

# Adult Faith Formation

## What is Adult Faith Formation?

Adult Faith Formation is the gradual development of the growth of Faith in every Catholics' life. As adults we enjoy the freedom to choose the catechesis that will help us to become more like Christ. Formation allows us the opportunity to grow in communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore Adult Faith Formation is "...a permanent school of the faith and follows the major stages of life."

National Directory for Catechesis, p.187; National Conference of Catholic Bishops

## How does the Parish Plan for Adult Faith Formation?

The Pastoral Council guides the ministries of the Parish in defining the needs and wishes of all parishioners. The guidance the council provides is in line with the expectations of the Diocese of Richmond for formation programs.

The Adult Faith Formation Committee, a group of adults in the Parish who are interested in continuing formation, dialogue with the Coordinators of Adult Faith Formation and create a calendar that includes various types of formation for any age from Confirmation through to "senior maturity".

The members of the Adult Faith Formation Committee serve either a two or three year term, renewable for only one more consecutive term. These members seek guidance and directions from the people in the "pew" and are open to suggestions at anytime.

(Suggestions can be placed in the Adult coordinators mail box in the offices or dropped at the box in the Parish Library.

## What are the Goals of Adult Faith Formation?

There are three basic goals for Adult Faith Formation:

1. Enable adults to transform their everyday lives into continual faith and conversion experiences.
2. Develop a deep sense of cooperation with the Holy Spirit for the mission of the Church.
3. Become more willing and able to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ and accept their rightful place in the Church's mission to evangelize.

# A Journey of Spirituality

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### FAITH FORMATION STRANDS:

The Strands below provide a structure to the Adult Faith Formation Program. These strands encompass all of the areas of study that should help us increase our Faith.



## **WHY ADULT FAITH FORMATION?**

Each one's journey of Faith must be nurtured and challenged continuously! We do not graduate from Religious Education; we should know more each year of our life about our God. All adults are offered a multitude of opportunities to LEARN, LISTEN, PRAY, DISCUSS, SHARE & SERVE!

**Epiphany University** – concentrates on topics of interest to all ages of Adults. There will be 3 - sessions per month. The Epiphany University will deal with the Strands of Liturgy/Prayer; Jesus and New Testament, Peace and Justices Issues, Morality; Ecumenism; Teachings of church and Faith.. Epiphany University will be held on Wednesdays beginning at 7:00 P.M. Please check full calendar for topics. (Room 122)

**Parish Library** The library will be open on ; Monday, 9:30 – 12:00; 1:00—3:00; Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00; and Thursday, 1-:00—12:00; 1:00 – 3:00. Call Adult Faith Formation Office for scheduling outside these hours. All volunteer librarians will assist all parishioners in finding what they would like. It is also a quiet place to sit and read.

### **Wings:**

Women of our Parish gather each Monday morning at 10:00 to share, listen learn and discuss the topic on spirituality for this week. It is a time to meet new women in the Parish while sharing the Word of God!

**Refreshing Body & Soul** – The third Thursday of the month from 12:00- 2:00 come share lunch and prayer themes together with others. The Psalms will be explored and the Scriptures will become the prayer of the day. The bag lunches people bring have proved to be quite interesting as well. Come join us!

**Soul Brothers** – **Thursday** evenings, men of our Parish are invited to increase their spirituality with other men in the Parish. You can drop in periodically or on a consistent basis and be a part of a community within the Parish

**Welcome Home** – **Catholics who** have been estranged from our faith are being welcomed home to our Faith. Do you know someone we should reach out to bring them back to the fold? Welcome Home begins during Lent. What a great way to share your faith with others.

### **Ladies Bible Study**

Thursday morning offers women the opportunity to listen, share, pray, and learn about The Word of God The study of God's Word, this year's theme for Catechesis, helps us deepen our relationship with God and our neighbor.

**Adult Confirmation-** The classes for adults who have not been confirmed are held every spring to assist each one fulfill their initiation in Church. If you are an adult and have not yet been confirmed, please contact the Adult Faith Formation Office, ext. 27.

## **Rite of Christian Initiation**

The Rite of Christian Initiation is a continual process whereby persons become members of the Catholic Church and continue a journey of faith, study, commitment and service to the Parish and the Global community.

All baptized Catholics share in the responsibility to support, pray, study, and walk the path with all on the Journey of Spirituality!

The Journey begins whenever a person expresses the desire to become a member of the Catholic Church. After meeting the Catechumen or Candidate, an appropriate journey is begun and the person continues their Journey of Faith.

### **Adult Journey**

#### **WHAT DOES THE JOURNEY OF FAITH INVOLVE?**

A person recognizes an awareness of a stirring of faith and curiosity within one's heart.

The person walks through the stage of asking and seeking.

The person attends Mass with a Mass Buddy and meets parishioners.

The person hears the Gospel proclaimed and faithful reflection made.

They participate in study and discussion about the Catholic Experience.

They persist through doubts and hesitations.

The interviews help the person discern God's call for them, "Come Follow Me!"

The person is invited to proceed through the steps of commitment.

The person receives the Sacraments of Initiation.

As a parishioner, they continue to study and prepare for Reconciliation, and the other facets of our Christian Life.

All try to live a life of study, prayer, service.

The person celebrates the Life of Jesus in the Parish and in the Global Church!

### **Rite Of Christian Initiation For Children – Grade 2 – 18**

Families with unbaptized children, will participate in the same journey as above; following with the same focus as the adults in an appropriate family program.