

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 Sandi Wilson, swilson@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
The "I Am Special" Preschool 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 5

Family Program Anna Horen, ahoren@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 Comm. Anna Horen, ahoren@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 Danice Andrus, dandrus@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 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 Bernardo Reyes, breyes@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 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 7/8

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 9/10

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, yearlong preparation process. (Children must have already participated in a religious education program for one year prior.) This program includes an age appropriate catechesis and celebration of Reconciliation. Page 10/11

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

Confirmation Bernardo Reyes, breyes@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 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. Pages 9 and 12

Christian Initiation of Children & Teens
Anna Adams, aadams@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531
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. Pages 11 and 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. 5) OR Family Program or Family Faith Communities (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 Family Faith Communities (p. 5/6) OR MSM (p. 7)		
High School	Workshops (p. 7/8)		Confirmation (11 th gr.)**

* See pp. 10-11 for First Eucharist/ Reconciliation Requirements

** See pp. 9&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 see Therese Fenzl at the Sacraments table.
- And is in 3rd through 12th grade, register for the Christian Initiation of Children & Teens (CICT) program at the Sacraments table.

Preschool Program



Sandi Wilson, swilson@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The “I Am Special” Preschool program is held on Sundays during the 10:00am mass at the St. Augustine Hall and at the 11:00am mass at St. Elizabeth Seton in. Classes are held for children ages 3, 4, and pre-kindergarten 5 year olds. The program focuses on the theme that each child is a special creation of a loving God.

These themes are celebrated as follows:

- We start the year with a series of lessons focusing on the five senses and the gifts of touching, walking, running, laughing and playing.
- Thanksgiving brings this lesson series to a close with a focus on thanking God for His gifts.
- Advent & Christmas follow with a focus on preparing for the birth of a special friend, Jesus.
- The New Year celebrates family, friends, and the community in which we live, followed by a series of lessons on the wonderful world God has made for us.
- Lessons on wind, water, flowers, trees, birds, and animals lead to a celebration of new life in Spring.
- The year ends in May with a lesson on “Growing & Changing” and a final celebration of ourselves as God’s special children.
- Registration is in May. A late registration is offered in August.

To enroll, children must be three by October 10th of the current school year and not yet in kindergarten.

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:

- Kindergarten classes meet in the homes of catechists and first through fifth grades meet in the rooms at St. Augustine Hall, as well as in some homes.
- 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.
- Various activities and methods support the regular text materials provided to each student.
- Monthly prayer themes highlight the spiritual activities of the 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!

Registration takes place in May on a first come – first enrolled basis. A late registration is offered in August.

Family Programs

Anna Horen, ahoren@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

Either family program (Intergenerational Faith Communities or Family Program) is an alternative to the weekly grade-level faith formation program. 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 in either family program 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.

Each family program has its own approach:

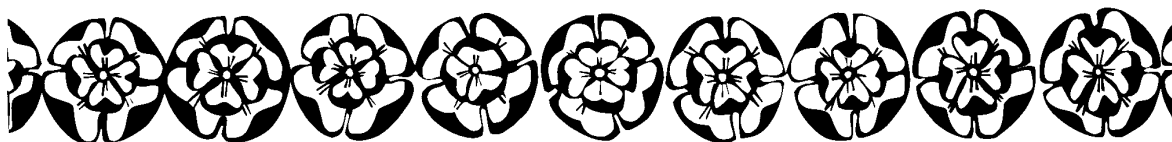
Family Program: 2007-2008:Galilee By-The-Sea! <http://www.groupvbs.com/2007/vbs-GalileeNew/index.asp>

What exactly is the 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 about at the monthly gathering. Who is this for? Although the program is geared towards families with children 1st grade - 6th grade, all ages are welcome.

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.

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. First Reconciliation & First Eucharist sacraments are available to Family Program participants. Preparation for the sacraments is done in the family. Materials are provided. For those interested, family groups may be available. Families involved in the Family Program also have the opportunity to be involved in a number of special events.



MSM: Middle School Ministry

Danice Andrus, dandrus@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846.3531

The primary purpose of the Middle School Ministry is to walk with middle school students and their families on their faith journeys by exposing them to the message and life of Jesus, by modeling a life of discipleship (social justice, community, love of neighbor), and challenging them to use their gifts to build God's kingdom here on earth. This is accomplished through a fun and engaging weekly general session, service projects, liturgies, socials and trips.

The program components are as follows:

- **General Session:** This meeting takes place on a weekly basis on either Tuesday or Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at St. Augustine Hall. The session combines large and small group activities. One night during the month will be a social night. Friends may be invited to the social night. Each session will begin and end with prayer.
- **Social Events:** We offer various social events and activities throughout the year.
- **Liturgy:** Middle School students are encouraged to attend the 4:00pm liturgy at St. Elizabeth Seton on Sunday and to participate in the opportunities that this provides.
- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation:** This will be celebrated during Lent for those Middle School students who have not received the sacrament. To prepare for this, there will be a retreat. Attendance at this retreat is required for the reception of the sacrament.
- **Service Projects:** Service opportunities are provided throughout the year both in the context of the students' small community and in the larger MSM community.
- **Trips:** A ski trip is offered once per year. Other trips are offered on occasion.

High School Youth Ministry

Bernardo Reyes, breyes@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 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, Spring and Summer 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!

Confirmation

Bernardo Reyes, breyes@catholicofpleasanton.org, 846-3531

For Adult Confirmation please contact Fr. Augustine Joseph at (925) 846-4489, ajoseph@catholicofpleasanton.org or Ms. Andrea Giovannoni, coordinator of R.C.I.A./Returning Catholics at (925) 484-5020, agiovannoni@catholicofpleasanton.org

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:

- Weekly classes on Sunday Evening
- Candidate and Parent Evening of Reflection and Orientation in early September
- An entrance interview in September and an exit interview in May both with the Confirmation Coordinator
- One retreat which will take place during April of their confirmation year
- 18 hours of community service



Other opportunities offered for Confirmation Preparation:

- Confirmation Candidate Liturgy and Blessing in October
- Candidate and Sponsor Evening of Reflections in January
- At least five scheduled service days
- Advent and Lent Reconciliation Prayer Services

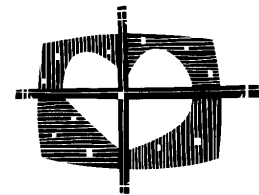
SPRED

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 one to two years of faith formation 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). The core of the program is the book “We Believe and Celebrate First Communion,” 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:

- Family sharing of book “We Believe & Celebrate 1st Communion”
- An initial family meeting with Cindi Gilmore, Sacraments Coordinator in May, June, August or September
- Gathering in October and November
- Celebration of Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent
- Mass “pilgrimage” in March
- A final meeting with your child close to completion of the process
- One rehearsal for the final celebration
- Signed “covenant” paper returned to Sacrament Coordinator at final meeting in March or April
- The First Eucharist celebration in April or 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 “We Believe and Celebrate 1st Penance” that your child will work on at home with your guidance and support in December. All fourth grade students participate in this program whether they have received the sacrament in 2nd/3rd grade or not.

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

- A parent meeting in December and February
- A final meeting with your child (upon completion of the book (February)
- Signed “covenant” paper returned to Sacrament Coordinator prior to celebration of sacrament
- The celebration of Reconciliation in March

Christian Initiation of Children & Teens

Anna Adams, aadams@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.T. Process. The catechumenate for young people of catechetical age is now the normal and official way of forming young people in the faith of the Church, and celebrating their conversion through the sacraments of initiation. 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.

During this process there is a progression of three major rites, each with periods of preparation and follow-up:

- Rite of Acceptance – Welcoming (6-8 week process)
- Rite of Sending/Rite of Election (3 month process)
- Celebration of Baptism &/or First Eucharist (3 month process)

Parents are expected to support their children in their initiation journey, to attend the weekly gatherings, and participate weekly in parish liturgies with their children. An initial family interview will be conducted prior to the beginning of gatherings in the fall, and prior to each new step in the process.

Confirmation

Bernardo Reyes, breyes@catholicsofpleasanton.org, 846-3531

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For additional information, see Page 9.

