

GIFT

Generations in Faith Together



What to expect when you come to a
GIFT Session

2009-2010

Books of the Bible:
73 Views of the Good News

Wednesday, May 5, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

(PLEASE NOTE: THIS GIFT SESSION IS OFFERED ONLY ONCE)

Objectives:

- Become more familiar with the books of the Bible and their variety
- Discover how different communities divide their Bibles
- Become more fluent in our faith and its scriptural basis

Adults who attend will hear a presentation by Father George about “The Greatest Book Ever Written.” However, we will see that the Bible is not just one book, but a collection of books . . . a library. We will survey these books and come to appreciate their diversity.

Families and children will visit the “library” we call The Bible. We will browse through the variety of types of books and appreciate how they speak to us in different ways. We will realize that the Bible truly is Good News and know that there is no need to “be quiet” about it!

This session addresses the expectation of the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Scripture.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- Breakout sessions of preschool children, families, teens, and adults
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Chili (hot dogs will be available if you care to make a chili dog), Fritos, celery & carrot sticks, funnel cakes.

Jonah:
A Big Fish Tale or the Bait of God’s Mercy?

Sunday, September 20, 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Objectives:

- Enjoy the delightful Book of Jonah
- Understand the history and message of Jonah
- Appreciate God’s mercy and love for all people

Adults who attend will hear a presentation by Father George. We will see how the comic form of this book shows that God is bigger than our personal perspectives. We will also discover how God deals with our stubbornness and prejudices.

Families and children will enjoy the humor of the Book of Jonah and share a few “big fish” tales of our own. We will discover one of the Bible’s different literary styles and appreciate one of the many truths the Bible holds.

This session addresses the expectations the U. S. Bishops outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Scripture.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- Breakout sessions of preschool children, families, teens, and adults
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Choice of baked lemon pepper or fried **FISH**, tater tots, cole slaw, cookies

God Renewing the Church:
RCIA as the Prayer of the Community

Sunday, February 7, 12:30-3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Objectives:

- Recognize the communal and personal prayer component of the RCIA process and see God's action as primary in renewing the Church
- Appreciate that RCIA is connected to each of us and our own lives
- Discover how RCIA can enrich our experience of Lent

Adults who attend will participate in a presentation led by Deacon Dave and team. We will grow in our knowledge that RCIA is a true formation process for all members of the Church.

Families and children who attend will learn about the RCIA process and how it is adapted for children. We will also come to recognize our own participation in this process.

This session addresses the expectation of the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Prayer and Liturgy.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- Breakout sessions of preschool children, families, teens, and adults
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Pasta, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, Italian ice

Telephones, Texts, and Tweets:
Modern Communication and Christian Values

Sunday, November 15, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.
(PLEASE NOTE: THIS GIFT SESSION IS OFFERED ONLY ONCE)

Objectives:

- Understand modern communication and its moral challenges
- Discover ways to use new technology with responsibility
- Appreciate all forms of communication, new and old

Adults who attend will learn about new communication methods and devices, and even practice with some! We will discover new opportunities in the world of communication while learning to apply them with moral principles.

Children will engage in age-appropriate discussion about the pros and cons of technology. In a session led by Jeff Stutzman, Media Consultant for the Cleveland Diocese, we will learn to apply Christian values in the use of technology.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Catholic Bishops stated in *National Directory for Catechesis* that we educate in the area of Moral Formation.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- Adults and teens will attend the adult breakout session. Parents may choose to attend with adults or as a family with their children
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Turkey Tetrazzini, green beans, dinner rolls, pumpkin pie

Confirmation Reconsidered:
One Sacrament, Several Theologies

Wednesday, October 21, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Friday, October 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Objectives:

- Understand the various theologies of Confirmation and their history
- Recognize God's initiative in Confirmation and all sacraments
- Embrace positively the new practice of Confirmation in our parish

Adults who attend will learn through a presentation led by Fr. George, that regardless of when Confirmation is celebrated, it remains an initiation sacrament. We will see that Confirmation is a sacrament that celebrates God's free choice to make us a part of the Body of Christ.

Children will understand the Sacrament of Confirmation as a celebration of God freely choosing us to be part of the Body of Christ. We will share ways we already respond to God's grace, as well as explore new ways to share God's love with others.

This session addresses the expectations the U. S. Bishops outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Liturgy and Sacraments.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents)** will attend presentation by Fr. George. Teens, children, and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Chicken tenders sauteed in **OIL**; penne pasta with broccoli, carrots, red pepper and fresh basil; tossed salad; bread sticks; ice cream

God's Free Invitation to Grace:
You're on the Guest List

Sunday, March 7, 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Objectives:

- Understand the primacy of God's being and action in our salvation
- Appreciate that God's free choice is not dependent on our goodness
- Know that faith is not primarily about our actions

Adults who attend will be led by Sr. Mary McCormick of St. Mary Seminary. Through Sr. Mary's presentation we will reflect on the gracious love of God that we receive by God's choice of us. We will celebrate the love God has for us despite our sins and doubts.

Children who attend will follow up on the October GIFT Session, "Confirmation Reconsidered," with further reflection on God's free choice of us. We will wonder at how great God's love is and celebrate this awesome thing called "grace."

This session addresses the expectation of the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Catholic Faith and Tradition.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents)** will attend presentation by Sr. Mary McCormick. Teens, children, and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Roast chicken, red skin potatoes, tossed salad, assorted cake

Turning the Other Cheek:
Preserving Dignity, Practicing Non-violence

Wednesday, December 9, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Friday, December 11, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Objectives:

- Understand Jesus' call to peace
- Recognize and value the power and dignity of non-violent responses
- See that a non-violent response is not the same as a weak response

Adults who attend will learn that when we take a non-violent stance we do not become a doormat or a coward. With the help of a presentation orchestrated by our Social Justice Committee, we will see that it often takes more courage, thought, and discipline to be non-violent than to react in anger or revenge. We will see how this message is found in scripture and Church documents.

Families and children who attend will examine Jesus' call to non-violence and relate it to situations in our own lives at home, school, work, and beyond. We will imagine the world as a place growing closer to the Kingdom of God, and share real ways we see that already happening. This breakout session will be led by our parishioner, Anthony Camino.

This session addresses the expectation of the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Moral Formation and Community Life.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- Breakout sessions of preschool children, families, teens, and adults
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Build your own burger with tomatoes, cheese, onion and lettuce; fries; celery & carrot sticks; cake

Nuns and Monks:
A Complement to Married, Single and Ordained Life

Wednesday, January 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Friday, January 15, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Objectives:

- Understand historical development of religious orders
- Clarify religious vocation as distinct to married, single and ordained states
- Appreciate our own vocational call

Adults who attend will hear a presentation given by guest speaker, Sr. Kathleen Flannery. Not only will we understand religious orders from a historical perspective, but we will come to understand how all vocations build the Body of Christ.

Children will explore all types of vocations. We will learn what a charism is and how it relates to discovering our own vocations. Sr. Kathleen will visit this group.

This session addresses the expectation of the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Missionary Activity.

Format:

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents)** and teens will attend a presentation by Sr. Kathleen. Children, and preschoolers will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

Menu: Chicken ala King on biscuits, green beans and carrots, apple strudel.

Come to **GIFT!**

Did you know . . .

Add some *highlights* to your faith life:

- by continuing the life-long quest to learn more about our faith
- by being spiritually prepared for parish and liturgical events
- by sharing in the wisdom of all generations
- by enjoying a meal with friends and family
- by going home with food for thought (and action!)

. . . you can be a good steward of our parish resources? You can change or cancel your GIFT reservation with 24-hour notice. Just call 440-946-1128 x 18.

. . . you can attend a GIFT session twice? You can attend both GIFT sessions each month. Some people like to do this when they like the topic and want to bring a friend; or if parents attend a family session, but would also like to hear the adult speaker. You can come the second time for free!

. . . you can attend a GIFT session even when you don't have a ride? You can call the parish office for transportation at 440-946-0887.

. . . you can help GIFT run smoothly? You can volunteer in a variety of ways, big and small. Fill out a volunteer form or call 440-946-1128 x 21. Many hands make light work!

. . . you can see highlights of GIFT sessions? You can visit the GIFT In-Formation Board in the hallway across from the restrooms or go to www.stnoel.org and click on "St. Noel Picture Gallery."