

Holy Cross Parish
Faith Formation
“Generations of Living Faith”
Programs and Schedules
2009/2010

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G.O.L.F. (Generations of Living Faith)

As we prepare for our third year of GOLF many ask what exactly is this Generations of Living Faith (GOLF) and where does it come from? John Roberto and The Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Connecticut developed this new and innovative approach to faith formation approximately ten years ago. In 2001 the Center for Ministry Development received a multi-year grant from the Lilly Foundation to work with parishes across the country in implementing a lifelong, intergenerational, events-centered approach to faith formation. More than 1000 parishes have implemented this approach across the United States to date.

Generations of Living Faith (we will call it GOLF) is an innovative approach to parish wide faith formation. In response to the bishops call that "adult faith formation must be the axis around which revolves the catechesis (education in the faith) of childhood and adolescence as well as that of old age."

As Catholic children tend to learn more about their faith at home by default and example, it is imperative that parents are equipped to be models of the faith for their children. Faith is one of those things that is more easily "caught than taught."

How does this Work?

Families and single adults (parishioners of all ages) will come together six to seven times per year to participate in learning sessions based on a set, systematic curriculum. Each 2 ½ to 3 hour session will include:

- 1. A prepared meal – parishioners will be able to enjoy a meal while relaxing and socializing with friends and family.**
- 2. Opening prayer and presentation of the theme for the session. This may involve a speaker, video, dramatic presentation, or actual experience (ie: if the theme for the session is baptism we would celebrate a baptism)**
- 3. Age-specific learning would involve breaking into groups so that learning may take place in a developmentally appropriate way. While separated for a short time into age-specific groups, adults and children will be learning about the same topic or theme.**
- 4. The whole group will re-gather for closing and sending forth with materials to take home – to help bring the faith alive in the home.**

Who Participates?

Absolutely Everyone! Holy Cross no longer provides the traditional CCD classes that have taken place in the past. In an effort to engage all of our parishioners in faith learning and formation, we have turned to this new way of thinking about faith formation that is not a school model, but an event-centered model designed to equip all parishioners with the experience and knowledge necessary to become true disciples of Christ. Parents will accompany children so that the entire family participates in faith learning. Parent of pre-schoolers, single, empty -nester and senior adults are also invited and encouraged to participate.

For those children who are in the second, ninth or tenth grade and are preparing for sacraments (First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation), separate preparation sessions will be held in addition to our GOLF sessions. Our Confirmation program will remain the same as it has over the past five years. We now offer a new program "Just for Kids" for children in grades 3 thru 6 to supplement GOLF (more information to follow in this handbook).

We sincerely hope that all will take part in this incredible opportunity to learn and grow in the richness of the Catholic faith and regain that Catholic identity that has become so muddled in this current culture.

The Six Year Spiral Curriculum

GOLF provides a six-year cycle of learning themes based on the events of Church life:

Church year and seasons

Sacraments

Creed

Morality

Justice

Prayer

Does this mean that we only participate for six years? No, it does not! After six years we will not repeat the sessions, but focus on different aspects or events related to the topic.

This coming year we will focus on the Church year and liturgical seasons. Each session will be designed to prepare each of us to celebrate the Church event. We will begin in November with preparation for Advent.

Help Wanted

In addition to the many volunteer opportunities that will be forthcoming for our New Generations of Living Faith (GOLF) program, we are also seeking volunteers for the following programs this fall:

- **Grade 2 Catechist for sacrament preparation** – commitment will be four times during the year in addition to the GOLF program – all materials will be provided.
- **Grade 9 & 10 group leaders** - this is a wonderful opportunity to participate with the teens as they prepare for Confirmation. There is no preparation required for each session, simply come and help lead table discussions following each presentation. Pizza is served at each session for your added enjoyment.
- **“Just for Kids” Teachers:** Using a traditional textbook – we need volunteers to work with our children in the program that will supplement, not replace GOLF. All materials will be provided
- **Childrens Liturgy of the Word** – Each Sunday during the 8:30am Mass the children are escorted to the Church Hall to hear the Word of God at their own level. This is a commitment of approximately six times per year for about 15-20 minutes. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity to share the faith with our young children. This is probably one of the most rewarding programs that we offer. Jesus is certainly visible in the faces of our young children.

To volunteer or to simply inquire please call Anne Tarallo at the office or email at atarallo@holycrosseaston.org or sign up on the registration form. Thank you as always for your generous gift of time.

Philosophy:

Generations of Living Faith is a life-long faith formation program. Catechesis at Holy Cross is designed to give all parishioners an in depth understanding of "what it means to be Catholic" and to incorporate faith into everyday life experiences. All adults, especially parents, are the primary educators of your children and we look forward to this journey in faith together.

Sacraments:

The Sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation are celebrated in Grade 2. This is a very important year for both students and parents. Reconciliation will be celebrated in January and First Communion in the Spring. Learning will take place through our family GOLF sessions and through separate workshops focused on each sacrament.

Confirmation Preparation. Any High School student wishing to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation must participate in the Holy Cross Youth Ministry program for at least two years. Faith formation sessions for Confirmation are held on Sunday evenings beginning with the 5:30 p.m. Youth Mass and continuing in the Parish Center Great Room until 8:00pm. Each session begins with social time and pizza. The students then break up into designated groups, topics are presented and group discussion ensues. In addition to the Faith formation sessions each Confirmation Candidate is required to participate in Youth Ministry activities, community service opportunities and retreats. Our goal is to give each candidate opportunities to experience what it means to be an active participant in the life of the Church and to live life modeled in Christ. Students will also be expected to participate with parents in of GOLF sessions.

Generations of Living Faith 2009/2010 Schedule and Fees

GOLF Session Schedule

Group 1	Sunday 11:00-1:00pm	10/18, 11/8, 1/17, 2/7, 3/7, 4/11
Group 2	Sunday 3:00-5:00pm	10/18, 11/8, 1/17, 2/7, 3/7, 4/11
Group 3	Tuesday 6:00-8:00pm	10/20, 11/10, 1/19, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13
Group 4	Wednesday 6:00-8:00pm	10/21, 11/11, 1/20, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14
Group 5	Sunday 9:30 – 11:30am	10/25, 11/15, 1/24, 2/21, 3/14, 4/25
Group 6	Sunday 9:30-11:30am	11/1, 11/22, 1/31, 2/28, 3/21, 5/2
“Just for Kids” 5-6pm	Tuesdays	11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6

Fees

Fees for the 2009/2010 GOLF year are:

\$50.00 per person

\$200.00 family maximum (does not include additional fees for sacrament preparation.

Children ages 5 and under are free

\$30.00 Senior Citizens over age 60

Sacrament preparation fees in addition to GOLF fees:

Grade 2: \$30.00 per child (covers cost of workshop materials and celebration of both sacraments)

Grade 9 or year 1 of Confirmation prep: \$20.00 per candidate plus \$50.00 registration fee (covers cost of food at Sunday sessions) Total \$70.00

Grade 10 or year 2 of Confirmation prep: \$50.00 per candidate plus \$50.00 registration fee (covers cost of food, retreat, and the celebration of the Sacrament) Total \$100.00

“Just for Kids” \$15.25 per student (covers cost of books)

Homeschool books “Family Guide” \$24.25 (only need to purchase once –covers all grade levels)

Student book \$15.25

Note: No person or family will be turned away due to financial hardship. Please contact the office (all financial information is confidential).

Topic and Curriculum Schedule for GOLF 2009/2010

Session 1: The Creed (what we believe)/ We Believe in God

Session 2: We Believe in Jesus Christ

Session 3: We Believe in the Holy Spirit

Session 4: We Believe in Christ's Death and Resurrection

Session 5: We Believe in the Church

Session 6: We Believe in the Communion of Saints

Grade 2 Sacrament Preparation Schedule

(all children are expected to participate in GOLF as well as attend the separate sacrament preparation classes listed below)

All families and children preparing for sacraments are expected to attend Mass each Sunday.

Wednesday September 23rd - Important Parent only meeting

Sunday September 27th Children only 9:30-11am

Saturday October 24th Children only 10-11am

Sunday December 13th Children only 9:30-11am

Sunday March 28th Children only 9:30-11am

Saturday April 10th Children only 10-11am

Saturday May 1st Children only 10-11am

Parent/Child Workshops

Reconciliation Workshop: Saturday January 9th 10am - 12pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday January 23rd at two sessions 10:00am and 12:00pm. Sessions will be assigned by class.

First Communion Workshop for at least one parent and child: Saturday February 6th from 10am-12pm.

Special Mass: February 7th at 8:30am for all second graders and families - the children will receive a special blessing during this mass.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Preparation Faith Formation Session Format

Objective: *To guide and assist our youth with the lifetime decision to live a good moral life and to follow Jesus Christ in the Catholic tradition through worship and service to others.*

Theme: In keeping with the US Bishop's theme for the Catechetical year: "Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word", we will base the year and all lessons and activities around the Gospel of Matthew 25:34-40. In this Gospel, Jesus reminds us that whatever we do for our fellow humans we do for him. We are asking the youth to see the face of Christ in all people. We continue to ask the youth to look beyond their material possessions and to live according to the teachings of the Catholic Church. We are asking them to respect themselves and others, to help those less fortunate, to make good decisions concerning their own physical and spiritual lives. In this culture of "if it feels good do it" we must guide our youth to stop and think and to consider asking themselves the question: what would Jesus do? This is no easy task for anyone and throughout the catechetical process the necessity for allowing the strength of the Holy Spirit into all of our lives and will be stressed. The importance of nurturing our spiritual lives through service and worship will be central to each "lesson".

Catechetical Focus: will be appropriately scheduled according to liturgical season

- The Ten Commandments: Corporal (Matt 25) and Spiritual works of mercy
- Prayer
- The Social teachings of the Church
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit

Grade 10 or Year 2: Sacramental Catechesis beginning in February

Small groups: Students in the Faith Formation Sessions will be divided into several small groups designated by a given Saint. Adult Group Leaders will lead each group in the guided activity and discussion sessions. Each Group leader will be responsible for leading group discussion, keeping in touch with the group between sessions via email or phone. Each group will become a small community and will take interest in each other's lives. Leaders will disseminate information about upcoming Youth Ministry activities, send Birthday or Get Well Cards, inquire about absences, etc...

Hopefully, this will lead to a more personal experience of Church for the teen and will convey to them that we as Church care very much about them.

Format for each Sunday session:

Youth will meet immediately following the 5:30pm Youth Mass in the Great Room.

20 minutes: snack and social time

5 – 15 minutes prayer or prayer service (planned by each small group)

20 minutes: Presentation of "lesson"

30 minutes: small group discussion or activity

8:00pm dismissal

Exceptions: Guest speakers, Field trips

Speakers:

Fr. George Piggford/ Fr. Daniel Kayajan: Social Justice

Dr. Ernie Collamatti: Christian commitment as a lifelong process.

Service agency representatives served by Holy Cross (My Brothers Keeper, Louison Shelter, etc)

Small group and individual Community Service Opportunities:

GOLF session help

Leaf raking for the elderly

Help Mainspring group serve meals

Brown bag lunches

Service at Louison Shelter

Clothing drive

Giving Tree

MBK – Christmas help

Various Holy Cross events

Serve at the 5:30pm Mass

Teen Bible Study – Come journey with us through the history of our faith as we explore the scriptures in an informal and interactive way. Call Mrs. Tarallo for more information as the dates and times of meetings tend to vary as we work around everyone's busy schedules. We will meet throughout the summer as well as throughout the year.

Holy Cross Youth Ministry

Middle School Grades 7&8

High School Grades 9-12

Holy Cross Church is pleased to announce the hiring of John Barata - a part - time Youth Minister. John's roles is simple - "to help teens deepen their relationship with Christ in today's world using today's vehicles of communication". This will include Social Events, Faith formation nights, Service programs, Retreat and much more.

Our program is focused around the dynamic and energetic teen liturgy experienced every Sunday night at 5:30 PM at Mass. Every other week, our teens will gather to unwind play games, have a discussion group, play pool and/or worship together in an evening of "Pizza and Prayer." Please visit our "Calendar" link (at our website) to learn more about upcoming Youth Ministry Nights, social activities, service opportunities, and more. We welcome ALL teens from Easton and Surrounding Towns!

Confirmation Preparation Schedule

All Sessions begin with Mass at 5:30pm and continue in the Parish Center until 8:00pm unless otherwise noted. Pizza and desserts are served after Mass.

September 20th

October 18th

November 1st

November 15th

December 13th

January 10th

January 24th

January 31st Grade 10 Candidate/Sponsor Workshop

February 7th

February 21st

February 28th Grade 10 only - Retreat 11:00am - 6:30pm (Mandatory)

March 14th

March 28th

******Important Parent Meeting - Wednesday September 16th at 7pm
Please mark your calendars***

Brand New!!

***"Just For Kids"
Grades 3 through 6***

In addition to GOLF, we will now offer an optional "Just for Kids" afternoon program that will meet once per month for additional classroom time for children in grades 3 through 6. This will enhance and reinforce what is learned in our GOLF program. The tentative time for this will be the first Tuesday of the month from 5-6pm from November to April. This will be offered in addition to GOLF, not in place of GOLF. Families must be registered in and regularly attend GOLF in order to participate. This, as all programming, will depend on having a sufficient number of volunteers in each classroom.*

We will be using the RCL/Benziger "Faith First" Textbook series that mirrors the program schedule of the GOLF program each year.

Homeschool" books will be available for those who cannot make an afternoon program, but want to supplement GOLF at home with the children.

**Based on a sufficient number of volunteers to work with the children - see volunteer sign up on the registration form.*

The cost of both programs will simply cover the cost of the books.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Please join the children of Holy Cross Parish as they journey through the Lectionary (Sunday Readings) each Sunday during the 8:30am Mass.

Children ages 4 and up are escorted to the Church basement to listen to God's Word at their own level. They return to Mass at the offertory.

This is a wonderful interactive way for our children to understand scripture and the Mass so that they may be more fully engaged during our liturgical services.

No need to sign up!

This program will begin Sunday September 27th!!

