

Did you know . . .

## Come to **GIFT!**

Take **steps** to strengthen your faith life:

- continue the life-long journey of learning more about our faith
- be spiritually prepared for parish and liturgical events
- share in the wisdom of all generations
- enjoy a meal with friends and family
- go home with food for thought (and action!)



. . . you can be a good steward of our parish resources? You can change or cancel your GIFT reservation with 24-hour notice. Just call 440-946-1128 x 18.

. . . you can attend a GIFT session twice? You can attend both GIFT sessions each month. Some people like to do this when they like the topic and want to bring a friend; or if parents attend a family session, but would also like to hear the adult speaker. Maybe you want to volunteer at one session and be a participant at the other. Either way, you can come the second time for free!

. . . you can attend a GIFT session even when you don't have a ride? You can call the parish office for transportation at 440-946-0887.

. . . you can help GIFT run smoothly? You can volunteer in a variety of ways, big and small. Fill out a volunteer form or call 440-946-1128 x 21. Many hands make light work!

. . . you can see highlights of GIFT sessions? You can visit the GIFT In-Formation Board in the hallway across from the restrooms or go to [www.stnoel.org](http://www.stnoel.org) and click on "St. Noel Picture Gallery."



# GIFT

*Generations in Faith Together*



What to expect when you come to a  
GIFT Session

2010-2011

**Phonics for the Faithful:**  
*The Upcoming Changes in the Mass*



**Sunday, April 10, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Present the upcoming changes in the translation of the Mass
- Understand these changes in connection with the larger purpose of worship

**Adults who attend will** hear a presentation by Fr. Michael Woost, a Liturgical Theologian at St. Mary Seminary. Fr. Woost will help adults understand the new wording of the mass that will take effect in 2011.

**Children who attend will** actively review parts of the Mass and practice our responses. We will better understand our role in liturgy so that our level of participation might grow.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the ***National Directory for Catechesis*** to educate in the area of Liturgy.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents)** will attend presentation by Fr. Michael Woost. Teens, children, and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Phish and Phries, pasta salad, cole slaw, ice cream sandwiches

**Islam and Violence:**  
*What the Koran Teaches*



**Wednesday, September 22, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**(PLEASE NOTE: THIS GIFT SESSION IS OFFERED ONLY ONCE)**

**Objectives:**

- Understand what the Koran says about violence in light of aggressive Islamic movements
- Deepen the understanding between Muslims and Christians leading to our ability to live peacefully together

**Adults who attend will** hear a presentation by Dr. Zeki Saritoprak, the Chair of Islamic Studies at John Carroll. Based on information learned at this session, adults will process ways in which our understanding of Islam might change.

**Children who attend will** meet new Muslim friends and explore how Islam and Christianity are alike and different. We will work together toward greater understanding of one another.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the ***National Directory for Catechesis*** to educate in the area of Community Life.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents)** will attend presentation by Dr. Saritoprak. Teens, children, and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Stir fry w/chicken & assorted vegetables over couscous, pita bread, dessert



**Sermon on the Mound:**

*Sports as an Image of Life in Christ's Body*

**Sunday, October 17, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, October 20, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Recognize similarities between sports and the communal nature of the Church
- Appreciate that sports can illustrate how each person contributes to the Body of Christ

**Adults who attend will** view video clips and hear witnesses that illustrate God's presence and glory in sports and all human activities. Adults will share ideas and life experiences of batting slumps, team commitment and other parallels around making good moral choices.

**Children who attend will** connect our own sports team experiences to being part of the Body of Christ. We will rally together to become MVP's on God's team.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Moral Formation and Community Life.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- All adults (including parents) and teens will attend a presentation. Children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Hot dogs, slaw, beans, celery & carrot sticks, Cracker Jacks

**Mary Magdalene:**

*The Apostle to the Apostles*



**Sunday, March 13, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 16, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Understand the historical significance of Mary Magdalene and her role as the first witness to Jesus' resurrection
- Explore the path by which her original witness was misinterpreted

**Adults who attend will** hear a presentation by Fr. George showing that Mary Magdalene was the first person to experience the Risen Christ and that we owe her a debt of gratitude for her faith and courage.

**Children who attend will** meet Mary Magdalene and learn about her important relationship with Jesus. We will reflect on what our own relationship with the risen Jesus is like.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Scripture.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- All adults (including parents) will attend a presentation by Fr. George. Teens, elementary and preschool children will attend breakout sessions.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Chicken ala King over biscuit, salad, assorted cookies



**The Power of Wisdom:**  
*Stories from the St. Noel Community*

**Wednesday, February 16, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**(PLEASE NOTE: THIS GIFT SESSION IS OFFERED ONLY ONCE)**

**Objectives:**

- Gather wisdom from the lived experience of the St. Noel community for all stages and ways of life
- Understand that God speaks to us through our experiences and those of others

**All participants who attend will** travel between “pods” of interest where they may gather and share wisdom. Together we will hear one another, hear God speak to us, and celebrate the wisdom found in our parish.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the ***National Directory for Catechesis*** to educate in the area of Missionary work.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL PARTICIPANTS** will travel to personal areas of interest within the building. A session will be designed specifically for preschoolers.
- Everyone will gather for Closing Session

**Menu:** Pepper steak over rice, peas and carrots, fortune cookies (chop sticks will be available!)



**What Made Martin Mad:**  
*Catholics and the Protestant Reformation*

**Sunday, November 14, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**(PLEASE NOTE: THIS GIFT SESSION IS OFFERED ONLY ONCE)**

**Objectives:**

- Understand the historical setting and causes of the Protestant Reformation
- Appreciate the similarities and dissimilarities between Catholics and Protestants today

**Adults who attend will** hear a presentation by Fr. Tom Tifft, Professor of Church History at St. Mary Seminary. Based on information learned at this session, adults will process ways in which we might move toward greater unity today.

**Children who attend will** review basic beliefs of the Catholic Church. We will discuss how these beliefs affect our relationships and choices in the wider community, and be assured that it is okay to ask question about what we don't understand.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the ***National Directory for Catechesis*** to educate in the area of Catholic Faith and Tradition.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents)** will attend presentation by Fr. Tifft. Teens, children, and preschool children meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Pork Schnitzel, sauerkraut, German potato salad, German chocolate cake (coconut on the side)

**The Price of Faith:**  
*The Saints of El Salvador*



**Friday, December 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 12, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Commemorate the anniversary of the El Salvador martyrs by relating their stories
- Understand the political situation in El Salvador at the time of the martyrs and the Church's response
- Recognize our connection to people of faith in other countries

**Adults who attend will** hear and see a presentation by our parishioner, Chris Janezic. Chris has led many journeys to El Salvador including two from St. Noel.

**Families with children will** learn more about the people of El Salvador, the work of the Catholic Church there, and the story of the El Salvador martyrs. We will relate this story to our own experiences of being witnesses to Jesus today.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Missionary work.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- Breakout sessions of preschool children, families, teens, and adults.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Build-your-own Tacos, churros (cinnamon sticks) with vanilla ice cream

**Read, Pray, Love:**  
*How to Use Your Bible*

**Wednesday, January 19, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Friday, January 21, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Review and practice basics of how to read the Bible
- Discover God speaking to us through scripture and how to hold up our end of the conversation by praying with Scripture

**Adults who attend will** share in a presentation of Bible basics and review tools for using the Bible. They will be “given permission” to read the Bible and overcome a fear of using the Bible.

**Families with children will** use tools to build confidence in navigating the pages of the Bible. We will practice finding and reading passages, learn ways to pray with God's Word, and ultimately deepen our loving relationship with God and others.

This session addresses the expectations of the U. S. Bishops outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis* to educate in the area of Prayer and Scripture.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- Breakout sessions of preschool children, families, teens, and adults.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Pasta with meatballs and sausage, salad, garlic toast, Italian ice

