Before long, everyone will learn them and won’t have to refer to these aides.

GATHERING:

In assembling for worship, it is expected that we greet one another and take time to visit with our fellow parishioners. However, we need to be mindful that others may be praying privately before and after Mass. Therefore, our speaking with one another is done quietly, giving respect to others around us and respect to where we are.

CHILDREN LIKE TO SEE:

If your child appears to be not interested at mass, then move up close to the altar. Children will be able to see the action better. Usually behavior improves, too. Parents, feel comfortable to answer your children’s questions during mass. Whispering can be done discretely.

DRESS:

While formal dress is not necessary to mass, proper attire is expected. This is a sign of respect and a courtesy to others. Given that our church is air conditioned, it seems that shorts, tank tops, halter tops, and other gym or beach attire is usually inappropriate.

Manners Matter at Sunday Worship

ARRIVING LATE:

As with any important gathering, it is expected that we arrive on time for mass. However, it can happen that we find ourselves running late. If you are late in arriving for worship, **please do not seat yourself during the reading of scripture (first reading, psalm, second reading, and Gospel)**. This distracts those around you from hearing the Word of God, and obviously, prevents you from listening yourself. Appropriate times to seat oneself would be during the brief silence between the first reading and the psalm, or during the Gospel procession (singing of the “Alleluia”) prior to the proclamation of the Gospel. **We believe that Christ is present in the proclaimed Word.** This is a very significant time during our worship and should not be casually interrupted.

LEAVING EARLY:

Just as it is considered impolite to “eat and run” when invited for dinner, so it is impolite to leave the assembly before the conclusion of the recessional hymn. Please plan on participating and remaining for the entire Mass.

INFANTS:

St. Blase does not have a cry room; it is our belief that cry rooms divide the assembly. Children and infants belong with their families in the body of the church. We ask parents to be considerate of those around you. Please do not bring toys that are noisemakers to amuse your child in church. If your infant begins to fuss, please take your child out of the main assembly. Please know that diaper changing can be done in both the men’s and women’s restrooms.

RESTROOMS:

Restroom facilities are located at the east side of the church building outside the Social Center. However, it is expected that these facilities be used for **emergencies only**. Children **MUST** be escorted by a parent to the restrooms. In order to keep distractions to a minimum during worship, parishioners are asked to take this into consideration before coming to worship. **Since we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, it is always inappropriate to leave the worshiping assembly during the Eucharistic Prayer, (from the “The Lord be with You” to Amen)** Please do not leave your seat during this time except in an emergency.

CHEWING GUM:

Chewing gum is never appropriate in church.

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 for 12 pm Sunday Mass — and Jerry Simon (586) 268-4387 for 10:00 am Sunday Mass.

GREETER MINISTRY:



All or part of your family would greet people prior at start of Mass.

Contact **Vince Schembri**.



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 **Vince Schembri** a week prior.



JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Grades 1-2.

Joyful Noise will sing 4 liturgies a year — October, Christmas Eve, February and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, just before their Faith Formation sessions (when there is no Faith Formation session, there is no rehearsal). Rehearsals begin Tuesday, October 4. Director, Julie Shier: julieshier@gmail.com or 248-515-4385.

ALTAR SERVERS:



Child must be responsible, not easily distracted and tall enough to reach the altar and lift candles. Altar Server Training Dates: Wednesday, October 12 @ 5-6:30 pm OR Saturday, Oct. 22 @ 10:30am-12:00pm.

Contact **Kate Messina** at 586-979-3222 or mkate01@wsckids.net



SING PRAISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Grades 3-5.

Sing Praise will sing six liturgies a year, including Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday along with the Joyful Noise ministry. They will also sing two liturgies with the next older group, Young Disciples Choir. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 5:45 pm just before their faith formation session (when there is no Faith Formation session, there is no rehearsal). Rehearsals begin Tuesday, October 4. Director, Theresa Stager: theresa.stager@me.com or (586) 322-6494.

Liturgical Ministry Opportunities for Adults, Teens & Children

YOUNG DISCIPLES CHOIR:



Grades 6-8. Young Disciples will sing 8-10 liturgies a year. They will often minister with both the Joyful Noise and the Teens Loving Christ ministries, including Christmas Eve and Easter. Young Disciples will rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on the weeks when there is no faith formation scheduled. Rehearsals begin Oct. 12. Director, Theresa Stager: theresa.stager@me.com or (586) 322-6494.

TEENS LOVING CHRIST CHOIR:



Grades 9-12 (unless you were already in the group and have moved up into 8th Grade). Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. (Those 8th graders will have to forgo TLC rehearsals when they fall on Middle School Faith Formation sessions evenings... or 8th graders can sign up for the Young Disciples Choir, Grades 6-8). Rehearsals begin Oct. 5. Director, Julie Shier, julieshier@gmail.com or 248-515-4385.



REMNANT MUSIC MINISTRY:

Contemporary music ministry open to adults and teens. Rehearsals are Monday evenings at 7 pm. Contact Director of Music, Steve Petrunak.



VOICES IN PRAISE CHOIR:

Traditional choral music ministry open to adults and teens. Rehearsals are from 7:00—9:00 pm every Thursday from September to June. The VIP sings 2-3 liturgies/ month and one liturgy /month during the summer. Contact Director of Music, Steve Petrunak.



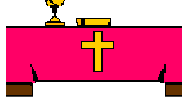
YOUNG ADULT MUSIC MINISTRY: This ensemble is brand new! If you are between the ages of 18-30 and you are a singer or musician who would like to minister at liturgy, contact Patrick Minjeur at pcminjeur@gmail.com.



HOSPITALITY: DONUT SUNDAY

How about helping with set-up and serving bagels and donuts after 8:00 am or 10:00 am Sunday Masses, September through May? Contact Vince Schembri.

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 Vince Schembri.



TAKE EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND:

What a great experience to bring along your child or teen! Contact Mary Dumm.



*** Above 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!

Christian Service Opportunities

MCREST:



Housing the homeless in Macomb County. One week during the summer on July 8-14, 2012, St. Blase houses the homeless of Macomb County. Needs: Teens can help set-up, make beds, wash down mattresses, put linens on beds. During the week they may volunteer to serve food. Afterwards,

help is needed to tear down and take bedding to Laundromat. Adults can help in kitchen, with transportation, facilities, or check-in guests. Contact: Barb Francis (586) 795-9332 or

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS or CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:



We need persons to help sort, prepare and deliver holiday baskets for needy at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. This is a morning activity during the week. Watch the bulletin for dates. Contact Vince Schembri.



CEREAL COLLECTION



Include your child or teen by having them bring in a box of cereal to pass on the second weekend of each month (except Nov and Dec). Cereal is delivered to the Macomb County Emergency Food Program the following Tuesday mornings. Adults are needed to make this cereal delivery, as this requires driving and is a morning activity. Contact Vince Schembri.

Prayers To Teach At Home

Pray Them Often

Praying is simply talking and listening to God. One can pray by reflecting on scripture, meditating or saying formal prayers. As parents, it is important to teach these basic prayers to your children. Please pray these prayers often, for example at bedtimes or meal times. If prayed on a regular basis, children will learn them quickly.

Sign of the Cross

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

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.

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.

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.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Blase Parish Staff



Rev. Randy Phillips

Pastor

frphillips@stblase.org

Dr. Mary Dumm

Pastoral Associate

marydumm@aol.com



Tim Doppel

Business Manager

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Alice Doppel

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Joe Wilseck

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Diane Bilich

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Barb Ziarko

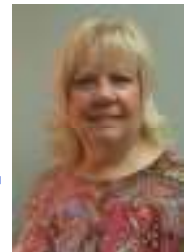
*Coordinator of Summer Circle
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Diane Pilarski

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Ruth Whitesell

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Maintenance

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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.*

Mission Statement 2006

Fall-Spring Parish Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday 9:00-7:00pm

Friday 9:00-3:00pm

Saturday 9:00-4:00pm

Parish Office closed for lunch daily: 12:00-1:00pm



St. Blase Catholic Church

12151 E. 15 Mile Rd.
Sterling Heights, Michigan
48312

Phone: (586) 268-2244

Fax: (586) 268-1174

www.st.blase.org

“like us” on FACEBOOK

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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.

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

Descriptions

... Youth Ministry: Grades 9-12 ...

Youth Ministry is a lifestyle that encourages young people to witness to their faith by word and example. At St. Blase our teens are invited to be an integral part of the many ministries and activities in the parish. Music ministry, Catechists, Lectors, MCREST, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters at mass, Commissions and Parish Council are just a few examples of the ways our teens can be involved in parish life. In addition, teens gather together for weekly Youth Ministry sessions, held Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Teens are led by a team of Youth Ministers who act as mentors for the teens. Sessions include faith sharing, speakers, prayer, social gatherings and community service opportunities. Throughout the year there are also various other opportunities for service, fun and growth in faith. Retreats, prayer and works of charity and justice give our Youth time to reflect on and form their lives after the model of Jesus. All teens are welcome—any time! Coordinator is Joe Wilseck.

... Faith Formation: Grades 6-8 ...

Catechesis for young adolescents seeks to not only pass on the faith, but also to empower these young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ today. Sessions are twice a month, covering Church topics as God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church, Liturgy, Sacraments, Morality, Justice and Prayer. We accomplish this energetic program by inter-active learning activities, teachings and fellowship. 7th & 8th grades are considered foundational years prior to the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Coordinator is Alice Doppel.

... Faith Formation: Grades 1-5 ...

Approximately twice-a-month, Faith Formation sessions are held on Tuesday evenings. On the off-weeks, chapters from the children's textbook are to be completed at home with the help from a parent. See the back inside cover of your child's textbook for the "2011-2012 Chapter Spreadsheet." Coordinator is Anne Krus.

... Faith Formation: Age 3—Kindergarten ...

Preschool—K Program consists of two parts: Family Moments and Music & Praise. Both child and parent(s), or other significant adult in the life of the child, participate together in each session of the Early Childhood Program. The Preschool—K Program is a monthly 1½ hour session offered on a Saturday morning. Activities include storytelling, crafts, games, prayer, and song. A Music & Praise Session is offered in the middle of the month on a Saturday morning for 45 minutes which fosters the spirituality of the child through song, movement, and the use of instruments — all focused around the life of Jesus. Coordinator is Janel Mariani.

... Home Study: Grades 1-8 ...

This is an option for families unable to participate fully in above programs. Consideration is given on a case by case basis. Contact specific coordinator.

Children's Faith Formation Program Details

... Arrival & Dismissal Times ...

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

- **PRESCHOOL:** Saturdays at 10:00am, twice a month. Arrive @ 9:50am. Children must be in attendance with their parent/guardian during the entire time of this program. Enjoy the interaction between God, your child & yourself.
- **GRADES 1-5:** Tuesdays at 6:30 – 8:00pm, twice a month.

ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm: Parents must sign-in their children at each FF session at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Please leave a valid phone number of where you can be reached during that time.

DISMISSAL @ 8:00 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 Anne Krus prior to session starting.

- **GRADES 6-8:** Wednesdays at 6:30 – 8:30 pm, twice a month.

ARRIVAL @ 6:20 pm: Sessions will begin in Church with prayer. Parents may stay for prayer and general teaching in Room 3 between 7:30 – 7:55 pm.

DISMISSAL @ 8:30 pm: Parents will connect with their son/daughter in the gathering space. There will be adult supervision until young people are picked up by their parent/guardian. (Children will not be allowed to walk out to waiting cars in the parking lot... parents must come in and gather their child.)

- **GRADES 9-12: YOUTH MINISTRY:** Sundays at 1:30 – 3:30 pm every week. An adult will supervise teens until they are picked up or walk home.

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.

... Summer Circle (Vacation Bible School) ...

Summer Circle is a vibrant week-long Vacation Bible School program scheduled each year in June. All stops are pulled to create this powerful faith formation experience that engages children in bible stories, song, games, crafts and community service. Volunteers are needed too! All can join in on the fun! Registration is in the spring time. Coordinator is Barb Ziarko.

More... Children's Faith Formation Program Details

SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has medical or learning needs, such as allergies or ADD, etc. please note them on the Faith Formation registration form in the appropriate section and bring them to the attention of the Section Coordinator. This will enable us to provide a better learning environment for all participants. If your child has special learning needs that we at St. Blase cannot accommodate, St. Ephrem's Parish on 17 Mile & Dodge Park offers a Special Needs Faith Formation Program. Contact Alice Doppel, Director of Children's Faith Formation 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 religious 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](mailto:) or [St. Blase Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stblase). "Friend us!"

Emergency Procedures

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 group 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, Social Center, Room A, 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 a safe place in the Church building.

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 Grades 1-5.

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.

Sacramental Preparation For Children

General Information

The National Catechetical Directory tells us that “the sacraments, symbolic actions that effect what they symbolize, celebrate the coming of the Spirit at special moments in the life of the community of faith and its members, and express the Church’s faith and interaction with Christ.” Sacraments are opportunities for people already in God’s grace to gather and celebrate that fact through symbolic action, ritual, and prayer.

Many recent Church documents tell us that parents are the primary educators of their children in faith. Sacraments celebrate in the parish community what has already been happening in the home, the domestic Church. Sacraments are lived long before they are celebrated, and will continue to be lived long after. Deciding to celebrate a sacrament involves a commitment for life, not one that ends with the liturgical celebration. *Therefore, the sacramental preparation programs for children include the participation of the whole family, particularly the parents.*

Faith Formation programs are offered for all ages: Preschool—K, Grades 1-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12 (Youth Ministry). These programs are essential to an understanding of the Catholic tradition and lay the foundation for a lived faith and discipleship. Immediate preparation for sacraments places greater emphasis on one’s relationship with Jesus and builds on this foundation. With this in mind, we ask that a child participate in religious formation sessions for a minimum of two years prior to the preparation for the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Doppel, Director of Children’s Faith Formation or Mary Dumm, our Pastoral Associate.

Parish Policy Regarding Preparation for Sacraments of CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST & RECONCILIATION

Because “Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace...entrusted to the Church” and “They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 1131), it is essential that we as a parish take preparation and reception of these sacred mysteries with seriousness as well as great joy.

In order for children to engage in preparation for sacraments, they must be participating members of the Church. Their parents promised at the child’s baptism to “train them in the practice of the faith.” Without this training, children are not ready to begin to understand or experience the grace poured out in the sacraments.

It is the policy of Saint Blase Parish that children and youth of catechetical age must weekly participate in Sunday mass in order to, at the appropriate times, prepare for and celebrate the reception of the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation.

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.*

... Reconciliation for the First Time ...

(Sign of the Cross & Act of Contrition must be memorized before celebrating this sacrament. (*Prayers, p. 20.*)

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.

Children may celebrate the sacrament for the first time **beginning at the age of seven**. Preparation begins 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 the incident was an accident. There are three Parent-Child Reconciliation sessions to prepare for this sacrament. Contact Reconciliation Coordinator, Alice Doppel.

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

... Eucharist for the First Time ...

(Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be must be memorized before celebrating the sacrament. (*See Prayers, pg. 20.*)

Preparing for First Communion is an initiation process for baptized Catholic children. Parents know their children their best and they are aware of the home environment created to develop a faith relationship with God. Commonly, children prepare for Eucharist for the first time **beginning at the age of seven**. It is important that they have a sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity. For seven year olds, the process begins at home, is developed by weekly mass participation and is supported by formal Religious Formation programs which include 4 Eucharist Parent-Child sessions from January — April. For more information about Eucharist Preparation, contact Alice Doppel. Questions to ask yourself as you determine 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?

... Confirmation ...

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition & Glory Be must memorized before celebrating the sacrament. (*See Prayers, pg. 20.*)

“By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” LGII Candidates for Confirmation seek the spiritual help of a sponsor.

Practicing Catholic Adolescents (9th grade or older) who wish to celebrate Confirmation, please contact Joe Wilseck, Coordinator. Formal preparation begins in November with the Sacrament being celebrated in the Easter Season.

Celebration of Other Sacraments

Sacraments of INITIATION: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, R.C.I.A., Infant Baptism

... Adults ...

This process is known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of adults, the **RCIA**. This is a gradual process of conversion, initiation and catechesis for unbaptized adults, adults baptized in another Christian denomination (not Catholic) or adults who have been baptized Catholic, but have not completed their initiation (have not yet celebrated First Eucharist and Confirmation). This rite takes place within the community of faith and includes “not simply the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, but also all the rites belonging to the catechumenate (RCIA #2).”

The process provides individuals who are interested in becoming Catholic the opportunity to journey with others in faith through prayer, study of the Catholic tradition, and reflection on the Scriptures. Contact Joe Wilseck, Coordinator of RCIA.

... Children ...

This form of the Rite of Christian Initiation is intended for children not baptized who are at least 7 years old. As with adults, this is a gradual process that takes place within the community of faith and includes conversion, initiation, and catechesis. If your child has not been baptized or baptized in another faith, please bring this to the attention of the Parish Staff when registering, or call Joe Wilseck, Coordinator of RCIA.

... Infant Baptism ...

Parents requesting baptism for their children must be practicing Catholics consistently worshipping in our parish before the baptism of their baby. Baptismal preparation involves several steps. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to begin this process before the birth of their child. Contact Mary Dumm, Pastoral Associate

Other Sacramental Information

... Anointing of the Sick ...

Please notify the parish office when there is a serious illness in your family. Anointing is intended for critical moments at the onset of illness, the progression of a serious disease, or a notable weakening in the physical condition of an elderly person. Do not wait until the person is near death. To schedule a celebration of the sacrament, please contact our pastor, Fr. Randy Phillips.

... Marriage ...

Marriage, of course, is not merely a human invention. As Catholics, we believe marriage is intended by God to be an intimate communion of life and love. Marriage represents to the community the unbreakable bond of love that exists between Christ and the Church. Because marriage is a sacrament in the Catholic Church, we have definite beliefs about marriage which differ from those in our popular society. As you begin your preparation it is important that you reflect on these beliefs as a couple and with the church community.

The energy and effort a couple puts into the preparation process for their life commitment is intended to provide the basis for a strong and successful marriage. A successful marriage is one that shares values, good communication, and a deep faith in God and one another. Preparation must begin at least six months in advance. The first step in marriage preparation is a meeting with our pastor, Fr. Randy Phillips. Call the office to make an appointment with him.

... Holy Orders ...

Vocations, or the work we do for God, come in many different forms. Sometimes persons are called to the vocation of marriage and parenthood, other times to the life lived as a single person. God may also call persons to work in the church as a Lay Ministers, sharing their gifts and talents in a particular ministry. Or God can call women to religious life or men to religious life, the priesthood or diaconate. If you want to learn more about Lay Ministry in the Church, religious life or Holy Orders, contact Fr. Randy or Mary Dumm.



... Catholics Come Home ...

Were you raised Catholic but do not come to Church anymore? Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your Church? Is there a Catholic in your family who feels like they don't belong in Church? Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today? Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again? Contact our Pastoral Associate Mary Dumm.

... Annulments ...

If you have experienced the pain of divorce, when you feel it is time, we invite you to consider the process of applying for an annulment. An annulment is a declaration by the church court which states that a marriage was never sacramentally binding according to church law. A declaration of nullity does not mean a marriage ceremony never existed, but rather that this union did not exhibit those qualities of a true sacramental life. This procedure has no effect on the status of your children. If you have questions or wish to discuss this further, please contact either Fr. Randy Phillips our Pastor, or Mary Dumm, our Pastoral Associate.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

“Adult faith formation by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ . . . must be the ‘central task in the catechetical enterprise,’ becoming ‘the axis around which revolves the catechesis of childhood and adolescence.’ ” (US Bishops, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within US #5*) Saint Blase Church, through many different venues, offers adults opportunities to live and grow in their faith. Some of our annual events are listed here. Please check our parish bulletin and website (www.stblase.org) for further details.

... “Echoes of Faith PLUS” Classes ...

Five adult faith formation classes called “Echoes of Faith Plus” are designed for the catechist or average parishioner who wants to get “updated” in the church’s teachings. What age were you when you stopped going to catechism classes? If you are or some day would like to be a catechist, you could be working towards catechist certification. Call Alice Doppel for more information.

Adult & Catechist Faith Formation Topics: "Echoes of Faith Plus"

Workbooks are \$5 each. Approx. 2 hours of watching CD Rom in workbook required prior to each session.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|--|
| Wednesday, Oct. 12 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “The Learner” Methodology |
| Wednesday, Jan. 11 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “Specific Grade Level” Methodology |
| Wednesday, Feb. 8 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “Catholic Morality” Theology |
| Wednesday, Mar. 7 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “Liturgy & Sacraments” Theology |
| Wednesday, Apr. 25 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm | Rm. B | Echoes Topic: “I Believe/We Believe” Theology |

... Adult Bible Study—Weekly ...

Adult Scripture study takes place every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. This study is lectionary-based; each session focuses on the readings for the coming Sunday. No registration is necessary.

... Little Rock Scripture Study ...

This adult Scripture study combines personal Bible reading and study, small group faith sharing, video lecture, and prayer in an informal setting on Monday mornings. Call the parish office for times as it sometimes fluctuates. Little Rock generally focuses on a specific book of the Bible, so participants may choose the areas of interest and times that are convenient for them. Registration is necessary for each individual topic, and there is a fee to cover the cost of the participant’s book.

More Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

... Women's Breakfast ...

These breakfasts for women provide a morning of fellowship, song and prayer featuring a special guest speaker who addresses issues faced by adult Christian women. Each event includes a catered breakfast. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... Men's and Women's Retreats ...

Throughout the year various retreat opportunities are offered. The specifics vary according to the needs of the community. There are days of reflection as well as weekend and evening opportunities. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... CAFÉ Catholic Adult Formation & Education ...

This enrichment series is offered once a month on a Monday evening to provide adults with opportunities to deepen their faith through prayer, study, reflection, and interaction with others adults in our faith community. Sessions are focused on a variety of topics, such as art and faith, grief and loss, spirituality, ethics, and Church history. No registration is necessary. Each topic is stand-alone. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... Peace and Justice ...

Our Justice and Peace Committee offer many speakers, trips and events to explain and promote Catholic Social Teachings. Watch the bulletin for dates.

... Parish Library ...

The Parish Library contains many books, periodicals, and videos that are available for checkout and use by adults and children. They cover a wide range of topics. The library is open weekly during regular office hours.

Manners Matter at Sunday Worship

Sunday worship is the source and summit of the Christian life (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10). As Catholic Christians, our most fundamental obligation is to assemble to celebrate the Eucharist each and every Sunday and holyday. Our approach to the Mass is not “something we have to do”—but something we would never dream of not doing. In gathering together each week, we celebrate in ritual form, the ministries of worship, education, service, and administration which we commit ourselves to each and every day by virtue of our baptism.

CELL PHONES:

Please remember to always silence your cell phone before Mass begins.

CHILDREN’S MASS BOOK:

If you have an older edition of the “With Jesus Always” Children’s Mass Book/Reconciliation Book and want the prayer changes to our Roman Missal beginning Advent 2011, email alice.doppel@stblase.org. Alice will email you a copy of those changes so you can cut and paste them into your existing Children’s Mass Book. (Children received this book when they previously went through reconciliation or Eucharist preparation.)

TEENS & ADULTS GATHER HYMNAL:

Our “Gather Hymnal” contains much more than just music—it also has the prayers we say at mass! Beginning Advent 2011, there will be some word changes to some of our prayers. (Roman Missal) You will find these new words/prayers either in the front cover or back cover of our Gather hymnal. Before long, everyone will learn them and won’t have to refer to these aides.

GATHERING:

In assembling for worship, it is expected that we greet one another and take time to visit with our fellow parishioners. However, we need to be mindful that others may be praying privately before and after Mass. Therefore, our speaking with one another is done quietly, giving respect to others around us and respect to where we are.

CHILDREN LIKE TO SEE:

If your child appears to be not interested at mass, then move up close to the altar. Children will be able to see the action better. Usually behavior improves, too. Parents, feel comfortable to answer your children’s questions during mass. Whispering can be done discretely.

DRESS:

While formal dress is not necessary to mass, proper attire is expected. This is a sign of respect and a courtesy to others. Given that our church is air conditioned, it seems that shorts, tank tops, halter tops, and other gym or beach attire is usually inappropriate.

Manners Matter at Sunday Worship

ARRIVING LATE:

As with any important gathering, it is expected that we arrive on time for mass. However, it can happen that we find ourselves running late. If you are late in arriving for worship, **please do not seat yourself during the reading of scripture (first reading, psalm, second reading, and Gospel)**. This distracts those around you from hearing the Word of God, and obviously, prevents you from listening yourself. Appropriate times to seat oneself would be during the brief silence between the first reading and the psalm, or during the Gospel procession (singing of the “Alleluia”) prior to the proclamation of the Gospel. **We believe that Christ is present in the proclaimed Word.** This is a very significant time during our worship and should not be casually interrupted.

LEAVING EARLY:

Just as it is considered impolite to “eat and run” when invited for dinner, so it is impolite to leave the assembly before the conclusion of the recessional hymn. Please plan on participating and remaining for the entire Mass.

INFANTS:

St. Blase does not have a cry room; it is our belief that cry rooms divide the assembly. Children and infants belong with their families in the body of the church. We ask parents to be considerate of those around you. Please do not bring toys that are noisemakers to amuse your child in church. If your infant begins to fuss, please take your child out of the main assembly. Please know that diaper changing can be done in both the men’s and women’s restrooms.

RESTROOMS:

Restroom facilities are located at the east side of the church building outside the Social Center. However, it is expected that these facilities be used for **emergencies only**. Children **MUST** be escorted by a parent to the restrooms. In order to keep distractions to a minimum during worship, parishioners are asked to take this into consideration before coming to worship. **Since we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, it is always inappropriate to leave the worshiping assembly during the Eucharistic Prayer, (from the “The Lord be with You” to Amen)** Please do not leave your seat during this time except in an emergency.

CHEWING GUM:

Chewing gum is never appropriate in church.

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 for 12 pm Sunday Mass — and Jerry Simon (586) 268-4387 for 10:00 am Sunday Mass.



GREETER MINISTRY:



All or part of your family would greet people prior at start of Mass.

Contact **Vince Schembri**.



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 **Vince Schembri** a week prior.



JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Grades 1-2.

Joyful Noise will sing 4 liturgies a year — October, Christmas Eve, February and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, just before their Faith Formation sessions (when there is no Faith Formation session, there is no rehearsal). Rehearsals begin Tuesday, October 4. Director, Julie Shier: julieshier@gmail.com or 248-515-4385.

ALTAR SERVERS:



Child must be responsible, not easily distracted and tall enough to reach the altar and lift candles. Altar Server Training Dates: Wednesday, October 12 @ 5-6:30 pm OR Saturday, Oct. 22 @ 10:30am-12:00pm.

Contact **Kate Messina** at 586-979-3222 or mkate01@wsckids.net



SING PRAISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Grades 3-5.

Sing Praise will sing six liturgies a year, including Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday along with the Joyful Noise ministry. They will also sing two liturgies with the next older group, Young Disciples Choir. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 5:45 pm just before their faith formation session (when there is no Faith Formation session, there is no rehearsal). Rehearsals begin Tuesday, October 4. Director, Theresa Stager: theresa.stager@me.com or (586) 322-6494.

Liturgical Ministry Opportunities for Adults, Teens & Children

YOUNG DISCIPLES CHOIR:



Grades 6-8. Young Disciples will sing 8-10 liturgies a year. They will often minister with both the Joyful Noise and the Teens Loving Christ ministries, including Christmas Eve and Easter. Young Disciples will rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on the weeks when there is no faith formation scheduled. Rehearsals begin Oct. 12. Director, Theresa Stager: theresa.stager@me.com or (586) 322-6494.

TEENS LOVING CHRIST CHOIR:



Grades 9-12 (unless you were already in the group and have moved up into 8th Grade). Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. (Those 8th graders will have to forgo TLC rehearsals when they fall on Middle School Faith

Formation sessions evenings... or 8th graders can sign up for the Young Disciples Choir, Grades 6-8). Rehearsals begin Oct. 5. Director, Julie Shier, julieshier@gmail.com or 248-515-4385.



REMNANT MUSIC MINISTRY:

Contemporary music ministry open to adults and teens. Rehearsals are Monday evenings at 7 pm. Contact Director of Music, Steve Petrunak.



VOICES IN PRAISE CHOIR:

Traditional choral music ministry open to adults and teens. Rehearsals are from 7:00—9:00 pm every Thursday from September to June. The VIP sings 2-3 liturgies/ month and one liturgy /month during the summer. Contact Director of Music, Steve Petrunak.



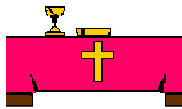
YOUNG ADULT MUSIC MINISTRY: This ensemble is brand new! If you are between the ages of 18-30 and you are a singer or musician who would like to minister at liturgy, contact Patrick Minjeur at pcminjeur@gmail.com.



HOSPITALITY: DONUT SUNDAY

How about helping with set-up and serving bagels and donuts after 8:00 am or 10:00 am Sunday Masses, September through May? Contact Vince Schembri.

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 Vince Schembri.



TAKE EUCHARIST TO THE HOMEBOUND:

What a great experience to bring along your child or teen! Contact Mary Dumm.



*** Above 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!

Christian Service Opportunities

MCREST:



Housing the homeless in Macomb County. One week during the summer on July 8-14, 2012, St. Blase houses the homeless of Macomb County. Needs: Teens can help set-up, make beds, wash down mattresses, put linens on beds. During the week they may volunteer to serve food. Afterwards,

help is needed to tear down and take bedding to Laundromat. Adults can help in kitchen, with transportation, facilities, or check-in guests. Contact: Barb Francis (586) 795-9332 or

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS or CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:



We need persons to help sort, prepare and deliver holiday baskets for needy at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. This is a morning activity during the week. Watch the bulletin for dates. Contact Vince Schembri.



CEREAL COLLECTION



Include your child or teen by having them bring in a box of cereal to pass on the second weekend of each month (except Nov and Dec). Cereal is delivered to the Macomb County Emergency Food Program the following Tuesday mornings. Adults are needed to make this cereal delivery, as this requires driving and is a morning activity. Contact Vince Schembri.

Prayers To Teach At Home

Pray Them Often

Praying is simply talking and listening to God. One can pray by reflecting on scripture, meditating or saying formal prayers. As parents, it is important to teach these basic prayers to your children. Please pray these prayers often, for example at bedtimes or meal times. If prayed on a regular basis, children will learn them quickly.

Sign of the Cross

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

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.

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.

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.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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