

2019-2020

Family Handbook

Preschool-Grade 5

- ♥ Sunday School
- ♥ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- ♥ Kingdom Kids
- ♥ First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Pax Christi Catholic Church

4135 18th Ave. NW
Rochester, MN 55901
507-282-8542
www.paxchristichurch.org



Follow us on Facebook

Pastor Fr. Will Thompson
Parochial Vicar Fr. Thé Hoang



Mass Schedule

Weekend:

Saturday 5:15 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 10:45 am

Weekday:

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00-5:00 pm
First Friday 9:30-10:30 am
Thursday 5:00-6:00 pm
or by appointment

The Reconciliation Room is located in the east hallway of the Gathering Space, upper level. Communal celebrations are available during Advent and Lent.

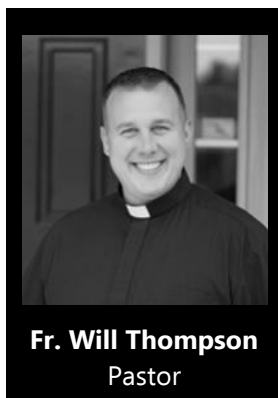
Faith Formation

Parents are the first and primary teachers of our Catholic faith. Our role as children's ministry staff is to support you, the parents, in laying the foundation as your child prepares for a lifelong faith journey. Please contact your coordinator if there is anything we can do to support your family.

You can best help your children by:

- **Attending Mass every weekend.** As Catholics, we are rooted in the Eucharist. Mass is an integral part of faith formation. Attending as a family sets a powerful example for your child.
- **Praying with and for your children.** When we make it a family practice to notice God in everyday moments, pray spontaneously, and teach our Catholic prayers, we are instilling a lifelong relationship with our loving God.
- **Making religious education a life-long commitment – for you!** Reading the Bible or attending one of the many educational ministry groups at Pax or in the community shows your family that faith is an on-going process.
- **Supporting Your Child's Catechist.** Your child's catechist is such a blessing! Get to know them, let them know you support them and are willing to be partners with them in any way possible.
- **Making faith education a family priority.** You can show excitement by ensuring your child arrives promptly and attends class on a regular basis. You can also review and talk about lessons with your child.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Will



Safe Environment

VIRTUS

*Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
from the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

VIRTUS: Enabling a Safe Environment

VIRTUS is especially focused on the prevention of wrongdoing and the promotion of right doing. All parishioners are encouraged to attend a VIRTUS session.

For training dates and times:

www.virtus.org

The Diocese of Winona **requires** all volunteers 18 years of age and older who are in contact with our children, youth, or vulnerable adults to attend a two hour national best practice program called VIRTUS.

- Attend an initial VIRTUS training session
- Re-certify every five years
- Authorize a criminal background check every five years
- Sign a Code of Conduct



Safe Environment

Circle of Grace

Circle of Grace

The Diocese of Winona requires that all K-12 grade children in our Diocese, both in our faith formation and in our Catholic Schools, receive Circle of Grace curriculum developed by the Archdiocese of Omaha. The Circle of Grace program teaches children and young people to seek help from trusted adults, reinforcing God's presence in their real-life struggles. This holistic concept includes all senses, and it allows children and young people to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate touch may occur. COG is age-appropriate.



Goal: to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

- Children and young people will understand they are created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Children and young people will be able to describe the Circle of Grace which God gives each of us.
- Children and young people will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries.
- Children and young people will be able to identify all types of boundary violations.
- Children and young people will demonstrate how to act if any boundary is threatened or violated.

Topics by Grade Level

Kindergarten - What is the Circle of Grace?

The Stoplight: Feelings, Touch and Secrets Safety Plan

Grade 1 - What is the Circle of Grace?

The Stoplight: Feelings, Touch and Secrets Safety Plan

Grade 2 - What is the Circle of Grace?

The Stoplight: Feelings, Touch and Secrets Safety Plan

Grade 3 - What is the Circle of Grace?

Boundaries and our limits of our Circle of Grace Action Plan

Grade 4 - Internet Safety

Grade 5 - Understanding the Influence of the Media on our Circle of Grace

Parents can access the lessons online. Level III CGS is a multi-grade level class. Grades 4 & 5 are presented on alternate years.

Faith Formation Programs

Sunday School

- Children are in age-specific classrooms while parents attend Mass
- 3 years old - Kindergarten
- Sunday 9:00 - 10:00 am
- Curriculum ~ *Allelu!* by Our Sunday Visitor which nurtures young children's natural tendency to seek a relationship with God
- Activity sheets and multi-sensory format provides engaging prayers, stories and music which reinforce our Catholic faith, and positive family traditions
- Songs, saints, games, crafts and prayers too
- <http://allelu.com> - activities & resources for families



Kingdom Kids

- Traditional faith formation age-specific faith sharing small groups
- Grades 1-5
- Mondays: 4:45 - 5:45 pm or 6:15 - 7:15 pm
- Curriculum ~ *Finding God* by Loyola Press
- Parent resources and games for kids:
www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/finding-god/finding-god-2013
- Each lesson includes four sections: engage, explore, reflect and respond
- Children receive a textbook, and depending on the grade level, a prayer book and/or an age-appropriate Bible

Faith Formation Programs

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

- Montessori setting faith formation for children preschool to 5th grade
- Wednesdays: 4:15 - 5:45 pm or 6:15 - 7:45 pm
- Hands-on opportunities to learn the essential components of our Catholic faith. Each child has a unique relationship with God. Catechists strive to nurture this relationship, recognizing that it is directed by the Spirit of God within the child.
- Small group presentations rooted in liturgy and scripture. Children then move about the room and independently work with materials.

Atrium and Montessori Methods

Catechists and children meet in a prepared environment called an atrium. Children benefit from having their own space, full of materials specially made for them because it fosters their relationship with and knowledge of God. The atrium is a place of community where children can prayerfully grow in their understanding of our Catholic faith. The materials vary for each level and represent that particular age-group's focus upon liturgy and scripture. Catechists have participated in extensive training to learn about the curriculum and Montessori teaching methods utilized in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.



Safety

Behavior

Every youth is expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner: respect themselves, respect the environment, and respect others.

Cancellation of class

If the Rochester Public Schools close for the day, or cancels evening activities due to weather, then all children's programs are canceled as well.

Catechists

We take a great deal of pride in our catechists. They give very generously of their time and talent to serve our children and families. Every volunteer that ministers to children or vulnerable adults signs a Code of Conduct, completes a criminal background check every five years, attends a VIRTUS two-hour safe practices training, and recertifies VIRTUS every five years with online training.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Please come to your child's classroom at the beginning and end of your session. This allows you to make a personal contact with your child's catechist and ensures children are supervised in the parking lot. If you have little children that you do not wish to get out of the car, please make a plan with your catechist.

Emergency Procedures

Evacuation routes are posted in each room. For a building evacuation, our meeting place is in front of the Marian Prayer Grotto. In the event of severe weather, groups meet in the hallway at the bottom of the main stairwell. If we need to get off campus, our meeting place is across 18th Avenue at Assembly of God church.

Environment

If you notice anything that needs attention, please let a staff member or catechist know. Rooms are to remain locked when not in use.

Communication

Attendance

Weekly attendance is imperative to your child's on-going learning and community building. Please let your coordinator or catechist know if your child will be absent.

Email

Most communication is distributed through email. We use FlockNote, a communication tool designed specifically for churches. We can send to multiple emails - mom, dad, work emails, grandparents - anyone you would like to keep in the loop. Please notify your coordinator if your email changes. Email addresses are on the back cover.



Photography

Occasional photos may be taken for publicity/identification purposes. Please let us know if you would prefer that photos of your child(ren) not be taken.

Website

A calendar of events is on our website: www.paxchristchurch.org

As of printing, we have not received our Family Promise dates for the 2019-2020 school year.

During these weeks our classrooms become bedrooms for homeless families in Rochester.

Our schedule may need to be adjusted.

Family Ministry

We offer a variety of activities throughout the year for families.

Nativity Program

During Advent, we tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Each grade level has a role.

Sun. Dec. 1	12 - 1 pm	Parent Information Meeting
Sun. Dec. 8	12 - 1 pm	Rehearsal
Sun. Dec. 15	5 - 6:30 pm	Dress rehearsal (followed by pizza)
Sun. Dec. 15	6:30 pm	Nativity Play

With minimal rehearsal, this is designed as a low-stress family activity. Costumes are simple and some pieces are provided.

Wooden Nativity Sets

Every year a parishioner generously donates the wooden pieces so each of our elementary children may paint this beautiful keepsake! New pieces are added every year. By the end of fifth grade, students will have the entire thirteen-piece set. Painting takes place in the Dining Hall on these dates:

Sat. Nov. 16	4 - 8 pm
Sun. Nov. 24	10 am - 1 pm

RSVP
Dana Petricka
dana.patricka@paxchristchurch.org



Family Ministry

Family Eucharistic Adoration & Rosary

Come experience family-friendly Eucharistic Adoration and pray a Rosary.

Friday, Oct. 11
30 minute prayer time
begins at 5:30 pm

A potluck family meal follows in the Dining Hall.
All are welcome.

Spring date is TBD.



Family Ministry Planning Team

Join the team to help plan and implement
Family Ministry activities.
We meet 3-4 times a year to plan.

Contact Dana Petricka
507-282-8542 ext. 107
dana.patricka@paxchristichurch.org

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

We offer three options to help you prepare your child to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist which typically happens in second grade.

Your options for formation are:

1. Kingdom Kids – A weekly single-age, traditional faith formation setting Monday at 4:45 - 5:45 pm or 6:15 - 7:15 pm. Our curriculum is *Finding God* from Loyola Press. Each child receives books appropriate to their grade level.
2. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – A weekly multi-age, Montessori faith formation setting Wednesdays at 4:15-5:30 pm or 6:15-7:45 pm. Children receive presentations from a catechist, then explore the atrium.
3. Catholic Schools - The second grade religion curriculum in the Rochester Catholic Schools includes preparation for the sacraments. Some families also choose to enroll their child in weekly parish faith formation classes also.

All three formation options gather together for two retreats and celebration of the sacraments.

Mon. Sept. 16	5 - 6:30 pm	Parent Information Meeting
Sat. Nov. 9	10 am - 1 pm	First Reconciliation Retreat
Sat. Jan. 11	10 am	First Reconciliation (only families)
Sat. Feb. 22	10 am - 1 pm	First Communion retreat
Thur. April 30	5 - 6:30 pm	First Communion dress rehearsal
Sat. May 2	5:15 pm Mass	First Communion Mass
Sun. May 3	9:00 am Mass	
	10:45 am Mass	

Special Preparation

If you have a child older than second grade that needs to receive any of the sacraments, contact Michelle Todd at the parish office Ext. 105 to organize a plan.

Kingdom Kids calendar

			Chapter				
Wk	Date	Topic	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5
	09/23/19	NO CLASS - PARISH MISSION Sun-Tues. Sept. 22-24, 7 pm nightly					
1	09/30/19		1	1	1	1	1
2	10/07/19		2	2	2	2	2
3	10/14/19		3	3	3	3	3
4	10/21/19	Family Mass with Fr. Thé					
5	10/28/19 *		4	4	4	4	4
6	11/04/19		6	6	6	6	6
7	11/11/19		7	7	7	7	7
8	11/18/19		8	8	8	8	8
9	11/25/19 *	Advent 12/1	10	10	10	10	10
10	12/02/19		11	11	11	9	9
11	12/09/19		13	12	12	12	11
12	12/16/19		15	15	15	15	15
	12/23/19	No Class - Christmas Break					
	12/30/19	New Years Break					
13	01/06/20	Visit with Fr. Thé – Gr 2	12	13	13	21	12
	01/13/20		14	14	14	22	13
14	01/20/20	MLK – No class					
	01/27/20 *		16	9	16	23	14
15	02/03/20	Visit with Fr. Thé – Gr 3	17	16	17	24	16
16	02/10/20	Visit with Fr. Thé – Gr 4	18	17	18	16	17
17	02/17/20	President's Day – No class					
	02/24/20 *	Circle of Grace - Lent begins 2/26 Ash Wed.	20	20	20	20	20
	03/02/20	Visit with Fr. Thé – Gr 5	19	18	19	13	18
18	03/09/20		21	19	21	18	19
19	03/16/20		22	21	22	19	21
20	03/23/20 *	Visit with Fr. Thé – Gr 1	23	22	23	11	22
21	03/30/20	Spring Break					
22	04/06/20		9	23	9	25	23
	04/13/20	Easter Monday – no class					
23	04/20/20		24	24	24	5	24
	04/27/20 *	Last day					

* Encounters with Mary, 6:45 pm in church (optional for families)

Calendar subject to change

Sunday School Calendar

	Date	3-4 yrs./Pre-K/ Kindergarten
1	9/29/19	Lesson 1 / Lesson 1 / Lesson 1
2	10/6/19	Lesson 2 / Lesson 2 / Lesson 2
3	10/13/19	Lesson 3 / Lesson 3 / Lesson 3
	10/20/19	No class - MEA
4	10/27/19	Lesson 4 / Lesson 4 / Lesson 4
5	11/3/19	Lesson 15 / Lesson 8 / Lesson 8
6	11/10/19	Lesson 8 / Lesson 7 / Lesson 7
7	11/17/19	Lesson 16 / Lesson 9 / Lesson 10
8	11/24/19	Lesson 12 / Lesson 16 / Lesson 11
	12/1/19	No Class - Thanksgiving
9	12/8/19	Lesson 13 / Lesson 22 / Lesson 21
10	12/15/19	Lesson 14 / Lesson 23 / Lesson 22
	12/22/19	No Class - Christmas
	12/29/19	No Class - New Year's

	1/5/20	No Class
11	1/12/20	Lesson 17 / Lesson 24 / Lesson 23
	1/19/20	No Class - MLK
12	1/26/20	Lesson 18 / Lesson 11 / Lesson 12
13	2/2/20	Lesson 19 / Lesson 12 / Lesson 13
14	2/9/20	Lesson 20 / Lesson 15 / Lesson 14
	2/16/20	No Class - President's Day
15	2/23/20	Lesson 21 / Lesson 25 / Lesson 15
16	3/1/20	Lesson 27 / Lesson 14 / Lesson 16
17	3/8/20	Lesson 22 / Lesson 17 / Lesson 17
18	3/15/20	Lesson 23 / Lesson 19 / Lesson 18
19	3/22/20	Lesson 25 / Lesson 21 / Lesson 25
	3/29/20	No Class - Spring Break
	4/5/20	No Class - Spring Break
	4/12/20	No Class - Easter Sunday
20	4/19/20	Lesson 26 / Lesson 26 / Lesson 26
21	4/26/20	Lesson 28 / Lesson 27 / Lesson 28

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15
10:00 am

Practices will take place during
Sunday School classes on
Nov. 10, 17 & 24 and Dec. 8.

Spring Concert

Sunday, March 22
10:00 am

Practices will take place during
Sunday School classes on
March 1, 8 & 22.

Calendar subject to change

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Calendar

1	10/2/19	
2	10/9/19	
	10/16/19	No Class - MEA
3	10/23/19	
4	11/6/19	
5	11/13/19	
6	11/20/19	
	11/27/19	No Class - Thanksgiving
7	12/4/19	
8	12/11/19	
9	12/18/19	
	12/25/19	No Class - Christmas

	1/1/20	No Class
10	1/8/20	
11	1/15/20	
12	1/22/20	
13	1/29/20	
14	2/5/20	
15	2/12/20	
16	2/19/20	
	2/26/20	No Class - Ash Wednesday
17	3/4/20	
18	3/11/20	
19	3/18/20	
20	3/25/20	
	4/1/20	No Class - Spring Break
	4/8/20	No Class - Holy Week
21	4/15/20	
22	4/22/20	
23	4/29/20	



Program	Age	Day	Time	Contact
Sunday School	3, 4, 5, and Kindergarten age children	Su	9:00 am	Michelle Todd mtodd@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 105
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	3-6 yr. old	W	4:15 pm or 6:15 pm	
	6-9 yr. old			
	9-12 yr. old			
Kingdom Kids	1 st - 5 th grade	M	4:45 pm or 6:15 pm	Joyce Lehman joyce.lehman@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 108
				Fr. Th� Hoang the.hoang@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 119 507-226-0397
Reconciliation/ Eucharist preparation	Typically 2 nd grade	Varies	Call for details	Michelle Todd mtodd@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 105 Zach Rawson Zach.Rawson@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 126
Proof	6 th - 12 th grade	W	6:30 - 8 pm	Zach Rawson Zach.Rawson@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 126
Confirmation preparation	Typically 9 th & 10 th grade (choose 1 time)	W	6:30 - 8:30 pm	Dana Petricka dana.petricka@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 107
		Su		
Young Adults	18-39 years	www.rochesteratholicmn.org/		
Adults	All ages	www.paxchristichurch.org/adults		Joyce Lehman joyce.lehman@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 108

Pastor	Fr. Will Thompson	wthompson@paxchristichurch.org 507-282-8542 ext. 101 507-226-0391
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Th� Hoang	the.hoang@paxchristichurch.org ext. 119 507-226-0397
Seminarian	Matthew Nordquist	mnordquist@paxchristichurch.org
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	Randy & Terese Horlocker	rcia.team@paxchristichurch.org 507-288-9550



Pax Christi is home to over 1650 families.
We are a growing, vibrant parish.

Welcome home.