

Catechist Update

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

Program Delay

As you all have probably heard by now, we needed to delay the start of our program year by one week for all faith formation classes. The effects this will have to you over all year are listed below:

- Parent Preview will be on Sept. 21st or Sept. 23
- The first class, God, Our Father will be a take home unit to be done as a family and returned to you the following week. You can begin this lesson in your 15 minute blocks if you would like.
- There will not be an additional class added to the calendar year. Classes will still end May 3rd and May 5th.

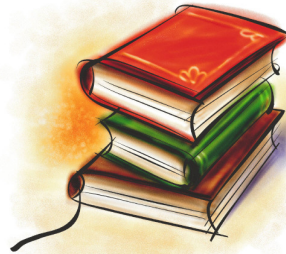
Parent Preview Overview Night

Good Shep. Through MS

10 min. Overview: Jamie, Jessica, and Megan

15 min. (each) Block A/B/C

- Keep a record of which families attend
 - Handout : Books, Folders, Family Handbooks, Prayer Lists/Letter from Chris Martin, Journals, Year Overview
 - Discuss Teacher Philosophy
 - Q/A
 - Parent Volunteer Sign Up (Snacks, Class Help, etc.)
- 5 minutes** Raffle Drawing:
Jamie



Welcome Back!

Parent Preview Overview Night

High School

20 minutes Overview: Jamie, Jessica, and Megan

15 minutes (each) Block A/B

- Meet Catechist, Overview Program, Play Trivia Game (Jamie will provide)

10 minutes: Raffle Drawing:
Jamie

Upcoming Events:

- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch September 13th 1pm
- Youth Groups Begin September 16th and 17th 7pm
- Marriage Enrichment Night September 20th 6:30pm (RSVP w/ Megan)
- RE and Catechumenate Classes Begin 21st and 23rd
- Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers to talk September 24th 6:45pm

Journals? What are they? How do I use them?

Grades K through 8th grade have journals that they are asked to complete throughout the year. These journals provide both them and their parents a chance to see how they are growing in their understanding of the faith. Please use them. I will try to provide sample

answers for the upcoming weeks in each Catechist Update so you have a handle on what types of answers to expect.

Remember: This is not a right/wrong, full answer/partial answer process. It is a chance for kids to show where they are

on a given day about a given idea/concept. If they don't know, they should put, "I don't know" Then, maybe you could prompt them to ask Fr. Mitchell or others to find out. Please make parents aware of concepts students are having difficulty with each week. They are the first teachers and are relying on you for help.



Portfolios

The faith formation office keeps files on each student in our faith formation program. In these files are all old journals (so don't let them take them home at the end of the year) and portfolio projects.

Throughout the year I will be asking you to do some type of project with your students to demonstrate their understanding of God, Morality, the

Church, and Sacraments. Exact specifications are not given, if you want help, ask me. These will be in an 8 1/2 x 11 format so they fit nice and neat in their file. If you want to get creative and have them build a model or act out a skit, that's great. Just take a picture and we will put that in the file instead. It would be nice if it was accompanied by some writing the



student has done explaining the picture.

If you have ideas you would like to share with other catechists, e-mail me and I will add them to upcoming additions of the Catechist Update. As a ministry team we can really make our faith formation program dynamic and beneficial to all we serve.

Catechist and Family Updates

Thank you for your dedication to our shared Catholic faith.

You will be getting two updates a week from me this year: a catechist update and a family update. The catechist update will provide you with information on the upcoming topics, theme of the week, the liturgical year, educational

philosophy, and church teaching. The family update will be a copy that I will also be sending to all families registered in the faith formation program. Those of you with children in the program will end up getting two copies of this.

I'm not technologically advanced enough to know how to delete you from this list and keep you on the database without manually doing it every time. Please be patient with me. You will receive these through e-mail in pdf format.

Prayers

The Archdiocese of Seattle asks that we work with students at each grade level on prayers. We are lucky to have a volunteer that will be completely in charge of this part of the program for all students K through 5th

grade. Chris Martin will make his rounds to each class, beginning with the 5th grade and working his way down. He will assess where students are currently at, send home information for parents to work with their children, and re-evaluate later in the year.

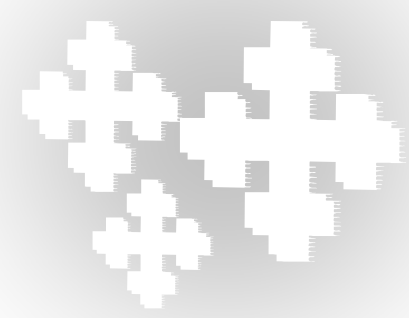
Why should kids memorize prayers?

Memorized prayers are a comfort in times of stress and trial. While it may not be your regular mode of prayer, it is a beautiful tradition of the Church that we do not want to ignore.



Pray the Rosary for Peace this Thursday Night at the Church.

The Role of the Christian Family In the Modern World: A Short Teaching



Each week I will be sending out a short message to families from the Pope John Paul II Apostolic Exhortation, [The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World](#). This encyclical, also known as *Familiaris Consortio*, is a beautiful testament to the family. The Church, in her wisdom, and Pope John Paul II, in his foresight, saw the need for such a dynamic reiteration of how we are all called to be Holy Families.

Article 4 gives us a glimpse of our role as representatives of the Church in the area of Faith Formation:

Since God's plan for marriage and the family touches men and women in the concreteness of their daily existence in specific social and cultural situations, *the Church ought to apply herself to understanding the situations within which marriage and the family are lived today*, in order to fulfill her task of serving.(8)

This understanding is, therefore, an inescapable require-

ment of the work of evangelization. It is, in fact, *to the families of our times that the Church must bring the unchangeable and ever new Gospel of Jesus Christ*, just as it is the families involved in the present conditions of the world that are called to accept and to live the plan of God that pertains to them. Moreover, the call and demands of the Spirit resound in the very events of history, and so the Church can also be guided to a more profound understanding of the inexhaustible mystery of marriage and the family by the circumstances, the questions and the anxieties and hopes of the young people, married couples and parents of today.(9)

To this ought to be added a further reflection of particular importance at the present time. Not infrequently ideas and solutions which are very appealing but which obscure in varying degrees the truth and the dignity of the human person, are offered to the men

and women of today, in their sincere and deep search for a response to the important daily problems that affect their married and family life. These views are often supported by the powerful and pervasive organization of the means of social communication, which subtly endanger freedom and the capacity for objective judgment.

Many are already aware of this danger to the human person and are working for the truth. The

Church, with her evangelical discernment, joins with them, offering her own service to the truth, to freedom and to the dignity of every man and every woman.

Questions to reflect on:

- How do I seek to understand the families of the youth entrusted to my care?
- How do I bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the youth in my class?



We are all called to have Holy Families.

“...the Church ought to apply herself to understanding the situations within which marriage and the family are lived today, “

Maternity Leave

I will begin my maternity leave as soon as Brayden arrives. I am due Oct 19th, but have a history of being induced early. My guess is that I will be induced sometime between Oct 5th and Oct 12th.



I will be on maternity leave through November 30th.

Jessica and Megan will be filling in for me and can answer any questions you may have during that time.

I will be coming in to lead the 11-12 grade book group: Rediscovering Catholicism while on leave. Well, assuming I'm not in the hospital. In that case, there will be a sign on the door and the group will be cancelled for the evening.

This meets Sunday evenings from 6pm-7:30pm.



Adult Faith Formation— A Witness to a Lifetime of Faith Development

Scripture Study—The Gospel of Luke

A new adult scripture study will begin at Holy Redeemer this September. We will study the Gospel of Luke using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible Series. We will be ordering books, so please register by September 1, 2008. This will allow us to get our books on time. Cost for the books will be \$10. Based on interest, we will either meet Sun evenings from 6pm-7:30pm, Tue evenings from 6:30-8:00, or Thurs evenings from 7pm-8:30pm. We may be able to have multiple groups going if there is enough interest.

Foundations of Faith Series

The Archdiocese of Seattle has organized a great series of classes to help adults further their understanding of the Catholic Church and her teachings, grow in faith, and build a community of Christians that can evangelize the world with their lives. This year's topics include: Continuing the Faith Journey; Prayer, Mary and the Saints; Catholic Social Teaching; The Letters of Paul; The Trinity; History of the Church in the USA; An Afternoon of Reflection; and The Creed. You can sign up for all, pick and choose, or just attend one. All classes are covered by the parish for those seeking catechetical certification.

Made in the Image of God Series

The series begins with a return visit from Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on Sept 24th, from 6:45pm-8:15pm. His talk, *Made in His Image and Likeness: Exploring Our Life in God*, will:

- Explore the intimate relationship between men and women as a reflection of the intimacy between the Church and the Eucharist.
- Show why our relationship with God must be Christ-centered and Trinitarian at its very core, and how this is fostered and nurtured by growth in holiness.
- Examine the differences between authentic male and female spirituality.
- Explore the relationship between love, truth, and freedom, and their intrinsic connection to covenant life in Christ.
- Examine how the theology of the body helps us recognize that we are temples of the Holy Spirit.
- Outline the key elements to raising holy, faith-filled children in a culture of death.

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Faith and Life Series Website Help!

Having trouble figuring out how to cover the curriculum in one hour? Well, first remember that the Archdiocesan objectives are our first rule of thumb. These are the things that need to be covered. The chapters you are working with are tools to cover these objectives. Sometimes chapters will more easily correlate than others. Sometimes you have more than one chapter to cover in a week. Impossible? No, don't try to do everything. Stick to the

objectives. Everything else is the icing on the cake.

Still need help? Check out the Faith and Life website. It has lesson plans and quizzes for each chapter of each grade level.

I am available for help too. Just call or e-mail and I will be happy to talk you through your lesson.

Don't forget about the files we



have at church on each topic to be studied.

<http://www.ignatius.com/Textbooks/FaithAndLife/downloads.htm>