





# GIFT

*Generations in Faith Together*



What to expect when you come to a  
GIFT Session in  
2011-2012





Come to **GIFT!**

Come along on a journey of memories  
designed 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!)

### **Did you know . . .**





. . . 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. No matter which 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 Information 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."





**Our Mission in the Making:**  
*The Person and Path of Paul*

**Wednesday, April 25, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, April 29, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Learn about the life and travels of Paul
- Understand the nature of early Christian communities
- Appreciate our own call to mission and service

**Adults who attend will** hear a presentation by Father George. Through lecture and slides, we will see how Paul spread the gospel throughout the Mediterranean region.

**Families and children who attend will** be inspired to be active disciples and missionaries as they follow the footsteps of Paul.

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

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- ADULTS will attend presentation by Fr. George. Teens, families, and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session

**Menu:** Greek beef and potato stew on noodles, Greek salad, baklava



**Learning from Life:**  
*The War Experience of Stella Smiga*

**Wednesday, October 19, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, October 23, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Learn about life and faith through the experience of another
- Find hope in human struggle
- Perceive ways in which God acts in our lives




**Adults and teens who attend will** hear a presentation by Stella Smiga who suffered sadness and loss during World War II. From Mrs. Smiga's story, we will also hear a story of faith and hope that we can connect to our own lives.

**Children who attend will** hear and share stories of people (ordinary and extraordinary) who experience difficult life situations, and find ways they see God acting in the lives of these people.


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 and moral formation.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents) and teens** will attend presentation by Stella Smiga. Children and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session



**Menu:** Polish sausage, sauerkraut, chips, vegetable sticks, poppyseed roll





**Re-Gifting Christmas:**  
*Why Memories Matter*

**Wednesday, December 7, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 11, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Understand that memories and traditions are vehicles of faith
- Connect traditions to the Incarnation
- Value importance of using memories and traditions as a means of passing on faith.




**All participants who attend will** travel between “pods” of interest where they will share Christmas memories and traditions, making connections to the love of God poured forth through the Incarnation.

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

**Menu:** Pork roast, scalloped potatoes, salad, rolls & butter, chocolate cake (we wanted to serve suet pudding but didn’t think anyone would eat it!)



**The Sinner’s Hope:**  
*Three Approaches to a Forgiving God*

**Wednesday, February 15, 6:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, February 19, 12:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Objectives:**

- Understand the views of God’s forgiveness in three faith traditions
- Clarify our personal understandings of a forgiving God
- Understand religious practices accessing forgiveness in three faith traditions



**Adults and teens who attend will** hear a presentation by guest speakers in three faith traditions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

**Children who attend will** deepen their appreciation of a loving and forgiving God by focusing on the rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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, community life, and Catholic tradition.

**Format:**

- Meal and Opening Session
- **ALL ADULTS (including parents) and teens** will attend presentation by guest speakers. Children and preschool children will meet with catechists.
- All groups rejoin for Closing Session



**Menu:** Tri-colored pasta w/chicken Alfredo, three-bean salad, Neapolitan ice cream

