

## FAITH FORMATION

### CATECHIST

- These are dedicated volunteers who are guided by the Director of Religious Education. Teachers are needed for Preschool thru High School grades. Assistants are also teamed with teachers to help in class.
- Materials and training classes are provided to catechists by the diocese to guide our children in their faith formation.
- Faith Formation classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:45 pm.

### CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (CGS)

St. Francis Xavier has a wonderful faith formation program, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), starting with children as young as 3 years old. Many of you are familiar with the CGS program and have seen our prepared space. The prepared environment is a sacred place containing materials that are models of things used in the Church's worship; such as altar, sacraments, and liturgical colors. The environment also contains materials relating to the proclamation of the faith such as parables, prophecies, infancy narratives, geography of Israel and stories in the life of Christ.

The philosophy of Catechesis of The Good Shepherd is based on the conviction that God and the child are already in a relationship. The trained catechist presents "works" to the child using the mentioned materials. The child is then invited to work with the materials themselves.

CGS is divided into three levels:

- **Level 1** is typically age 3-6
- **Level 2** is typically age 6-9
- **Level 3** is typically 9-12

**Level I:** The foundational image is Christ the Good Shepherd who loves His sheep and gives everything He is for them. The child comes to discover who the shepherd is and who the sheep are. The prepared environment contains hands-on materials. The trained catechist makes presentations to the child using the materials. The child is then invited to work with the materials themselves.

**Level II:** The relationship with God is further developed in the image of the True Vine and the introduction of the Plan of God and our role in that great plan.

**Level III:** Our relationship continues to grow as we dive into the scriptures and study the Plan of God in Salvation History, including timelines, hands on materials and biblical references.

**Please contact Grace** if you are interested in this service, to volunteer, and/or learn more about the program. All levels of skill are needed. *Thank you!*

*If you have not had a tour of the atrium, please ask Grace for a tour.*

*It is one of her favorite things to do!*

## YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Ministry is to guide the development of Catholic Christian values in youth, to help the youth develop a deeper appreciation of the meaning of Jesus in their lives, to foster spiritual growth, to involve the youth in reaching out to serve people in need in our community as well as provide social and recreational activities.

- All Youth in our parish, as well as young people from neighboring parishes and non-Catholics are also welcome to join in. Activities vary monthly, but include spiritual, social and service elements.
- Our Youth Group interacts with other groups at our Parish to encourage young people to participate in the life of the faith community. Activities may include: lock-ins, volleyball, basketball, conferences and retreats. There are volunteer opportunities in the community that the youth group services.

## CONFIRMATION

- *“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.” ~ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1316*

For questions regarding our Confirmation program for the youth, please call the parish office.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Do you know God? Do you feel that something is missing in your life? Would you like to further develop your personal spiritual journey with the Lord?

- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for adults (and children of a certain age) who consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts.
- If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the parish office.
- Classes begin in the fall and conclude with baptism and/or confirmation at Easter.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

- As followers of Jesus Christ, we share and strive to grow a deeper understanding of our faith. Some examples consist of bible studies during lent and advent, and small group discussions. This may be a small group experience, to learn and study the Word, share your faith and learn the faith of others.
- Faith Formation Ministry may include retreats, volunteering opportunities and the Sacraments.
- If you are willing to lead, or participate as a group member, then please contact the parish office.