



All Are Welcome

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

Community Faith Formation

A Parish-wide Religious Education Program

Children Teens Adults Families

2010-2011 Information and Registration Packet

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Saint Patrick Community Faith Formation offers a variety of Religious Education programs designed to meet the needs of all the members of our community. If you are seeking spiritual nourishment or religious education and cannot find what you are looking for in the programs listed below, please contact our office and let us know of your need.

Overview.....	page 2
Little Church.....	page 3
Community Faith Formation.....	page 3
Faith Formation for Children (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd).....	page 3
Faith Formation for Adults.....	page 4
Spirit Quest (Confirmation Preparation Program).....	page 5
First Holy Communion.....	page 6
First Reconciliation.....	page 6
Confirmation.....	page 6
Community	page 7
Volunteers.....	page 7
Registration Form.....	page 8

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OVERVIEW

Saint Patrick Parish welcomes all adults, children and youth, baptized or not, to participate in Community Faith Formation, our parish-wide religious education program. We understand spiritual growth to be a life-long journey and we strive to nourish and support those who undertake this journey at every stage of life. Saint Patrick Parish honors and supports the truth that parents are the primary instruments in the faith formation of children. For this reason, our programs are designed to support and strengthen the faith that the children are learning and practicing **at home** and, at the same time, to deepen their parents' faith. While parents are not required to attend the Adult Formation Programs, they are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to deepen their own spirituality, not only for their own benefit, but also so they can be well prepared to lead their children in the traditions and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

The life of Catholic Christians can only be fully lived within the context of a Community of Faith. Our goal is to foster and nourish a community of well-educated, spiritually mature adults within which the children and youth of our Parish can find a place to grow and be educated in the life and practice of our faith.

Our programs have all been chosen, implemented and developed by the active participation of interested parishioners with oversight from our clergy and staff. We have gathered as community and, in a spirit of prayer, dialogue and sincerity, sought ways to live our faith and pass our faith on to our children using methods they can receive and enjoy. Using the Archdiocesan Guidelines for Catechesis as a primary resource, we continue always to seek the path that best answers the needs of our children, our families, and our particular community. We welcome all who wish to join us as we continue to find our way on our journey towards the heart of our God.

Please visit our website to learn more about us and add your voice, your vision and your insights to our Community of Faith.

Little Church

Little Church (also known as Children's Liturgy of the Word) is designed to minister to families with children under the age of five. Little Church helps small children enter into the rhythm of the Liturgy of the Mass in a way that is welcoming to them and addresses their need to wiggle and participate. Although drop-offs are allowed, parents and grandparents often attend Little Church with their children and grandchildren, and are encouraged to do so. This ministry offers families the opportunity to worship together in a way that is helpful for the youngest members. At the appropriate time, communicants are invited to join the community gathered in the Church for the Eucharistic Prayer and the reception of Eucharist while the little ones remain in Healy Hall to finish their prayer and enjoy an activity.

Little Church is offered in Healy Hall on Sundays at 10am. This ministry begins in September and continues through July. Little Church is offered almost every Sunday during these months except when there is a Family Mass (usually the 4th Sunday of the month) and on other special Sundays (check the calendar for details). There is no registration and no fee required for this ministry.

Community Faith Formation

Community Faith Formation is the foundation of our Religious Education Program. This is the opportunity for children and adults to deepen their faith, to learn about sacred scripture and prayer. It is also a wonderful opportunity to learn ways to practice faith at home. Parents are required to attend with their children for the opening session of Community Faith Formation each year and are encouraged to participate in the sessions throughout the year.

Faith Formation for CHILDREN: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Saint Patrick Parish uses the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (a Montessori Method) for children in pre-K through the fifth grade. This method relies on two main components: (1) The faith lived at home as the primary source of faith formation and (2) The building of community as the support network in which the family faith finds its place in the Body of Christ. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is based on these truths:

- Children are naturally drawn to stories and learn most of life's mysteries, lessons and virtues through story and not through textbooks.
- Children need a safe space to engage in Sacred Play. It is through quiet play that children encounter the Living God and begin to recognize the voice of God whispering within them.

- It is through play that children make meaning and are able to tie the stories of our faith into the stories of their own lives.
- Children need to share their stories with others in their community. It is only by being with the community that children grasp the meaning of being a member of the Body of Christ and learn how to be a positive presence within the Body.

The rhythm of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is structured around three components: (1) The art of story-telling (2) Sacred Play and (3) Community. The stories are from the Old Testament and New Testament of the Bible. The story-telling method is specific, simple and rich. The materials offered for Sacred Play are varied and of good quality. The sharing time is methodical and welcoming and is an effective community building technique. All three components function as a ritual through which the child learns the rhythms of our faith and of life.

Registration is required. The Registration Fee for Community Faith Formation is \$100 per child per year. Scholarships are available. Community Faith Formation is offered:

Sundays:	9:15 -10:30am	(Begins September 26, 2010)
Tuesdays:	3:30 - 4:45pm	(Begins October 5, 2010)

Faith Formation for ADULTS: Scripture and Prayer

The adult component of Community Faith Formation is Lectionary-Based and follows the readings of the Sunday Mass. Adult Faith Formation is not built around lecture but rather around learning to recognize the patterns of God in our lives through meditation on the Word of God and through prayer and conversation. During Sunday Community Faith Formation, adults meet from 9:15-10:00am. During Tuesday Community Faith Formation, adults meet from 4:00-4:45pm.

Adult Faith Formation is offered during the regular CFF schedule. No registration or fee is required for adults.

Spirit Quest

Spirit Quest is our Confirmation Preparation Program. Spirit Quest is designed for children in grades 6-8.

Spirit Quest is built around the four pillars of the Spiritual Life (Prayer, Community, Study and Service). This program offers the children of middle-school age the opportunity to explore their questions about the Catholic Faith, about God and about Life in the safe environment of a small faith community while giving them a taste of different prayer styles and various ways to participate in the life of the Church. This program includes family participation in each of the above named pillars of the Spiritual Life.

The children in Spirit Quest gather in small gender-specific groups (6-8 members per group). Each group has two adult Mentors. The Mentors are trained volunteers who facilitate the gatherings. Children in grades 6 and 7 are placed in boys groups and girls groups for Cycle A (focusing on the Nicene Creed) and Cycle B (focusing on the person of Jesus Christ). Children in grade 8 are in boys groups and girls groups for Cycle C (Immediate preparation for Confirmation).

The calendar for Spirit Quest for Cycles A and B is divided into three Seasons each year. Each Season begins with an Opening Night (an hour-long focus for the children and their parents) and ends with a Mass (at 5:00pm on a Saturday). In between the Opening Night and the Mass, the Small Groups meet six times. The Small Group meeting times vary with groups being offered at different time-slots and different days of the week. The Small Group meeting days and times are determined by the Mentors.

The calendar for Spirit Quest for Cycle C includes an Opening Night Potluck Dinner, 10 Small Group Sessions, a Confirmation Meeting (attendance is required by the child and a parent), the Confirmation Retreat (each candidate for Confirmation is required to attend the Confirmation Retreat).

Registration is required. The fee for Spirit Quest is \$100 per child per year.

The Confirmation Fee is \$75 per child (which pays for the retreat and the reception following the Confirmation Mass).

SACRAMENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and FIRST RECONCILIATION

The Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation only have meaning to a child when experienced within the context of the community. It is in the context of community that we understand the result of our sin. It is in the context of community that we understand the power of the Eucharist to unite us into the Body of Christ.

Preparation for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation is a two-year process. Children must be seven years of age or older to receive these Sacraments. The first year of preparation entails attending CFF for one full year. The second year of preparation includes attendance at CFF and at the Sacramental Workshops. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is received prior to the reception of First Holy Communion. There are two Sacramental Workshops in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are two Sacramental Workshops in preparation for First Holy Communion. Children preparing for First Holy Communion also attend a three hour retreat for their final preparation.

The fee is \$50 per child which pays for the retreat, the supplies and the reception following the First Holy Communion Mass.

SACRAMENTAL WORKSHOPS

Sacramental Workshops are Whole Community Gatherings. Children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion gather with their families and members of the wider Parish Community to prepare through ritual, teachings and prayer for the reception of each of these Sacraments. It is only within the community gathered that children grasp the meaning of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There is one workshop in preparation for each Sacrament. Each workshop is held on a Sunday afternoons.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation. Children who receive this Sacrament embrace the promises made for them at Baptism and receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them for their journey of faith as they move through adolescence to adulthood and throughout their lives.

The preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is accomplished through our Spirit Quest Program (see 'Spirit Quest', listed under 'Programs Offered' for details).

All those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat.

There is a fee of \$75 per child which pays for the retreat and the reception following the Confirmation Mass.

COMMUNITY

Throughout the year we offer a variety of Community Events. These events are opportunities to gather as a Community of Faith to celebrate, to be together and, sometimes, to raise funds for others in need. They include:

Family Masses
Spirit Quest Masses
Pancake Breakfasts
Advent Wreath Event
Spirit Quest Extravaganza
Spirit Quest Pot Luck Dinners
Sacramental Workshops
Pentecost Celebration

VOLUNTEERS

All of our programs and ministries rely on volunteers. We offer training, support, spiritual nourishment and discernment for all those who come forward to participate in the building-up of this community as Mentors (Spirit Quest), Presiders (Little Church), Catechists, Story-Tellers and Council-Members (Community Faith Formation). These are the people who are in the leadership and catechetical roles of our ministries.

We also rely on those who offer their time and reliability for set-up, clean-up, hospitality and other necessary functions. These are the people who make it all possible by their behind-the-scenes efforts.

Whether you can take a leadership role or a behind-the-scenes role, whether you can offer to participate on a weekly basis, a monthly basis or only once in a while, we invite you to join us.

Please contact our Director of Religious Education and offer to help in whatever way you can. We are all in this together. With one heart and one spirit let us build up the Body of Christ in our Parish as a true Community of Faith.