



Transfiguration Catholic Church
Faith Formation for Confirmation
Parent Handbook
2009 to 2010

Information about:
Schedules and the kick-off mass and orientation inside!!

Thank you for giving Transfiguration the wonderful opportunity and tremendous responsibility of working with you in the formation of your child's faith. With this handbook, the hope is that you as a parent will have better information about the program as to promote both understanding and participation in your child's development. If after looking at the handbook you still have questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

*****Please note all students, grades 7 and up, and parents should attend the kick-off mass and orientation on Sunday, September 27th at 6:30pm. During this time we will celebrate our weekend liturgy as well as receive special instructions needed during the upcoming Faith Formation year. Your entire family is welcome to celebrate with us as the band will be leading the music for the mass. If you are unable to attend this date, please contact me so I can get you the appropriate information for the start of the year.**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in the faith formation of your son or daughter.

God bless you and your family during this faith formation year!

Bryan Collins—Director
651.501.2205 - bcollins@tranny.org

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Grades 7 and 8

DATE	EVENT NAME	EVENT START	EVENT FINISH
Sunday 9/27/2009	Faith Formation Kickoff and Orientation Grades 7 to 10	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 10/7/2009	Session 1 <i>Chapter 1</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 10/21/2009	Session 2 <i>Chapter 2</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 11/4/2009	Session 3 <i>Chapter 3</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 11/18/2009	Session 4 <i>Chapter 4</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 12/2/2009	Session 5 <i>Chapter 5</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 12/16/2009	Session 6 <i>Chapter 6</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 1/6/2010	Session 7 <i>Chapter 7</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Saturday 1/9/2010	7TH AND 8TH GRADE MINI-RETREAT	1:00 PM	6:00 PM
Wednesday 1/20/2010	Session 8 <i>Chapter 8</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 2/3/2010	Session 9 <i>Chapter 9</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 2/17/2010	Session 10 Ash Wednesday Mass	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 3/3/2010	Session 11 <i>Chapter 10</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 3/17/2010	Session 12 <i>Chapter 11</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 4/7/2010	Session 13 <i>Chapter 12</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 4/21/2010	Session 14 <i>Close out year</i>	6:30 PM	8:00 PM

Confirmation Level 1 (grade 9)

DATE	EVENT NAME	EVENT START	EVENT FINISH
Sunday 9/27/2009	Faith Formation Kickoff and Orientation Grades 7 to 10	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 10/7/2009	Session 1 Chapter 1	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 10/21/2009	Session 2 Chapter 2	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 11/4/2009	Session 3 Chapter 3	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 11/18/2009	Session 4 Chapter 4	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 12/2/2009	Session 5 Chapter 5	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 12/16/2009	Session 6 Chapter 6	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 1/6/2010	Session 7 Chapter 7	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 1/20/2010	Session 8 Chapter 8	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 2/3/2010	Session 9 Chapter 9	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Saturday 2/6/2010	Level 1 MINI-RETREAT	1:00 PM	6:00 PM
Wednesday 2/17/2010	Session 10 Ash Wednesday Mass	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 3/3/2010	Session 11 Chapter 10	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 3/17/2010	Session 12 Chapter 11	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 4/7/2010	Session 13 Chapter 12	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
Wednesday 4/21/2010	Session 14 Close out year	6:30 PM	8:00 PM

***For all sessions, students should report to their classrooms

Confirmation Level 2 (grade 10)

DATE	EVENT NAME	EVENT START	EVENT FINISH
9/27/2009	Faith Formation for Confirmation Kickoff and Orientation Grades 7 to Confirmation Level 2	6:30 PM	8:00 PM
10/11/2009	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 1	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
10/25/2009	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 2	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
11/8/2009	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 3	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
11/22/2009	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 4	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
12/6/2009	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 5	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
1/10/2010	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 6	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
1/24/2010	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 7	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
1/31/2010	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 8	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
2/21/2010	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 9	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
3/7/2010	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 10	7:00 PM	8:30 PM
4/17/10 - 4/18/10	LEVEL 2 OVERNIGHT RETREAT	10:00 AM	3:00 PM
5/2/2010	CONFIRMATION LEVEL 2 CLASS # 11	6:30 PM	8:30 PM
5/22/2010	CONFIRMATION CEREMONY	10:00 AM	11:30 AM

**Please note - the overnight retreat will take place at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wisconsin. We will leave and return from the church. All food and transportation will be provided. There are no additional fees, as this is included in your registration fee. If conflicts arise please contact Fr. Bob as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

****For all sessions, students should use the youth center doors, on the south side of the building off of 14th Street

General Policies

Registration

All students must be registered to attend faith formation classes at Transfiguration. Registration forms can be found online at www.tranny.org or in the parish office.

Classes

All classes at the designed times and dates will meet at Transfiguration. We ask that students please be on time for every class and go directly to their designated classroom.

Electronics

It is clear that we live in an electronic society. We understand that many of the latest and greatest gadgets make life easier; however, sometimes there is a great temptation for electronics to become distracting during class time. We ask that all students not use, wear, or operate any electronic device, including but not limited to: Cell phones, MP3 players, hand-held games, etc... during the designated class times.

Weekend Mass

Weekend mass is a great time for families to come together and worship with the greater parish community. The mass is central to our faith; therefore, it is important for all students to attend regular weekend masses.

Safety

Safety of the students is a very high priority. Therefore, all catechists and volunteers are required to complete a background check as well as safety training prior to entering the classroom.

Student Service Requirements

Why?

It is important for students to understand and learn the value of regular service. As active Catholic adults we are all called to help within the community through the virtues of charity and justice. These service activities act as a form of on-the-job training for the students.

What is service?

Student service must be completed for a nonprofit organization; it is not acceptable to donate time to an organization or person that will make a profit on the student's generosity. The work performed needs to have a connection with who we are as Christians and the motives behind the service. For example, a great service opportunity would be if students donated their time to an elderly neighbor in raking of leaves or shoveling of snow for free.

How much?

Grade 7: 2 hours

Grade 8: 3 hours

Confirmation level 1: 4 hours

Confirmation level 2: 15 hours (Minimum of 3 different service sites)

After the service:

Students in grades 7,8, and Confirmation level 1 will need to complete a project that will allow each of them to reflect on the service. The project could take the form of an individual journal or a group poster, for more information please contact your child's Catechist.

Students in Confirmation Level 2 will need to complete an individual service journal for each service site. This journal will answer questions regarding the student's experience and faith. The journals will be handed out at the kick-off and orientation session at the beginning of the year.

Program Outline

A word about the intent of the program

The Faith Formation for Confirmation program uses a curriculum that fosters the development of knowledge and maturity needed for an adult level of participation in all areas of parish life. Throughout the process students are encouraged to grow in their personal relationship with God as to facilitate an active future as a Catholic adult. At the conclusion of this program there is a beginning of complete membership in the parish community. Each part of the series focuses on different aspects of parish community life as well as different levels of understanding of our Catholic Faith. In addition, there will be a strong emphasis on Catholic Social Teaching and the need for regular charity in our Christian lifestyle.

The different levels:

Grade 7: Church and Sacraments

Grade 8: Jesus in the New Testament

Confirmation Level 1 (Grade 9): Morality: Life in Christ

Confirmation Level 2 (Grade 10): Catholic Parish Life

Why this structure?

This program is based on the understanding that students will grow and mature over the different years they attend the program. The program's structure provides for students from both Transfiguration School and those enrolled in 7th and 8th grades in the Faith Formation for Confirmation program to use the same curriculum. When all students enter the level 1 confirmation year, each has had the same foundation in faith formation. It is this consistent encouragement and relationship with each student that allows the development of mature active Catholic adults. Faith Formation is not something that can be rushed, nor can students test out of sessions. The value in each session, retreat, and gathering is the discussion and growth within a community of believers, an aspect central to our Catholic faith.

Student Expectations

Why expectations?

Students in training to be adults are expected to act with the basic values they were taught by their parents. It is understood that occasional mistakes may be made on the part of the student, however for the most part students can and will act in a manner that is consistent with their Christian upbringing.

What are the expectations?

- Students should be on time, and attend every session
- Students should be prepared for every session, with completed homework, their book, a bible, and a pen or pencil
- Students should be prepared with an understanding and core knowledge of the Catholic faith consistent with their grade level: (basic prayers, the ability to find a specified bible passage, an understanding of the Mass)
- Weekly Mass participation
- Respectful to others: catechists, students, and the person talking
- Respectful to facilities and materials
- Students should be able to constructively participate in every session

What happens when a student falls short of the expectations?

When a student falls short of the expectations, a referral form will be given to the program director by the student's catechist with a description of the issue. The parents will then be contacted by the director to help resolve the situation.

Parent Expectations

Why expectations?

Parents are the primary educator of their children's faith. Many times the best way to teach a child is through example. It is clear that many parents have already given their children a solid basis in faith. One great way parents can be an example of a faith filled adult is through their involvement in their child's faith formation. Your children will form their perception of what it means to be an adult through their observations of you.

What are the expectations?

- Parents should take an active interest in their child's faith formation
- Parents should bring their children to weekly Mass
- It is completely appropriate to enter into a discussion with your son or daughter on issues of faith; it allows for your children to think about their faith and it's meaning in their lives
- Parents should volunteer to assist the catechist
- Parents should be in contact with the catechist or director should a question arise

Attendance and Absences

What is the attendance requirement?

It is only possible to work with children when they are present at the sessions. It is understood that we all have full lives and are pulled in many different directions, however for the sessions to be beneficial, students need to be present for the faith formation sessions.

All students must be present for at least 70% of the total sessions. Retreats are mandatory. If there is a conflict with a retreat please contact Bryan Collins as soon as possible.

What if an absence is unavoidable?

We understand that people do get sick or situations arise that cannot be avoided. If an absence is unavoidable, **please notify Bryan Collins by calling (651-501-2205) or e-mail (bcollins@tranny.org) as soon as possible.** Please do not send word with a friend or sibling. The catechist will be notified when he or she arrives for the session.

What happens when a student is not able to attend 70% of the sessions?

In these rare cases, students and their parents will be referred to Fr. Bob.

Contact Information

Transfiguration Parish

Phone: 651.738.2646 Fax: 651.501.2230
6133 15th Street North
Oakdale, MN 55128

Pastor: Fr. Bob Hart
651.501.2211
bhart@tranny.org

Faith Formation For Confirmation

Bryan Collins - Director
Direct: 651.501.2205
bcollins@tranny.org

Website: www.tranny.org



(click on the FFFC logo)

Special updates and the most up to date information can be found on the Faith Formation for Confirmation website.

Look for: Updates on your child's classes and curriculum, registration, parent updates, catechist updates, pictures, calendars, volunteer opportunities, and more!!!

Youth Ministry Events

What is youth ministry?

The youth ministry program at Transfiguration seeks to provide students in both Junior High (grades 6 to 8) and Senior High (grades 9 to 12) a safe Christian environment to gather for both social and service based events.

Where can I get more information?

There is a monthly newsletter (*The Messenger*) that provides updates as well as the latest monthly events. There are different events every month, as well as ongoing opportunities for both Junior and Senior high students. Copies of *The Messenger* can be found at the exits of the church as well as the website.

Website: www.tranny.org

(click on the TYG logo)



Special updates and the most up to date information can be found on the Youth Ministry website.

Look for:

- 🌐 The "Messenger" newsletter
- 🌐 Parental authorization forms
- 🌐 Pictures
- 🌐 Calendars
- 🌐 Volunteer opportunities
- 🌐 And More!!!

