

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

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Elementary Program

Martha Zeyen, mzeyen@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The Elementary Program offers a traditional classroom approach to teaching the essentials of the faith for students in K through 5th grade.

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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.

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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.

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Middle School Ministry

Danice Andrus, dandrus@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The primary purpose of the middle school ministry is to partner with middle school youth and their families on their faith journeys. Our objective is to help the youth explore our Catholic identity and gain a deeper understanding of our faith.

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High School Youth Ministry

TBA, 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 Monday from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Augustine Hall.

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Confirmation

TBA, 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.

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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)
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 & Teens (CICT) (p. 11)
Middle School	Family Program OR Intergenerational Faith Community (p. 5/6) OR MSM (p. 6/7)		
High School	Workshops (p. 8)		Confirmation (11 th gr.)**

* See pgs. 10-11 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.

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.

Family Based Programs

Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

Our family-based programs are the Family Program or Intergenerational Faith Communities. Rather than having children attending classes in separate places, at perhaps separate times, families meet regularly with other families and are given tools to help them in the active practice of their faith. The primary goal of our family-based programs is to learn how to make God part of a family's everyday life and to develop a relationship with Jesus. 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.

Each family-based program has its own approach:

Family Program:

Families meet once a month, on a Friday evening, 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.



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)

Danice Andrus, dandrus@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

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. The evening will conclude in the Hall with a discussion of the evening's theme followed by prayer. Families are always welcome to join us for the concluding discussion and prayer.

Projects

Each grade level has a multi-class project that will conclude with an evening of sharing with their families and friends.

Sixth Grade

'The Boy Jesus Teaching in the Temple' play

Seventh Grade

Psalms Reading

Eighth Grade

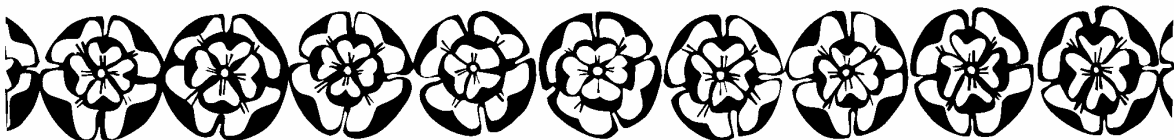
Jesus on Trial

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.



High School Youth Ministry

TBA, 846.3531

The goal of our youth ministry program is to BE CHURCH, to be the People of God, WITH and FOR young people, and in the process to encourage CHURCH by young people. 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.

Although weekly “classes,” or workshops, are the backbone of our program, they are just one of the many educational, spiritual, and social activities offered throughout the year.

The following can be found in our Fall and Spring Workshop Flyer called L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Experience) Magazine:

- **Faith Formation Workshops:** 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, nursing home visits, 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 the L.I.F.E. flyer.
- **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. They 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 camping in Yosemite!
- **Justice & Service:** The Catholic Community of Pleasanton teens are making a difference – in our community and in our world. One of our workshops, LET ME SHOW LOVE, brings together teenagers and the elderly at Pleasanton Convalescent Hospital. The 30-HOUR FAMINE retreat raises both awareness and money for worldwide hunger relief. SERVICE DAYS to the City to feed the hungry 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 workshop flyer.

- **Leadership Team:** Teens come for fellowship and to exercise their Christian Leadership skills in our youth leadership team called FOCUS – *Friends of Christ United to Serve*. We meet twice a month to plan various youth ministry events and fellowship!

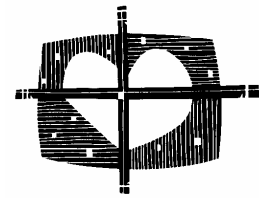
SPRED

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 & Teens (CICT) is for children in 3rd through 12th grades who are not baptized or have not received First Eucharist.
- Confirmation takes place during the junior or senior year of high school, after two workshops and a retreat during the high school years.

First Eucharist

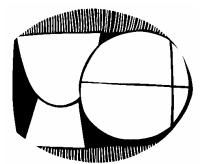
Cindi Gilmore, cgilmore@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

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). This preparation process begins in the first grade with an individual meeting with your family and the sacrament coordinator, Cindi Gilmore. There will also be a large group meeting and a “mini-retreat” during the first grade year. In the second grade, the core of the program is the Eucharist book which your child will be working on at home with your guidance and support. Since we are not a collection of individuals but a community, the process involves meetings, service & events that will serve to deepen the faith & understanding of the whole family. 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:

- An initial family meeting Cindi Gilmore, Sacraments Coordinator
- One large group meeting in October
- “Mini-Retreat” in January



For 2nd grade families:

- Family sharing of Eucharist book
- An initial family meeting with Cindi Gilmore, Sacraments Coordinator in June, July, August or September
- Gathering in September, November, January and February
- Celebration of Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent
- “Mapping the Mass” event in March
- “Banner Making Night” in March
- One rehearsal for the final celebration
- The First Eucharist celebration in May

Reconciliation Catechisis

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:

- A family meeting in December and February
- A final meeting with your child (upon completion of the book (February))
- The celebration of Reconciliation in March

Christian Initiation of Children & Teens

Liz Rogers, lrogers@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

Young people in grades 3 – 12 who have not been baptized, or 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

For Adult Confirmation please contact the parish rectory at (925) 846-4489

Our Confirmation program is a nine-month sacramental preparation process beginning in September and ending with the celebration of Confirmation in June. This sacrament of initiation is offered to interested teens in eleventh or twelfth grade who have

completed all prerequisites before September of their Confirmation year. Effective Fall 2005, to be eligible to begin the Confirmation program, all new students and 9th graders MUST have ALREADY completed two high school faith formation workshops and a retreat. (Please review the high school ministry program above); teens enrolled in a Catholic high school, those participating in an IFC group or CIC program are only required to attend a retreat as a prerequisite to their confirmation year. Teens previously enrolled in our program will continue with their original requirements - four workshops and/or a retreat as outlined in the previous registration guidebook.

The program components are as follows:

- An entrance interview in September and an exit interview in May with the Confirmation Coordinator,
- Candidate and Parent Evening of Reflection and Orientation in early September,
- Weekly classes on Sunday evening,
- Confirmation Candidate Liturgy and Blessing in October,
- Candidate and Sponsor Evening of Reflections in January,
- One retreat, which will take place during January or February of their confirmation year.
- Advent and Lent Reconciliation Prayer Services.
- 18 hours of community service.

