

**FAITH
FORMATION
YOUTH MINISTRY
HANDBOOK**

2010-2011



RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

TEC (TOGETHER WE ENCOUNTER CHRIST)

This is a three day experience that provides time to look at your life, your relationship with God, your goals and how you might grow in your life as a Christian. Sixteen years or older are eligible to attend. Cost is \$60.00. Registration forms will be on the Youth Ministry Bulletin Board or at: www.riverbendtec.org.

New Ulm Diocese TEC Dates:

November 13-15, 2010	New Ulm, MN	April 2-4, 2011	New Ulm, MN
January 15-17, 2011	Bird Island, MN	June 25-27, 2011	Bird Island, MN
February 19-21, 2011	Winsted, MN	August 6-8, 2011	Winsted, MN

DIOCESAN DISCIPLESHIP YOUNG MEN'S CAMP, June 23-24, 2011 & YOUNG WOMEN'S CAMP, June 16-17, 2011 Grade 7-12.

This camp invites youth to strengthen their relationship with Jesus and recognize the richness of their Catholic faith. They meet other youth from the Diocese to share ideas and have fun.

STEUBENVILLE NORTH YOUTH CONFERENCE

The focus of this conference is to help youth (Grades 9-12) encounter Jesus and grow into a deeper relationship with Him. Through the power of the Sacraments, inspiring talks, dynamic music, praise and worship, teens are able to experience a faith-filled weekend that can change their lives.

The Conference is scheduled for **July 29-31, 2011** at the University of St. Thomas.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP (CHWC) MISSION TRIP

This mission trip is filled with faith, fun and fellowship for youth in Grades 8 and up. They will be working on houses, painting, yard work, clean up, helping children in daycare centers, helping in boys & girls clubs, helping distribute food to the needy and restoring hope to those who have none. Date and place to be determined. More information will be available in October.



NCYC, November 17-19, 2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana

Youth currently in Grades 8-11 are eligible to attend. Youth all over the US come together to share their Catholic faith. Enjoy famous Christian music artists, hear stories of faith from other youth, attend Mass and share in the Eucharist.

YOUTH MINISTRY



I am happy to be back into our Faith Formation year with all of our young people. I am looking forward to a fun and faith-filled year with our youth. Please come and see me about any ideas, thoughts or concerns you have about your youth. Beginning in October, I will be in my office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Wednesday evening. Contact me directly at 796-5968, or email me at ololyouth@tds.net.

Angela Hughesdon, Youth Ministry

EVENTS & DATES

Area Fun & Faith at PWELC - **Sunday, September 19, 2010**
for Grades 5 & 6

Eagle Mountain Snow Tubing— **Wednesday, December 29, 2010**
for Grades 5-8

Arrow Wood Water Park - **Friday, March 11, 2011** for Grades 5-8

Easter Egg Hunt - **Saturday, April 23, 2011** for ages 3-10

Join Hands Day - **Saturday, May 7, 2011** for adults & youth

Valley Fair-**Wednesday, June 15, 2011** for Grades 6–12

Picnic/Kids Carnival – **Sunday, August 7, 2011** for adults & youth



The Mission of FAITH FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY at OUR LADY OF THE LAKES is:

to deepen our relationship with God and one another

to be sensitive to the Spirit's presence within us,

to pray together,

to reach out in service to the needs of others,

to share the gospel of Christ.

Like Jesus, our mission is on-going and
life-long.

*“Continue, therefore, to live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the spirit
in which you received him. Be rooted in him and built up in him,
growing ever stronger in faith, as you were taught, and overflowing
with gratitude.”*

Colossians 2:6-7

We are excited to share faith with all of you! If you are new, stop in and introduce yourself and your family. If you have been around here for awhile, stop in, too! We welcome your support, help, suggestions, and comments. Please cut and post Parish Life Calendar each month for dates concerning Faith Formation and Youth Ministry.

In Christ,

Diane Pyka, Barb Garding
& Angela Hughesdon

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE LAKES
6680 153rd Avenue NE, Spicer, MN 56288
Website: www.olol.ourlivingwater.org.

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone ~ **796-5664**
 Father Steve Verhelst, Pastor
 Father Brian Mandel, Senior Associate
 Carol Lee, Parish Administrator
 Cate Giroux, Parish Nurse

FAITH FORMATION

Telephone - **796-5968**
 Diane Pyka, Catechetical Ministry
 Email: ololdiane@tds.net
 Barb Garding, Catechetical Ministry
 Email: ololbarb@tds.net
 Angela Hughesdon, Youth Ministry
 Email: ololyouth@tds.net
 Donna Breezee, Formation Secretary
 Email: ololdonna@tds.net

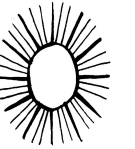
ADVISORY TEAM

April Dorry 354-4982
 Ron Dobbs 796-2462
 Monica Amaral 354-5324
 Cynthia Keehn 354-0049
 Marvin Lucas 612-214-0058
 Lynda Bast 354-2916
 Joy Woelfel 354-5550



GRADE 10 - CONFIRMED IN A FAITHFUL COMMUNITY

The curriculum consists of four major periods of preparation. It will cover the Periods of Invitation and Formation. **Invitation** focuses on the individual's faith experiences.



Formation focuses on deepening the candidates' understanding of Jesus: who he was and is, his proclamations of the Kingdom of God, his central teachings and values, his death on the cross, his Resurrection, Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church at Pentecost.

Their mission service requirement is met with learning about poverty and the problems of the poor. We take a day trip to Minneapolis to work with Visitation Monastery in meeting some of the needs of their neighborhood.

Retreat Requirement: Steubenville North Conference or Together We Encounter Christ (TEC).

GRADE 11 - CONFIRMED IN A FAITHFUL COMMUNITY

The Period of **Reflection** focus is on the beliefs, practices, and values that are at the heart of Catholicism. The date for the Catholic Area Faith Community Jesus Our Living Water **Rite of Confirmation** will be **February 12, 2011**. After confirmation, we will explore ways to continue with ongoing faith formation and involvement in the ministries of our communities.

SAVE THE DATE: Area Confirmation Gathering, Sunday, January 30, 2011.

GRADE 12 - THE GOOD NEWS GOES ON AFTER CONFIRMATION

As fully initiated members of our parish community, our seniors are encouraged to be involved in **all** ministries.

Special Opportunities:

Fun Active Catholic Teens (F.A.C.T.) Seniors are invited to share their time and God's given gifts with their peers. Leadership training will be provided.



Dates to Remember

October 24, 2010 Senior High Rally
May 11, 2011 Meal and Mass Planning
May 22, 2011 Mass and Brunch to honor graduates
July 29-31, 2011 Steubenville Conference

GRADE 7 & 8 THE EDGE (published by LIFE TEEN, Inc.)

THE EDGE is a Catholic centered youth ministry program aimed at middle school young people. It is designed to meet their educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs.

The goals of THE EDGE Program is for a deeper relationship and love for Jesus and the Catholic Church. The two components we will be using this year are: The Liturgy of the Catholic Church & The Creed. The youth will be participating in Mass throughout the year. Their service requirements will be met with a Guatemala Service Project.

Parent and Grades 7 & 8 Youth meeting: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Retreat Requirement: National Evangelization Team (NET) - Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Date to remember: Junior High Rally, Sunday, April 10, 2011

GRADE 9 – SCRIPTURE WALK – DISCIPLESHIP and THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS

Scripture has an incredible power to transform our lives. Our beginning sessions will be on **Discipleship** and will attempt to help young people know what it means to be a disciple of Christ.



For the remainder of the year, we will cover a program based on the teachings of Pope John Paul II, "Theology of the Body for Teens". The goal is to help young people understand the significance of their sexuality and the plan God has for them.

Parents have the primary responsibility and the greatest impact on their young people in developing and nurturing values. A parent component is important in this curriculum.

Parent are invited to join their youth at the first Sexuality Class. A letter will be mailed out with the date.

Their service requirement will be a choice between helping with Join Hands Day or Dia Linn Hermatige.

Retreat Requirement: Senior High Diocesan Rally. It will be held in Willmar on Sunday, October 24, 2010 or **Young Women's Discipleship Camp - Thursday-Friday, June 16-17, 2011** or **Young Men's Discipleship Camp, Thursday-Friday, June 23-24, 2011.**



Table of Contents

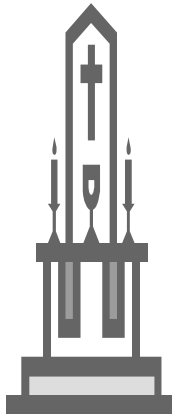
Faith Life	6
Financial Support	7
Policies	7-9
Faith Formation Program	10
Preschool	10
Grades 1-6	11
Grades 7-8	12
Grade 9	12
Confirmation	13
Grade 12	13
Youth Ministry	14
Retreat Opportunities	15



FAITH LIFE

• MASS

Is the central sacrament of our faith. We come to Mass because, through our baptism, we have made a commitment to someone-God and to something- our faith. We come to Mass because that one hour can and should shape how we live the other 167 hours of the week. We are sent forth with these words, "go in peace to love and serve the Lord". Jesus is telling us to give ourselves to others as he gave himself for us. Mass is not something we just attend but is something we do and something that prepares us to go forth and do what Jesus asks of us. Make this time a priority in your family for you and your young people.



• SACRAMENTS

Preparation is done **TOGETHER**-the family and our faith community. As we open ourselves to God's presence in our lives, we recognize the Holy Spirit at work and continue to deepen our awareness of how God is with us in the Sacraments of our faith.

• PRAYER

It is an activity of the heart and is turning our hearts toward God with as much of our true self as we can. It can be: formal or informal; verbal or nonverbal; active or contemplative. Just as we talk to our best friends about what is happening in our lives, so we talk, listen, and share with God. The more you take time to do this with your children and as a family, the more natural it becomes. We ask you to help your children come to understand traditional prayers. We have enclosed a prayer sheet in this handbook for your family to know what prayers we would like to have the children familiar with for each grade.

Every moment of every life is an opportunity to grow in a personal relationship with God. Each moment of each day we are invited to share in God's love and in God's gifts. Our response to God's invitation is reflected in our relationships with others and in the way we serve and respect the dignity and beauty of all creation.



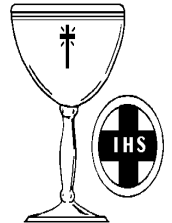
GRADES 1-6 Loyola Press

Our curriculum is called Finding God: our response to God's gifts. Our program, Finding God, is rooted in the belief that the parish gathers in the community to nurture a lived faith. It weaves experiences in prayer, scripture, social justice, and liturgy together. It takes into consideration the wide variety of learning styles that exist and the need for hands-on opportunities. Take-home pages will provide parents with background and activities to stay involved with faith formation. Parent newsletters will be provided 5 times per year to offer inspiration and motivation for personal and family formation.

Check out the web site: www.findinggod.org.

GRADE 2 - DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Parent Meeting
March 24, 25, 26, 2011 Parent & Child Eucharist Centers
April 30, 2011- First Eucharist Retreat
May 1, 2011 - First Eucharist



GRADE 3 - DATES TO REMEMBER

November 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Parent Meeting
February 24, 25, 26, 2011 - Parent & Child Reconciliation Centers
Spring 2011- First Communal Reconciliation

GRADE 6—DATE TO REMEMBER

Sunday, April 10, 2011 - Junior High Diocesan Festival
 A registration form will be mailed to you.

K4J (KIDS FOR JESUS)
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 20, 21, 22, 2011



FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

GOOD SHEPHERD CATECHESIS LEVEL 1 for ages 3-6 on Mondays, 9-11 a.m.

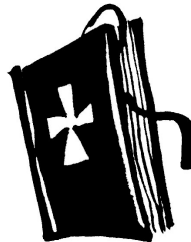


The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is based on the conviction that God and the child are in relationship. The child has a deep need to experience and a special capacity to enjoy the presence of God. The task of the adult is to help the child live fully the encounter with God in a prepared environment. This happens in the Atrium. Registration is limited due to space; waiting list is ongoing.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Available for ages 4, 5, and 6 on Sundays

Our preschool/kindergarten and first grade children will be attending Mass with their families and then will be dismissed for their own Liturgy of the Word. It is an opportunity for them to break open the Gospel on their level. This will be an authentic celebration of Liturgy of the Word adapted for children according to the *Directory for Masses with Children*. It is an extension of worship in a separate place for a specific age group with particular guidelines. Young children have an incredible religious capacity and are formed profoundly by God's Word and prayer at their level. We honor the spirituality of our little ones and their worship of God.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT **REGISTRATION FEE**

The fee is \$20 for 1 child; \$30 for 2 children; or no more than \$35 per family attending classes. If you **would like** to give more, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are in need of financial help, scholarships are available. Call 796-5968 and ask for Diane or Barb. Please make checks payable to Our Lady of the Lakes Faith Formation.

EXPENSES

Our expenses include catechist manuals and resource material, student texts, audio-visual material and equipment, office equipment, speakers, training workshops, retreats, transportation, supplies, postage, paper, food, etc.

SOURCES

The program is primarily supported in four ways:

1. Registration fee of young people attending our classes.
2. CAA (Catholic Aid Association), CCW (Council of Catholic Women), and KC's (Knights of Columbus).
3. Free will offerings from parishioners.
4. The remainder of the cost of the program is subsidized from general parish funds.



POLICIES

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

Faith Formation is a gradual, life-long process. The basic truths of our faith are presented in concrete ways that are built upon week by week. Therefore, it is very important for your young people to attend classes each week.

ATTENDANCE

Parents need to call and excuse a child if they will be absent. **Please call us at 796-5968.** Keeping everyone **SAFE** is important to all of us!

Grades 1-6 meet **3:15-4:30 p.m.** on Wednesdays.

Grades 7-11 meet **7:00-8:15 p.m.** on Wednesdays

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices **will be turned off** at the beginning of class time.

CONDUCT EXPECTATION/DISCIPLINE

We are committed to handing on faith to every student and, with the Holy Spirit's help, we will accomplish this. If a young person's catechist is unable to present the lesson they have prepared because of a person's behavior or attitude, Halls Angels are available to meet with them in an area outside of the classroom. You can expect to have your child in an environment where faith can happen.

FOOD

Grades 1-6 will have snacks in their classroom. Grades 7-11 will have beverages and snacks available in the Gathering Area from 6:30-6:55 p.m. CCW will provide these snacks each week. Supper will be served one Wednesday each month from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Free will donation helps to support this program.



GUESTS

We will have opportunities for you to invite guests to Youth Ministry activities. However, we have a limited amount of classroom space and limited time each week and are committed to a student-catechist ratio, so we ask that your children **do not** bring guests with them to class. Call the Formation Office if you need to make special arrangements.

MATERIALS

We ask families to pay for materials that are damaged or lost and need to be replaced.

PROFILE SHEETS

Every spring we mail out Profile Sheets to your family with the printed information you gave us. We need to be sure the information we have is correct and current. **Even if there are no changes**, we need the form returned by the date requested. The comments in the section marked "More Information About Your Child" help us in preparing class lists and help the catechists to support the young people in their class. **If there are any changes during the year, please notify the Faith Formation Office.**

STORMY WEATHER, CANCELLATIONS

All classes and meetings are automatically cancelled on days that the New London-Spicer Schools have been cancelled or when classes have been released early because of weather. If school was able to run as scheduled but evening classes need to be canceled due to weather, it will be announced on KWLM/KQIC and KDJS/K95.3 radio stations.

TRANSPORTATION

Students in Grades 1-6 who attend **New London-Spicer Schools** will be bussed from Prairie Woods and the Middle School to the church on the Wednesdays of classes. **Parents, please send a note to inform the school before our classes begin.**

Bus Rules

1. Obey the bus driver.
2. Each person must be seated and remain seated.
3. Keep hands and feet to self.
4. Show respect:
 - No yelling
 - No throwing
 - No profanity
 - No harassment
5. No tobacco, food or drink.
6. No weapons or dangerous articles.



Please review these bus rules and talk to your young people about the responsibility any driver has for the safety of their passengers (example: the importance of driving without distractions so the driver's eyes can remain on the road, etc.) Remind them that as followers of Christ, how they treat one another counts.

Violation of the Bus Rules will result in the following:

1. A phone call from the Faith Formation Office.
2. A signed transportation policy will need to be turned in before the next class.

Parents with children in other School Districts will need to provide transportation to Our Lady of the Lakes. Young people in Grades 1-6 will need to arrive by **3:30 p.m.** Please make arrangements with your school.



PARKING LOT POLICY

1. Please park in the designated spaces only.
2. **DO NOT** park in front of the Faith Formation doors.
Please help keep all our young people safe!!!

Grades 7-11 students - must provide their own transportation to and from church for the evening classes. **Classes begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Snacks and beverages available from 6:30 – 6:55 p.m.**