

**ST. BRUNO YOUTH MINISTRY
PARENT-CHILD HANDBOOK
GRADES 7-11**

September 2004

Dear Parents,

This Handbook communicates St. Bruno's Youth Ministry program information, curriculum, and schedules. Please read through it completely and put it in a place where you can refer to it throughout the coming year. However, do not hesitate to call me on my Cell at 269-6211 if you have a concern or question.

The Youth Ministry Program at St. Bruno's supports and helps parents' foster a love of Christ and The Catholic Church in their children. St. Bruno's Youth Ministry works to provide your youth with the best possible religious formation. We hope this journey of faith becomes a guiding force in their daily living.

Youth Ministry is grounded in the community. In this respect, we need many adult volunteers to make the programming happen effectively for the youth. Please consider volunteering often as your child becomes engaged in activities, retreats, service projects, and class work.

Most importantly, we are a catholic community focused around the celebration of the Eucharist. Please make Mass a priority in your family. The Eucharist is the center of the Catholic Faith, and therefore the most important obligation in the Youth Ministry Program. Our theology classes end each Sunday by attending 11:00 Mass together. **SUNDAY MASS TIME WILL CHANGE IN THE SPRING. CLASS WILL BE SHORTENED TO ACCOMMODATE MASS.** We ask that you make every effort to make sure that your teen is staying through Mass with his/her class. Much of the discussion in theology class is made relevant to the youth's daily life as it connects to the Eucharist.

In Christ's Peace
Lisa Seipel

Registration Information

Fees per student for 2004-2005 are as follows:

Grades 7 & 8	\$45.00
Grades 9 & 10	\$55.00
Grade 11	\$75.00 (Retreat Extra)

All students should have a copy of their Baptismal Certificate on file in the Religious Education or Youth Ministry Office. If not, please provide one as soon as possible.

Because of Eucharist and Mass are central to our Catholic Faith, it is expected that when families register their children for Youth Ministry Theology Classes, they will also make a commitment to attend Mass on Sundays and Holidays.

Code of Behavior

All due consideration and understanding will be given to normal growth and development of the youth by their teachers in handling classroom discipline. However, the following rules will be discussed with the students at the beginning of the year and *will be followed*:

- Respect will be shown to teacher and other students.
- Respect will be shown for school and church property.
- Students will stay out of the school children's desks.
- Student will raise their hand and wait to be called upon.
- Students will keep their hands, feet and objects to themselves.
- Students will not chew gum.
- Soda and snacks will only be allowed in the rooms with teacher approval.
- Student will take care of personal needs prior to the start of class.
- Students will report directly to the assigned class and wait in hallway outside classroom until the teacher is in the room.

Sacramental Preparation

The National Catechetical Directory states that parents have a right and responsibility to be involved in preparing their children for First Communion and First Reconciliation. It also states that parents are the primary educators of their children and should be intimately involved in catechesis for Confirmation. The Youth Ministry programs of St. Bruno encourage parents to be involved in the catechesis of their children at all grade levels, especially the sacrament classes.

First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation are part of the Religious Education and Youth Ministry Program. Prior to enrollment in the sacrament programs, a student must have been in regular attendance in a Religious Education Program or a Catholic School before reception of the sacrament and the families must be enrolled members of the ST. Bruno Parish.

Confirmation is a sacrament open to anyone at any time after he/she has reached the age of 16, though the majority of youth receive confirmation in their eleventh grade. Please let the youth ministry office know if your child has not received all his/her sacraments by the given grade levels.

CURRICULUM FOR GRADES 7 TO 11

GRADE SEVEN – CREED I

- Doctrine:** Life & teachings of Jesus are expressed in the Creed
Jesus Christ answers life's basic questions
Paschal Mystery
Sacraments reflect God's Presence
Sacramentals
- Scripture:** Able to explain relationship between Old and New Testament
Connects Scripture stories to life issues
- Prayers:** Review all prayers previously learned
Participates at Mass and understands the real presence of Christ
Experiences a relationship with God in prayer including meditation and spontaneous prayer

GRADE EIGHT – CREED II

- Doctrine:** Marks of the Church
Church history
Forms of Prayer
Ten Commandments
Connects Creedal beliefs of Catholic Church to lived experience of youth
- Scripture:** Locates book/chapter/verse
Tells stories that describe person & ministry of Jesus Christ
Use Bible as source for daily prayer
- Prayers:** Review all prayers previously learned
Participates regularly at Sunday Mass
Recognizes & experiences belonging to a community which prays with and for each other

GRADE NINE – UNDERSTANDING CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY

Study involves core beliefs, stories, values and practices of Catholic Christianity. Topics include Judaism, Jesus, Church, Scriptures, Tradition, Sacraments, Liturgical Year and Spirituality.

GRADE TEN – FORMING A CATHOLIC CONSCIENCE

This program covers Scripture, Jesus, Catholic doctrine, Church history, Christian morality and sacraments. These topics will help students understand how their faith is essential in the formation of a Catholic conscience.

GRADE ELEVEN – CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Students who wish to be confirmed in their Catholic Faith must show that they are truly ready to be responsible members of the Church. During the year of candidacy, they will have the responsibility of demonstrating these basic qualities:

- A. Knowledge and comprehension of their Catholic Faith
- B. A desire to grow in their Faith
- C. Participation in parish life
- D. Service work for others.

Confirmation is not the end of religious formation of the student, but rather the ***beginning* of adult Catholic Christian Formation**

CLASS SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 7 - 11

(2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month)

2004: Sept. 12 & 26: Oct. 10 & 24: Nov. 14 & 28: Dec. 12

2005: Jan. 9 & 23; Feb. 13 & 27: Mar. 13, April 10

CLASS: 9:00 – 10:50 AM ending with 11:00 MASS

Due to the limited amount of classes, it is extremely important for students to arrive on time. Attendance is expected at ALL classes.

If a student will be absent, **please call**:

The Youth Ministry Office at 269-6211.

**Religion classes should take priority over
extracurricular activities and jobs.**

The students are expected to know the appropriate knowledge taught at each grade level and will be tested on that material. The student's **memorization** of prayers and **review** of class presentation are the responsibility of the parents.

Students will be tested periodically to indicate their comprehension of material covered in class and reviewed at home.

It is imperative that they have accomplished the doctrine, scripture and prayers at the end of each grade as the foundation for being promoted to the next grade level.

Youth Ministry Curriculum

This Grade Specific Youth Ministry curriculum provides concise descriptors that identify what is to be learned and lived as we share the Catholic Faith with your child. The textbook series used for Grades 7 & 8 is Sadlier's Creed I & II. Grade 9 uses the textbook published by St. Mary's Press, Understanding Catholic Christianity and Grade 10 uses Forming a Catholic Conscience published by Ave Maria Press. Grade 11 uses This is Our Faith, as well as, additional materials for sacramental preparation for Confirmation. There are various opportunities for Christian formation and leadership for Grade 12. The structure of the lessons in all grades is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Tradition and Scripture.

This grade level summary of the basic abilities and experiences *expected of students* as a result of what is taught in class and *reinforced by your family* listed above, we will work with you to complete his/her Catholic education.

New this year is a progress report that will be sent home periodically. This will help the parents have a better understanding of what is going on in the classroom. Progress reports are not meant to cause anxiety. We realize every person grows spiritually at their own pace and in their own time. The progress report will just help everyone involved understand the teenagers needs better.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALANDERS!

Turkey Dinner October 3rd
Tenebrae March 23

Angel Tree is an organization that I have chosen as one of the service projects for youth ministry. Each class will adopt a child through Angel Tree and buy them a gift for Christmas. The class is then asked to extend their outreach to this child in their own special way (books, Easter baskets, prayer cards). Angel Tree is a Christian based organization that takes care of the children who have at least one parent in jail. There are 2,000,000 children that have one or both parents in prison. Currently, Angel Tree ministers to 600,000 of them.

Everyone will have a chance to choose the service projects that they would like to participate in, but there will be a couple that are mandatory. I know everyone hates the word mandatory, but the parish really supports the youth and it is important to give something back.

I will be announcing the mission trips for 2005 soon. I hope all of you consider this great opportunity to make a difference in the world. Our youth ministry is very lucky to have such a strong mission program that the parish supports.

Please consider going to Germany for World Youth Day. It is an amazing experience-like none other. It is August 15-21!

Many other social, spiritual, and service activities will be announced throughout the year. Every youth member singed is encouraged and invited to get involved!!!!