

***Holy Cross Parish***  
***Faith Formation***  
***“Generations of Living Faith”***  
***Programs and Schedules***  
***2010/2011***



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

As we prepare for our fourth 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 1200 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 bishop's 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 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.**
- 3. At times 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.**

***Sacramental Preparation: 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 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 "Living the Moral Life." Each session will focus on Catholic Social teaching and morality. We will have opportunities to take what we learn into the community through numerous Service activities.**

## **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 classes and parent/child workshops that will help parents to actively participate in sacrament preparation.

**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 2010/2011 Schedule and Topics**

### **GOLF Session Schedule Dates**

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30am – 11:30am</b>	<b>10/17, 11/7, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/3</b>
<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3:15 - 5:15pm</b>	<b>10/17, 11/7, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/3</b>
<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:00 - 8:00pm</b>	<b>10/19, 11/9, 1/11, 2/15, 3/15, 4/5</b>
<b>Group 4</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00 - 8:00pm</b>	<b>10/20, 11/10, 1/12, 2/16, 3/16, 4/6</b>
<b>Group 5</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 – 11:30am</b>	<b>10/24, 11/21, 1/16, 2/27, 3/20, 4/10</b>

## **Generations of Living Faith 2010/2011 Topic Plan**

### **“Living the Moral Life!”**

**Love of God and Neighbor**  
**Respect for all Life**  
**Being Good Stewards**  
**Living Faithfully**  
**Being Truthful**  
**Mercy and Forgiveness (Lent)**

## 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.*

*Tuesday September 21<sup>st</sup> - Important Parent only meeting*

## Reconciliation Preparation Schedule

*Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> Children only 9:30-11am*

*Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> Children only 9:30-11am*

*Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> Children only 9:30-11am*

Parent/Child Reconciliation Workshop:

*Saturday January 8<sup>th</sup> 10am - 12pm*

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at two sessions 10:00am and 12:00pm. Sessions will be assigned by class.*

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## *First Communion Preparation Schedule*

*Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> Children only 9:30-11am*

*Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> Children only 9:30-11am*

*Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> Children only 9:30-11am*

*Special Mass (with Rite of Enrollment Ceremony) at 8:30am Mass followed by a First Communion Workshop for at least one parent and child: Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 - 11:00am.*

*First Communions are celebrated by class assignment and are a family celebration at Holy Cross. Please consider your desired First Communion date and time when registering.*

## *The Celebration of First Communion Schedule*

*Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> 12pm*

*Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 12pm*

*Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2pm*

# **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:** Service Project

## **Tentative Speakers :**

Fr. George Piggford: 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 - Grades 9-12 and 7&8**

**Our program is focused around the dynamic and energetic teen liturgy experienced every Sunday night at 5:30 PM at Mass. Each week and at special events throughout the year, our teens will gather to unwind play games, have a discussion group, play pool and/or worship together in an evening of Prayer. Please visit our "Calendar" link (at our website [www.holycrossyouthministry.org](http://www.holycrossyouthministry.org)) 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 26<sup>th</sup>*

*October 24<sup>th</sup>*

*November 7<sup>th</sup>*

*November 14<sup>th</sup>*

*December 12<sup>th</sup>*

*January 9<sup>th</sup>*

*January 23<sup>rd</sup> Grade 10 only - Retreat 11:00am - 6:30pm (Mandatory)*

*January 23<sup>rd</sup> Grade 9 only - Regular time*

*January 30<sup>th</sup> Grade 10 Candidate/Sponsor Workshop*

*February 13<sup>th</sup>*

*February 27<sup>th</sup>*

*March 6<sup>th</sup>*

*March 20<sup>th</sup>*

*March 27<sup>th</sup> or April 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the last session depending on the date of the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

*The date for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is available from the Bishop's office (usually) in December.*

*\*\*\*Important Parent Meeting - Wednesday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm*  
*Please mark your calendars*

**New Programs!!!**  
**"Just For Kids"**  
**Grades 3 through 6**

*In addition to GOLF, we will now offer\* an optional "Just for Kids" evening program that will meet for 5 week sessions in the Fall and Spring. This program will provide 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 Mondays from 6-7pm (please see dates below). 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.*

***Fall Session dates (6-7pm)***

*October 18<sup>th</sup>*  
*October 25<sup>th</sup>*  
*November 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*November 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*November 15<sup>th</sup>*

***Winter/Spring (Lent) dates (6-7pm)***

*February 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*March 7<sup>th</sup>*  
*March 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*March 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*March 28<sup>th</sup>*

***Stations of the Cross for Families with Children (Lent) - no need to register***  
***Fridays March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Church.***

**Middle School/Jr. High Mini-Courses**  
**Fall and Lent**

This is a new program that began last March with great success. We will offer two courses this year for the Fall and for Lent (winter/spring). Lessons are based on the GOLF theme for the year and feature presentations and interactive discussion. We also use technology and Catholic media for lesson enhancement. We will meet in the Great Room and use a table-group format. Each session will meet on **Sundays from 4:30-6:30pm** that will include the lesson/discussion time followed by our **5:30pm Youth Mass**. We invite and encourage all parents to join us for Mass.

**Mini-Course Schedule:**

**Fall Sundays 4:30-6:30pm**

***"Living the Moral Life"***

September 19<sup>th</sup>

September 26<sup>th</sup>

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

October 24<sup>th</sup>

November 14<sup>th</sup>

November 21<sup>st</sup>

**Lent (Winter/Spring)**

Dates TBA - registrations will take place in February

## 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 down to the Church Hall to listen to God's Word at their own age appropriate level followed by stories and discussion.*

*The children return to Mass at the time of 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 26<sup>th</sup>!!*

## 2010/2011 Program fees

### Generations of Living Faith (GOLF):

**\$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 - age 60+**

### Grade 2 Sacrament preparation fees in addition to GOLF fees:

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

**Example: A family of 5 with a second grader GOLF fee \$200 plus \$30 sacrament preparation**

**Total: \$230.00**

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**“Just for Kids” \$20.00 per student (covers cost of books and materials) addition to GOLF Fee**

**Homeschool books “Family Guide” \$25.00 (only need to purchase once –covers all grade levels)**

**Student book \$16.00 each grade level**

**Middle School/Jr. High Mini- Courses: \$25.00 per student per session**

### Fees for Confirmation Preparation:

**Grade 9 or year 1 of Confirmation prep: \$75.00 per candidate**

**Grade 10 or year 2 of Confirmation prep: \$110.00 per candidate (covers cost of food, retreat, and the celebration of the Sacrament)**

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

# Help Wanted

## Generations of Living Faith (GOLF) volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to make each session effective and successful

- Food preparation – volunteers needed to help prepare our meals
- Session Set-up and Clean-up: volunteers needed to help set up for meals and learning sessions and clean – up after each session.
- Catechists needed to work with the children during age level break-out sessions (dates and times TBA) – Preparation and materials provided.
- Babysitting Room: At least one adult per session for each group is needed for the younger children to provide our parents with opportunity to listen and work with their older children. Please consider signing up at least once during the year. (Details to follow)

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 six 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.
- **Middle School/Jr. High Mini-Course:** Table Leaders – to help supervise and lead discussions with our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. 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 age 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](mailto:atarallo@holycrosseaston.org) or sign up on the registration form. Thank you as always for your generous gift of time. All volunteers will be contacted in late August or early September.**

***Thank you all!!!***

***"It is within the Christian family that members are awakened to the presence of God and learn to pray and to form their consciences in light of the teachings of Christ and of the Church. Children learn by the selfless witness of their parents and other family members."***

***National Directory for Catechesis***

***We look forward to a great year as we all continue our journey of discipleship!!***

**Please Note: All dates could be subject to change as the year and circumstances present!!**