

Celebrating  
Owning  
Renewing  
Embracing

# Our Faith

Church of the Redeemer  
Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

2011- 2012



*Do This In  
Memory of Me*

## 2011-2012 Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

In response to the vision of faith formation in the Vatican document, *General Directory for Catechesis*, Redeemer has embraced a whole-community or “whole church” model of faith formation. Our parish process of whole community catechesis includes many elements designed to promote lifelong faith formation.

*Led by the Spirit; faith formation at Redeemer flows from the Sunday liturgy.*

*It embraces all ages and generations, and supports the key role of the home in nurturing faith.*

*Through catechesis and faith-sharing, we as individuals and as a community are formed to live as the Body of Christ in our world.*

*We are given opportunities to hear and respond to God’s ongoing invitation to deeper faith.*

This year our focus is on the Mass - **Do This in Memory of Me**. As we prepare for and implement the liturgical changes of the Revised Roman Missal, we are all called to renew our understanding of the Mass. The *translation* used at Mass is changing, but not the structure, intent, flow and theology of the ritual.

The Mass is for everyone, and so is formation! The Church has reminded us over and over in recent years that the aim of all catechesis is mature adult discipleship. Catechesis is not just for children! Faith Formation doesn’t end with Confirmation or Graduation! Our GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) gatherings bring parishioners of all ages together to encourage us to practice our faith in our day-to-day lives, as we learn together the **Who? What? When? Where? Why?** and **How?** of our faith. Resources and encouragement to live the faith in the home are an integral part of the GIFT process.

While our intergenerational gatherings are a key component of our faith formation process, the parish provides additional opportunities for parishioners of all ages to grow in faith. For adults we offer numerous programs, including Little Rock and Threshold scripture studies, book discussion groups, *Engaging Spirituality*, *Six Great Dates*, and prayer groups.

High school and middle school youth participate in GIFT gatherings with their families and have additional Sunday sessions for their age groups. Service opportunities and social activities are also offered.

For children we offer preschool and elementary programs, Children’s Liturgy of the Word, and Vacation Bible School, in addition to attending GIFT gatherings with their parents.

The parish also prepares adults and children for the sacraments through RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults); family sacramental preparation programs for Eucharist and Reconciliation; Infant Baptism classes; and Confirmation programs for both youth and adults.

For more information about faith development and sacrament preparation at Redeemer, please see the parish web site [www.churchredeemer.org](http://www.churchredeemer.org) or contact the parish office at **(804) 746-4911**.



## Faith Formation Staff

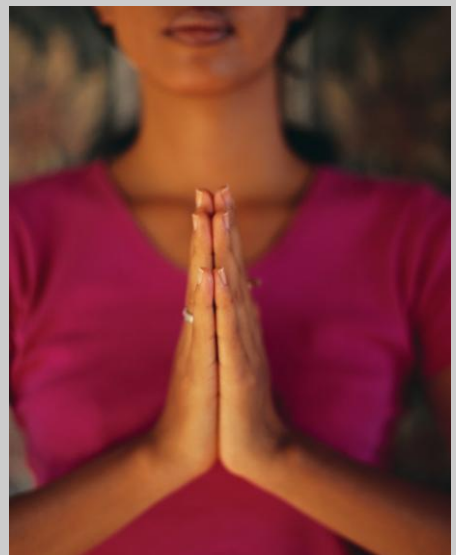
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Pastoral Council Liaison for Faith Formation



# Growing In Faith Together

## Who?

*Everyone - All Redeemer Parishioners...*

- ✚ Singles & Couples
- ✚ Young Adults
- ✚ Empty Nesters
- ✚ Kids & Teenagers
- ✚ Mom & Dad
- ✚ Grandma & Grandpa
- ✚ Students
- ✚ Retirees
- ✚ Widows & Widowers
- ✚ Divorcees
- ✚ Family members of different faith traditions
- ✚ Visitors from out-of-town
- ✚ Friends from other parishes

*...Everyone in the household*

## What?

**GIFT** promotes lifelong faith formation that embraces all ages and generations, and promotes faith growth at home through parish preparation programs and, most importantly, through participation in church life.

## When?

- ✚ Attend one session of each of the three intergenerational GIFT gatherings - Nov. 2/6, Feb. 29/Mar. 4, and April 25/29.
- ✚ Use the Take Home Kits to make growing in faith a part of your everyday life.
- ✚ Celebrate the topic that has been the focus throughout the month.

## Why?

Embracing the vision (as stated in the *General Directory for Catechesis*) of the parish as a learning community we aim to:

- ✚ Transform the focus on children-only by emphasizing lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations, including and especially adults.
- ✚ Transform “start and stop” catechesis by implementing lifelong and continuous faith formation—learning for a lifetime through involvement in the events of church life.
- ✚ Transform age segregation through intergenerational faith formation—making connections among the generations in learning programs and parish involvement.
- ✚ Transform the focus on the “textbook as the curriculum” by utilizing the events of Church life as the curriculum for all ages and generations—tapping into the power of the Church Year, sacramental celebrations, community prayer, and works of justice and service, and providing catechesis that prepares everyone to participate in the events of church life.
- ✚ \*Transform catechesis as a separate “program” by emphasizing a collaborative and integrated process that involves all of the parish’s ministries in faith formation. Catechesis is interconnected with liturgy, sacraments, the Church year, justice and service, and prayer.

## How?

Households or individuals that are interested in enrolling in our parish faith formation process are asked to check the parish web site or contact the parish office for more information and for registration materials.

# More about Our GIFT Gatherings

Our eighth year of whole community catechesis focuses on the Mass. Our theme is taken from the U.S. Bishops' theme for Catechetical Sunday, ***Do This in Memory of Me***. Our GIFT gatherings will help to look at not only the words we use, but the deeper meaning of our worship. We encourage parishioners of all ages to participate in our GIFT Gatherings, which are the foundation of our lifelong faith formation process. Our Gatherings are a time of fellowship, faith formation, and fun.



## **✚ Sharing a Simple Meal Together**

### **No cooking - just come and enjoy**

At a typical gathering you will be welcomed by greeters to enjoy a meal with fellow parishioners of all ages. At your table there may be a single adult, a family of four, a retired person, and an empty-nest couple. There will be a couple of questions on the table to focus our table talk.

## **✚ Whole Group Opening Experience**

Introduction of the topic to be experienced by all ages

After the meal we will have an activity to set the tone and introduce the topic.

## **✚ Exploring the Topic Through Age-Specific Learning Activities**

Learning about the same topic according to one's age or stage in life

Some months the group may divide into smaller groups for age-specific learning activities. A gathering might have adults and high school youth staying in the hall for a speaker and group discussion, while preschoolers, elementary children and middle school youth meet with facilitators for their own learning activities.

Other times all ages may remain together and participate in a series of learning stations.



## **✚ Whole Group Sharing Experience**

Closing of the Gathering for all ages and distribution of Take Home Kits

To conclude our evening, everyone will reunite in the hall to share what has been learned, to pray together, and to be sent forth to continue learning at home. Each household will receive their Take Home kit of materials to continue their learning at home.

## ***DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME*** **2011-12 GIFT Sessions**



### Nov. 2 & 6 - **“Say What?”**

Benjamin Franklin once said, “When you're finished changing, you're finished”, and as a Church we're certainly not finished! Beginning the first week of Advent we will experience changes in some of the words we pray at Mass. Come hear about and practice these latest changes in the Mass.

What is changing? Why? What difference will it make?

### Feb. 29 & Mar. 4 - **“Listen Up!”**

Our Mass begins with gathering and storytelling. How well do we listen to the wonderful Story that is shared with us each week?

The Liturgy of the Word is not just some stories before we eat - it is meant to be transformative, challenging and changing us.

Where do the readings come from? Who picks them? Why?

How can I be a better 'hearer of the Word?'

### Apr. 25 & 29 - **“Do What?”**

Mass continues with a shared meal and a sending forth. We hear Jesus' words, “Do this in memory of me” but what exactly are we being asked to do?

What's the real miracle of this “miraculous meal”?

Why are we being fed? Where are we being sent?

# Children's Faith Formation

At their child's Baptism, parents promise to keep the flame of faith alive in their child's heart. They are the primary educators of their children and have a responsibility to see that they are educated in the faith with the assistance of the parish. In addition to our GIFT gatherings, Redeemer assists parents in this role through:

- ✚ preschool & kindergarten classes during the Liturgy of the Word at weekend liturgies,
- ✚ a weekly elementary program for grades 1-5,
- ✚ a home-teaching option for grades 1-5,
- ✚ a family-centered program,
- ✚ Children's Liturgy of the Word during the weekend liturgies for ages 5-10, and
- ✚ RCIA adapted for children.

## **PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN FORMATION**

The preschool/kindergarten program aims to help parents introduce their child to the Christian way of life, fostering a personal relationship with God through:

- ✚ awakening a sense of God,
- ✚ fostering a prayer life, and
- ✚ helping the child recognize a growing awareness of God's call to share his love.

The program precedes and lays the foundation for formal religious education, which begins in first grade. The first six years of life are the most important for the religious development of children. Their later religious outlook depends on how meaningful their early experiences are.

The teaching materials for the program come from *Seeds*, the early childhood level of *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*. Jesus' story forms the heart of every lesson, which is built around the Sunday Gospel. Each week the children hear Jesus speaking and see him acting in the Gospel for that Sunday. *Seeds* stories and art about Jesus aim to show young children the God we believe in - a loving God who is here for us in Jesus.

Family activity pages can be found at [www.pflaum.com/familypages](http://www.pflaum.com/familypages).



# Children's Faith Formation...continued

## ELEMENTARY FORMATION

Based on our parish formation vision statement, we attempt to offer a program that:

**"...flows from the Sunday liturgy"** - Each session actually begins at the weekend liturgies, when we hear the Sunday Gospel for the first time. We start each week by further reflecting on that Gospel.

**"...embraces all ages"** - Parents are invited and encouraged to attend and participate with their child, specifically by joining us for our closing ritual each week and participating in the designated "parent session" for each grade. All grades are learning about a common theme each week, such as creation, Baptism, Church...

**"...supports the key role of the home"** - Children bring materials home each week to continue the learning process.

**"...forms us to live as the Body of Christ in our world"** - Each week the children discuss "What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life" and choose an action to carry out in the coming week based on what they have discussed. Please ask your child about their action choice!

Our program uses the "Faith First Legacy Edition" text from RCL Benziger, which has been found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Every year each grade has lessons on all four pillars of the *Catechism* - creed, sacraments, morality, and prayer. Many additional activities can be found at "Faith First for Families" - <http://www.faithfirst.com/html/family/family.html>.

For practical reasons we have combined some grades. First and second graders may be grouped together, as may third and fourth graders. We alternate the text used each year, so no one will be repeating material from a previous year.

## HOME TEACHING

Parents who are unable to attend the weekly elementary sessions, or who prefer to teach their children themselves, may choose the home teaching option, which uses the same curriculum as the weekly elementary program.

## FIRE & Generations of Faith

Now entering its ninth year, these family-centered programs include parents and children of all ages. Groups of 4 to 6 families gather in homes twice a month so all ages can learn and share faith (and fun!) together. Groups use materials from Liguori's "Family-centered Intergenerational Religious Education" and Harcourt's "People of Faith" programs.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to leave the assembly for their own Liturgy of the Word at the weekend Masses, an opportunity to hear the Sunday scriptures in an age-appropriate translation and reflect on God's word. They are dismissed after the opening prayer and return during the offertory song.

## RCIA ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN

This process is for children age 8 and older who have not been baptized or who have been baptized in another Christian tradition and would like to enter the Catholic Church.

Calendars for preschool and elementary programs are available on the website - <http://www.churchredeemer.org/reled/index.htm>

# First Reconciliation / First Eucharist

Diocesan guidelines state that children who have been baptized in the Catholic Church are to be involved in a catechetical process at least a year prior to formal preparation for these sacraments. Families can enroll their child in the family program for preparing and celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (First Communion) as second graders, if they have attended formation sessions in the first grade at the parish or in a Catholic school.

Preparation for these sacraments involves:

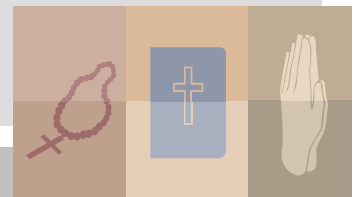
- ✚ Providing a copy of the child's Baptismal certificate,
- ✚ Weekly participation in the weekend Liturgy,
- ✚ Participation in GIFT Gatherings,
- ✚ Participation in parent and child sacrament preparation sessions,
- ✚ Home preparation (with provided materials), and
- ✚ Participation in a parent/child retreat.

The parish provides materials for home use, entitled *Reconciliation* and *Eucharist*, from RCL Benziger. Parents are expected to lead their child through the program using the booklets provided for each sacrament and to pray regularly together.

Parent and child sacramental preparation sessions are an opportunity for parents to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the sacraments along with their child.

## First Reconciliation Preparation 2011-12

Saturday, Oct. 8	4:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Parent/Child Meeting
Sat./Sun., Oct. 8/9	Weekend liturgies	Enrollment ceremony
Wed./Sun., Nov. 2/6	5:45 PM/11:30 AM	GIFT Gatherings - attend one
Saturday, Nov. 12	4:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Parent/Child Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 3	9:00 AM - Noon	Retreat - attend 1 hour
Saturday, Dec. 10	10 AM	Celebration of First Reconciliation



## First Eucharist Preparation 2011-2012

Saturday, Jan. 21	4:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Parent/Child Meeting
Sat./Sun., Jan. 21/22	Weekend liturgies	Enrollment ceremony
Saturday, Feb. 11	4:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Parent/Child Meeting
Wed./Sun., Feb. 29/Mar. 4	5:45 PM/11:30 AM	GIFT Gatherings - attend one
Saturday, Mar. 17	4:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Parent/Child Meeting
Saturday, Apr. 21	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Retreat - attend morning or afternoon
Wed./Sun., Apr. 25/29	5:45 PM/11:30 AM	GIFT Gatherings - attend one
Saturday, Apr. 28/May 5	10:00 AM	First Eucharist Liturgies - choose one

# Confirmation

Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation, binding a person more closely to the Church so that he or she can participate more fully in the Church's mission to the world. It is a strengthening and completion of Baptism. In this diocese, the normative age for Confirmation is both age 15 and enrolled in at least the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

While Catholic schools provide education in theology, reinforce Catholic values, and promote practice of the Catholic faith, immediate preparation for and celebration of the sacraments take place within the parish community.



Preparation for Confirmation occurs concurrently with participation in either the parish youth religious education program or enrollment in Catholic school.

Catechesis for the sacrament involves deepening each individual's understanding of the sacrament through formation sessions, encouraging personal witness through social justice activities and outreach, participation in the parish's liturgical life, and enriching each candidate's prayer life through retreats and other prayer experiences. Celebration of the sacrament will take place during the Easter season on a date and at a location designated by the bishop.

Preparation for Confirmation involves:

- ✦ Participation in parish life, particularly weekly attendance at the weekend liturgy
- ✦ Participation in the parish religious education program or enrollment in Catholic school
- ✦ Participation in Confirmation sessions
- ✦ Participation in GIFT Gatherings
- ✦ Participation in the Confirmation retreat
- ✦ Participation in scheduled rites at weekend liturgies
- ✦ Engaging in service and demonstrating good stewardship
- ✦ Providing a baptismal certificate if the candidate did not celebrate Baptism or First Eucharist at Redeemer

## Confirmation Preparation 2011-2012

<b>Kick-off</b> - Sun. Sept. 11	11:15 - 12:30	Candidates & parent
as part of the Youth R.E. kick-off		
<b>Sessions</b> - Sundays,	11:30 - 2:00	
Dec. 11		Candidates
Jan. 8		Candidates
Feb. 5		Candidates
Mar. 18		Candidates
Apr. 22	11:30 - 12:30	Candidates & sponsors (or parents)
<b>Rites</b> - 10:00 Mass	Feb. 5, & Apr. 22	Candidates & sponsors (or parents)
<b>Retreat</b> - Sat., Jan. 28, 5:30 Mass - Sun., Jan. 29, 4:00 - Parents or Sponsors come on Sunday		
<b>Confirmation Liturgy</b> - Thursday, May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 PM at Redeemer		
<b>Mystagogy</b> - Sunday, May 17 <sup>th</sup> ,	11:30 - 2:30	Candidates
<b>GIFT Gatherings</b> - Wed., 5:45 - 8:00 or Sun., 11:30 - 1:30 - Attend one each month		
Nov. 2/6, Feb. 29/Mar. 4, Apr. 25/29		Candidates, families (& sponsors when possible)

# Youth Ministry

Youth ministry at Redeemer incorporates the many components of a comprehensive approach to youth ministry. The faith development process for middle and high school youth involves:

- ✚ Participation in parish life, particularly attendance at the weekend Liturgy,
- ✚ Participation in GIFT gatherings,
- ✚ Participation in Youth R.E. sessions, both gathered and non-gathered,
- ✚ Youth ministry activities,
- ✚ Retreat experiences, and
- ✚ Outreach opportunities.



**Youth R.E. sessions** are held on Sunday mornings and evenings, beginning with a kick-off and parent meeting on Sun., Sept. 11. Youth also complete **two non-gathered sessions**. Go to [www.churchredeemer.org](http://www.churchredeemer.org) (on the youth page) click the “Non-Gathered R.E. Sessions & Make-up” link. These sessions can either be done individually, with fellow team members, with other youth, or with family members. However, they must be turned in individually, not as a group.

**Youth social activities** include, but are not limited to, events such as ski trips, lock-ins, laser tag, Extreme Bowling and more. Please visit web site or the Youth Table for monthly activity schedules and sign-ups for these events.



**Diocesan Retreat** opportunities such as Discovery (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>) and Christian Awakening (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>) are scheduled throughout the year. Look for announcements as these dates are confirmed through the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

**Summer opportunities** for high school youth include participation in the **One Bread, One Cup** liturgy formation program at St. Meinrad and the diocesan **Youth Convention**.

Information about these activities is available through the youth Facebook page and on the Youth Table in the commons.



## Facebook!

Check us out to stay informed.  
**Church of the Redeemer Youth Ministry (Mechanicsville, VA)**

# Youth Ministry...continued

## **Outreach Opportunities\*\***

\*\*Please note that the sign-ups for outreach ministries will happen during the Youth R.E. Kick-off on Sunday, September 11 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. You may also contact LeRoy Orie ([LOrie@ChurchRedeemer.org](mailto:LOrie@ChurchRedeemer.org) or 746.4911 x2216) to sign-up for a ministry.

## **Redeemer Service Corps**

Modeled in the philosophy of the Peace Corps, this ministry is service to our parish and community. Small teams of youth and adults are assigned projects, which may include (but are not limited to) minor home maintenance (yard work, painting, etc.), work in our community. Those who sign-up to be part of a team will help a few hours one Saturday morning a month.

## **Landscaping Ministry**

Help is needed one Saturday morning a month to clean up around Redeemer. Look for sign-ups on the Youth Table.

## **Haiti Yard Sale**

Help is needed to sell drinks and food. This annual yard sale will be Saturday, September 17. Participants will sign up to work a one-hour shift for the day.

## **Loaves and Fishes Sunday**

This ministry needs help cooking and preparing food in the kitchen at Redeemer to later be taken and served to the hungry of Richmond. Look for sign-ups once dates are confirmed.

## **Loaves and Fishes Monday**

Participants help feed the homeless in the City of Richmond. This ministry happens every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from October thru May.

## **Summer Workcamps**

The summer work camp experiences are a tremendous way for high school youth and adults to live out the gospel. Redeemer will be involved in several workcamp experiences including Catholic Heart, Diocesan and Tri-Cities.

**Any youth and adults interested in work camp will attend one of the informational meetings:**

**Sat., Oct. 10 (4:30 pm-5:00 pm),**

**Sun., Oct. 11 (9:15 am – 9:45 am),**

**Mon., Oct. 11 (7:30 pm – 8 pm), or**

**Tues., Oct 12 (7:30 pm – 8 pm).**

**A mandatory in-service retreat for all participants will be Sat., Jan. 30 (8:30 am – 11:30 am).**

Watch for announcements and applications starting in October.



# Youth Ministry...continued

## Youth R.E. Calendar 2011-12

**Note: Grade level following date needs to bring snacks to share with 8 others that session!**

September 11	<b>Meeting &amp; Kick-Off - 11:30 am –1:30 pm both Morning &amp; Evening sessions meet</b>	
September 18	10/11/12	Session 1
September 25	9	Session 2
October 2	8	Session 3
October 9	7	Session 4
October 16	6	Session 5
October 23	10/11/12	Session 6
October 30	9	Session 7
November 2 (Wed.)	G.I.F.T. = Growing In Faith Together 6 pm – 8 pm	
November 6	G.I.F.T. = Growing In Faith Together 11:30 am – 1:30 pm	
November 13	8	Session #8
November 20	7	Session #9
January 15	6	Session #10
January 22	10-12	Session #11
February 12	9	Session #12
February 19	8	Session #13
February 26	7	Session #14
February 29 (Wed.)	G.I.F.T. Gathering (6 pm – 8 pm)	
March 4, 2012	G.I.F.T. = Growing In Faith Together 11:30 am – 1:30 pm	
	Reconciliation Service Both Morning & Evening 6 pm – 8 pm	
March 11, 2012	Guest Speaker 11:30 am – 12:45 pm Morning & Evening sessions meet	
March 25	Reconciliation Service Morning & Evening 6 pm - 8 pm	
April 25 (Wed.)	G.I.F.T. Gathering (6 pm – 8 pm)	
April 29 (Sun.)	G.I.F.T. = Growing In Faith Together 11:30 am – 1:30 pm	