

“To another is given the gift of faith.”

Faith Formation Ministries

Adult Initiation Team

Adult initiation is the process for those adults interested in joining the Catholic Church. The process is ongoing; new inquirers may start at any time of the year. Team members facilitate discussion and reflection on various topics relating to the catechumen's or candidate's faith journey. Parishioners also serve as sponsors for those wishing to become Catholic.

Baptism Preparation Couples

As part of the baptismal preparation program, there is a host couple assigned to a couple wishing to have their child baptized. Host couples help parents reflect on their own faith commitment and their responsibilities as Catholic Christian parents.

Fresh Bread (Women's Faith Sharing Groups)

Small groups of women meet monthly to discuss and reflect on a mutually agreed upon book with a faith or spiritual dimension. There are groups that meet during the day, in the evening and on weekends. (Fresh Bread was the title of the first book used by the group.)

Marriage Preparation Couples

As part of the overall process of preparation for marriage, our parish offers a program of marriage preparation, facilitated by married couples trained for this purpose. The program involves six sessions on communication, finances, family relations, the sacramental character of marriage etc. The sessions are held at the home of the sponsor couple at the mutual convenience of the couples involved. Each married couple will only work with one or two engaged couples a year as there are other marriage preparation programs in the Archdiocese available to engaged couples.

MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing)

This is a nine week program for women, whether a mother or not. Through the process of personal and spiritual growth, the women have the opportunity to clarify their values, claim their own giftedness, and bring these new strengths to their family relationships and to the community. The sessions deal with issues that are common concerns in today's world for women of all ages.

Prayer and Reflection

A variety of opportunities provided for parishioners to gather for prayer and reflection include:

- The annual Christmas novena, an adaptation of Evening Prayer, is held December 17-23.

- The Church remains open on Wednesdays from 8:30 AM until 7:30 PM for personal prayer and adoration.
- On the First Friday of each month after the 8:00 AM Mass, there is a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Perpetual Help Devotions are held on Tuesdays after the 8:00 AM Mass.
- There are opportunities to reflect on the Stations of the Cross during the season of Lent on Friday afternoons and evenings.
- Parish mission, mini-retreat, or days of reflection are offered at various times during the year.

Retreats

Men of the parish are invited to make a retreat at the Jesuit White House Retreat center in South County in the spring. Women's retreats are offered at both the White House Retreat Center and King's House in Belleville.

Scripture Study

The group uses the Little Rock Scripture Study Series that combines video lessons, individual reading and reflection and group discussions to help develop a closer relationship with God. Scripture study meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM in the rectory basement.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS is a weeklong religious education experience for pre-school and young children that takes place in July. Children ages four through fourth grade are invited to attend. Volunteers of all ages (11 to 99) are needed to help as teachers, teacher's aides and helpers with crafts, games and snacks.