

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton St. Augustine / St. Elizabeth Seton Faith Formation Opportunities

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Our Community's Faith Formation Programs

Baptismal Requirement Page 4

Preschool Program Martha Zeyen, mzeyen@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
Our Preschool program is held on Sundays during 10:00am mass at St. Augustine and at the 11:00am mass at St. Elizabeth Seton for children 3 years and older who are not yet in kindergarten. Page 4

Elementary Program Martha Zeyen, mzeyen@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
The Elementary Program is the tool for the catechetical training of students in K through 5th grade. The program offers a traditional classroom approach to teaching the essentials of the faith. Page 4/5

Family Program Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
The Family Program is an alternative to the weekly grade-level faith formation program. In the Family Program, the whole family learns about our faith together. Page 5/6

Intergenerational Faith Communities Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
Intergenerational Faith Communities is for families who have an understanding of family faith discussion, family prayer, ritual & service, who are looking for stronger relationships with other families in the tradition of our faith. Page 6

Middle School Ministry 846.3531
The primary purpose of the middle school ministry is to walk with middle school youth and their families on their faith journeys. Page 7

High School Youth Ministry Vince Nims, ccopym@yahoo.com, 846.3531
The high school youth ministry program walks with young people on their journey of faith toward an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ & His people, the Church. Page 8/9

SPRED Denise Young, 462.0105
This Special Religious Education Program is for developmentally disabled Catholics aged 11 and up – some flexibility of ages based on registrations. Page 9

First Eucharist Cindi Gilmore, cgilmore@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846-3531
In addition to the weekly Faith Formation classes or the Family Programs, this is a family centered, 2 year preparation process. This program includes an age appropriate catechesis and celebration of Reconciliation. Page 9/10

Reconciliation Catechesis Cindi Gilmore, cgilmore@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
In addition to the weekly Faith Formation classes or the Family Program, this is a family centered, five-month preparation process for children in grade four or older. Page 11

Christian Initiation of Children & Teens Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org
This is a special yearlong, family centered preparation process for children & teens in grades 3-12 who have not received Baptism, and/or First Eucharist and/or First Reconciliation. We gather every Sunday from 2:30pm to 3:45pm, in the chapel at St. Elizabeth Seton and then we attend 4:00pm Family Liturgy as a group. Page 11

Confirmation Vince Nims, ccopym@yahoo.com, 846.3531
Confirmation takes place during junior or senior year of high school, after one to two years of prior involvement in the high school youth ministry program. Page 12

Faith Formation Programs at a Glance

See p. 4 for Baptism Requirement

<u>Age</u>	<u>Faith Formation Program</u>	<u>Additional Faith Formation</u> (during Mass)	(Sacramental Preparation)
Pre-K		Preschool (p. 4)	
K-5	Elementary (p. 4/5) OR Family Program OR Intergenerational Faith Community (p. 5/6)		First Reconciliation & First Eucharist (2 nd /3 rd Gr.)* Adv. Catechesis for Reconciliation (4 th /5 th gr.) Christian Initiation of Children (CIC) (p. 11)
Middle School	Family Program OR Intergenerational Faith Community (p. 5/6) OR MSM (p. 7)		
Youth Ministry (9- 12)	Multi-faceted events and opportunities		
Pre- Confirmation (Year One)	Catholicism 101 & 102		
Confirmation (Year Two)	Various requirements		

* See pgs. 9-11 for First Eucharist/ Reconciliation Requirements

** See pg. 12 for Confirmation Requirements



Baptism Requirement

In accordance with diocesan policy, baptism is required for all catechetical programs and for sacramental preparation.

If your child is not baptized:

- And is 3 years old through 2nd grade please contact the Parish Rectory at 846-4489 to make an appointment with a priest.
- And is in 3rd through 12th grade, register for the Christian Initiation of Children & Teens (CICT) program.

Preschool Program

Martha Zeyen, mzeyen@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The Preschool program is held on Sundays during the 10:00am Mass at the St. Augustine Hall. Classes are held for children ages 3 and 4. The “Stories of God’s Love” program which focuses on Bible stories and the celebrations of the liturgical year to teach who God is and about God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

The program is run in a co-operative style. Parents are required to serve as catechist and aides in the class on a rotating basis during the year. This will be a wonderful opportunity to begin the journey of faith with your child as his/her primary catechist. It also gives the pre-school families a chance to meet and form a community.

To enroll, children must be three by October 10th of the current school year.

Elementary Program

Martha Zeyen, mzeyen@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The Elementary Program is the tool for the catechetical training of students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. This program offers a traditional classroom approach to teaching the essentials of the faith.

The program components are as follows:

- Sessions are held in the rooms in St. Augustine Hall.
- Classes meet Monday through Friday afternoons from 3:45 to 4:45 pm and Tuesday & Wednesday early evening from 6:15 to 7:15 pm. Families choose the day and time that best fits with their schedule.
- Regular attendance is required particularly during Sacrament preparation years.

- Various activities and methods support the regular text materials provided to each student
- Monthly prayer themes highlight the spiritual activities of the program.
- Two multi-generational gatherings during the year with the family program.
- The program strives to integrate the teachings of the Church at age appropriate levels and gives students a sense of belonging to the great Body of Christ, which we call the Church!
- Program basics are reinforced in the home by regular attendance with the parish community at weekend liturgy, prayer at home and regular discussion of faith topics.
- During the year parent enrichment sessions will be held.

Family Based Programs

Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

Our family-based programs are the Family Program or Intergenerational Faith Communities. The primary goal of our family-based programs is active learning. Parents and children learn about God together. We reinforce our beliefs through the example of other families; share our stories with our children and other's children; teach ourselves and our families current Catholic beliefs and positions; explore how our faith is relevant in today's world; teach our children church traditions; and have fun. All families also perform service together. All families are welcome, including families of non-traditional make up.

In each family program, youth participate as other family members. In addition, youth are encouraged to participate in large group events sponsored by the Middle School Ministry Program or the High School Ministry Program. Sacrament preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, 4th Grade Reconciliation, and Confirmation entails the same requirements and participation as the classroom-based programs.

Regular attendance is required particularly during Sacrament preparation years.



Each family-based program has its own approach:

Family Program:

Families meet once a month, on a Friday evening and some Sundays, to explore their Catholic faith together and have lots of fun in the process! The gatherings are intergenerational (adults & children together). Family prayer, ritual, projects, faith discussions, skits, games and crafts are used to explore a different theme each month. At home, during the rest of the month, each family reads, discusses and does activities together based on what they learned at the monthly gathering. This program is geared towards families with children 1st grade – 5th grades. Please note the Family Program is not designed for pre – K or 6th grade and older children. There will be day care available for families with preschoolers. Families with children in Junior High should register them in our Junior High Ministry Program. Obviously, your Jr. High student is welcome to attend the Family Program as a member of your family, but this program is not a viable substitute for the Jr. High program.

Please note: For Family Program you will need to bring a signed Family Program Covenant to registration. (see attached link)

Intergenerational Faith Communities

What do we do? Families gather twice a month in each others' homes to learn more about the Catholic faith, to apply faith to every day experiences, and to have fun together. The gatherings feature community building, family prayer/ritual, activities & fun! The relevance of scripture and service in our daily lives is also expected. This is an intergenerational approach (adults & children together) where 4-6 families gather to form small Christian communities. Materials are provided for each family to use at home to explore the topics and prepare for upcoming gatherings. In addition, families share the role of facilitating and hosting gatherings. Family members of all ages are involved in the process. Family groups will be doing service projects together. Who is this for? Families who have an understanding of family faith discussion, family prayer and ritual, and service, and who are looking to form stronger relationships with other families who share the Catholic faith tradition.



MSM: Middle School Ministry

AMP (All My People)

AMP strives to build a faith-based community among the middle school students, their families, and our catechetical team. AMP stands for 'all my people,' an acronym chosen by the middle school students to represent their community of fellowship. Our goal is to 'grow the faith' of our students; instill a sense of ownership of their faith; and provide a safe platform for students to examine and evaluate their beliefs. Students meet Jesus through scripture, faith sharing, grade-specific projects, and exploration of different forms of prayer. AMP families are encouraged to participate as volunteers in the classroom, hospitality hosts for events, or project leaders among other opportunities. AMP students are also encouraged to actively participate in the 4:00 pm Liturgy at St. Elizabeth Seton.

The program includes the following:

General Session

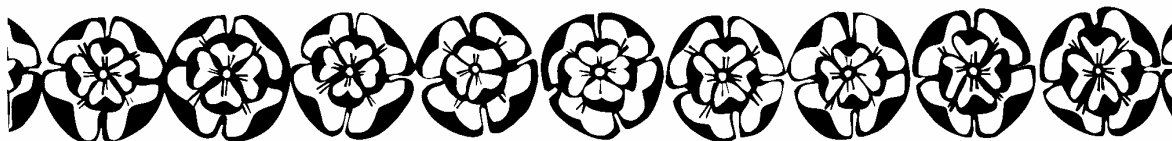
Weekly meetings occur every Tuesday at 7:30-8:30 pm in St. Augustine Hall. These sessions combine large and small group activities. The general format for each lesson begins in the hall with prayer and introduction to the evening's theme. Once the students are dismissed into their classrooms, the evening will begin with roll call, followed by scripture reading, faith sharing, lesson introduction, lesson activity, and class discussion.

Social Events

We will offer various social events and activities throughout the year

Middle School Sacrament of Reconciliation

This will be celebrated during Lent for those middle school and high school students who have not received the sacrament. To prepare for this, there will be three evening sessions for students and parents. Attendance at all three sessions is required for reception of the sacrament.



Youth Ministries: (9-12 grades)

Vince Nims, 925-474-2774 or ccopym@yahoo.com

Youth Ministries is a network of opportunities for young people, grades 9-12, to draw nearer to Christ, experience Christian community, and to grow in and celebrate faith. The elements of our ministry to our teenage parishioners include: Advocacy, Community-Building, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Justice & Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Worship. Many educational, spiritual, and social activities are offered throughout the year.

Here are some of the ways we reach out to high schoolers through youth ministries:

- **HS Youth Group:** It's called "OVERTIME". The newest feature of ministry that reaches out to all high school students is *OVERTIME!* It meets on Sunday nights after the 6:30 PM Mass from Mid September to late May. It combines music, small group discussion, media, prayer, talks and fun to build the faith of young people. Friends are welcome to this gathering as well.
- **Catholicism 101 & 102:** These 8-10 week workshops are offered two times a year – fall and spring semester. Summer sessions depend on the volunteers and resources but are never guaranteed. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics of interest to teens: dating & sexuality, decision making, Bible study, film and faith, and more! They meet with a catechist in church meeting rooms or in the catechist's homes. They are offered on several different nights of the week to accommodate busy teen schedules. Workshop descriptions are available in a separate flyer. These workshops help kids in the Pre-Confirmation-Year One accomplish pre-requisites before entering Confirmation in Year Two. Anyone interested and registered in these workshops may attend.
- **Liturgy & Worship:** If you haven't yet been to a youth oriented mass, you are missing out! A youth mass geared to teens is celebrated EVERY Sunday night at 6:30 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton with teens as the primary ministers: lectors, greeters, Drama Team & choir. Youth Reconciliation services are scheduled during Advent & Lent.
- **Retreats:** These are offered several times a year, and, usually target a particular grade or interest. This year, we are providing the following retreats: LinC (Fall Retreat), LA Youth Day (March), The Acts Retreat (Spring) and Summer Camp (July). These can be right here at our parish, or at one of the beautiful retreat centers in the Bay Area. Retreats are a great way to meet new friends and have a great time not just learning about our faith, but also EXPERIENCING it.
- **Social Events:** Watch your mailbox for details on all our special events! Usually done in the summer. We experience Santa Cruz Boardwalk, Paramount's Great America, and Night Camp!
- **Justice, Service and Solidarity:** The Catholic Community of Pleasanton teens are making a difference – in our community and in our world. One of our service

opportunities, **LET ME SHOW LOVE**, brings together teenagers and the elderly at Pleasanton Convalescent Hospital. **S.O.S.** (Service on Sunday) feeds the homeless or meets another need of the poor and vulnerable on the second Sunday of each month. Other **SERVICE DAYS** for various reasons are scheduled throughout the year. And, perhaps our most well know project is **CORAZON**, our annual trip to Tijuana to serve the poor. Information about these and other service opportunities can be found in our youth ministry emails.

- **Leadership Teams:** Teens come for fellowship and to exercise their Christian Leadership skills on Core Team. This group plans Overtime. We meet almost once a week. Retreat teams are also put together at various times of year.

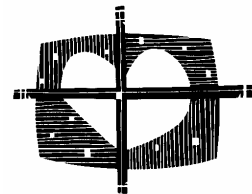
SPRED

Denise Young, 462.0105

SPRED is a program for awakening & deepening the faith life in Catholic teens and young adults with developmental disabilities. Our goal is to provide appropriate catechetical, liturgical and sacramental experiences for those who desire to share and grow in faith with others.

The program components are as follows:

- Meetings are twice each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- Age requirements: 11 and up
- The meeting format has three parts
 - Quieting activities after a busy day
 - Celebrating with scripture, sharing experiences, and prayerful singing
 - Agape – Social



Sacramental Preparation

Please note Baptism requirement, page 4.

The sacramental dimension of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton Faith Formation Program is designed to support and deepen the sacramental life of our parish family. In the sacraments, the Church celebrates and acknowledges that the center of every sacrament is the presence of Jesus Christ. The opportunity for deepening one's relationship with Jesus and the Christian community is a unique part of each sacrament. Preparation for all sacraments includes prayer and shared faith, as well as study and reflection on the meaning of the sacraments.

- Preparation for First Eucharist usually takes place during 2nd or 3rd grade, after at least one prior year of faith formation.
- An age appropriate celebration of Reconciliation also takes place prior to First Eucharist in 2nd or 3rd Grade.
- Catechesis for the sacrament of Reconciliation continues in 4th Grade followed by a celebration of the sacrament.
- Christian Initiation of Children (CIC) is for children in 3rd through 12th grades who are not baptized or 6th through 12th grades who have not received First Eucharist.

First Eucharist

Cindi Gilmore, cgilmore@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The First Eucharist preparation process is, first & foremost, family-centered, recognizing the fact that there is no better or more effective catechist for a child than his or her parent(s). The process is from September until May. It is required that your child has been baptized. Participation in weekly Faith Formation classes or in the Family Program or Intergenerational Faith Communities is required. This preparation process begins in the 1st grade year. There will be a total of three meetings throughout the year and a “mini-retreat” at the end of the year.

In the second grade, the core of the program is a series of monthly meetings that are centered on building the faith of the whole family

Please note that these meetings are mandatory. If you need to miss one or more meetings during the year you will be encouraged to repeat the program the following year

In addition to the meetings there will be a book that is family based and addresses First Eucharist as well as First Reconciliation. This book is the “at home” piece, meant for parents and child to complete together. The process is from September until May. It is required that your child has been baptized. Participation in weekly Faith Formation classes or in the Family Program or Intergenerational Faith Communities is required.

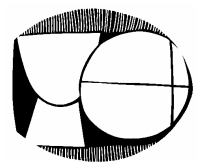
The program components are as follows:

For 1st grade families:

- Three large group meetings
- “Mini-Retreat” in April

For 2nd grade families:

- Family sharing of Eucharist book



- An initial family meeting with Cindi Gilmore, Sacraments Coordinator in August or early September
- Eight gatherings during the year (approximately 1 per month)
- Celebration of Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent
- “Banner Making Event” in March
- One rehearsal for the final celebration
- The First Eucharist celebration in May

4th Reconciliation Catechesis

Cindi Gilmore, cgilmore@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

Like First Eucharist, this is a family-centered process highlighting the fact that parents are the most effective catechists for a child. You will receive a book that your child will work on at home with your guidance and support in December. This process will conclude with a special celebration of reconciliation that the children will be involved in planning.

The preparation process is from December until March, and includes the following:

- The celebration of Reconciliation in March

Christian Initiation of Children

Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

Young people in grades 3 – 12 who have not been baptized, or grades 6 – 12 who have not received First Eucharist will be placed in the C.I.C. process. This process of preparation involves entering into the life of the Christian community and being formed into a sacramental people by sharing Jesus’ values and story. This program is family-based program; parents and children attend together.

Parents are expected to support their children in the initiation journey in the following ways

- Attend weekly gatherings as a family.
- Attend 4 pm family liturgy at St. Elizabeth Seton as a family.
- Attend an initial family interview before program begins in the fall.
- Participate in special rites as necessary throughout the year (such as First Reconciliation Celebration before First Eucharist)

Confirmation

Vince Nims, 925-474-2774, ccopym@yahoo.com

Our Confirmation program has two parts:

Year One (Pre-Confirmation), and
Year Two (Confirmation).

Completing the outline and components of Year One, is the prerequisite for Year Two.

Year One (Pre-Confirmation) candidates attend Catholicism 101 (fall) & 102 (spring), a Catholic, weekend retreat or Summer Camp, and the parish youth group, Overtime (twice a month). They also attend liturgies, do parish service and various global solidarity work. Year One components do not have to be completed in a year, but they can be. Students can begin as early as the freshman year, and as late as the Junior year.

Year Two (Confirmation) candidates have completed Year One. Year Two candidates attend small and large group gatherings about three times a month (On Monday nights), a retreat, do parish and global solidarity service, attend various liturgies, and go to the parish youth group, Overtime (once a month). A student can begin Year Two in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, so long as they have completed all of the Year One prerequisites before September of their Confirmation year. *Important note:* As of June of 2010, teens enrolled in a Catholic high school, those participating in an IFC or CIC must complete all Year One pre-requisites.

For specific information about Year One and Two, obtain an Information Packet available in the Faith Formation Office. You should also attend upcoming Information Meetings that are specific to the year for which you have an interest.

