

Faith Formation

The Formation Commission coordinates all levels of educational programming in the parish, Catholic, and public school children through adults. The Commission's role is to foster cooperation, coordination, and communication among all groups and individuals involved in the education formation ministries of the parish. The Formation Commission coordinates the following committees and groups: Whole Community Catechesis, Adult Formation, Youth Ministry, Child/Family Formation, and Catholic School.





Advent Wreath Workshop

The Advent Wreath Workshop meets once a year on the first Sunday of Advent. Families use the wreaths they create at this workshop in their homes to spiritually prepare themselves for Jesus' birth at Christmas. Volunteers publicize the workshop and set up/clean up on the day of the workshop.

Contact: Steve & Vicky Connors, 202-244-0748

Vicky: vp14v@nih.gov

Steve: ConnorsS@intermedia.org

Catechists and Teacher Aides (School of Religion)

Do you love your Catholic faith and have a wholesome desire to make a difference in the lives of young children? Every year, over 400 students come through our School of Religion program for religious education and sacramental preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. In order for that to happen, 65 – 70 dedicated volunteer catechists and teacher aides are needed in a variety of grade levels on Sunday mornings or Tuesday afternoons. Orientation and training provided. For more information, and to discern your call to this ministry, please contact Therese Recinella, Director of Religious Education.

Contact: Therese Recinella, 202-449-3989 trecinella@blessedsacramentdc.org



The Catholic Letters and the Book of Revelation 2011

During the month of January we will study the Johannine Letters. The New Testament attributes three letters to someone named John. The identity of this writer remains a mystery. The three letters are not familiar to most Catholics but they are a wealth of information regarding life in the early Christian communities. February through the middle of May we will be studying the Book of Revelation sometimes called the Apocalypse. Most Catholics have little knowledge even of the existence of this work and if they do they tend to misunderstand it completely. It is easy to misunderstand it because of its highly symbolic and coded language. All sessions will take place in the Main Level of the Duffy Parish Center:

January 4, 11, 18, 25: Johannine Letters

February 1, 8: Apocalyptic Literature/Intro to the Book of Revelation

February 1, 15, March 1: Revelation 1-3

March 8, 15, 22, 29: Revelation 4-12

April 5, 12, 19: Revelation 15-19

May 3, 10: Revelation 21-22

Contact: Brother Malachy Broderick FSC, 202-364-2932

Centennial Family Pilgrimage

The Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament School of Religion's annual pilgrimage is a special time for the SOR students and their families to visit a local or regional Catholic holy place, including shrines, St. Matthew's Cathedral, monasteries or cultural centers. The pilgrimage facilitates building community and is an opportunity for all participants to deepen their appreciation for our Catholic faith as well as increase awareness of the holy places that are right in our midst. For the centennial year, invitations to the 2011 pilgrimage are being extended to all Blessed Sacrament families. It is scheduled for March 27, 2011 and will include Mass, quiet reflection and prayer, a tour and lunch. Time permitting and if clergy are available, confessions may be offered as well.

Contact: Nancy McDermott, 301-526-6526 NancyMcDermott@sgrlaw.com

Centering Prayer

Centering prayer creates the space of openness and receptivity for God's action through listening. "Shela", the Aramaic word Jesus used for "prayer" means "to listen to." The discipline of listening to God awakens our awareness of God's presence in us; it leads to interior resurrection by diminishing our false self. Our true self emerges and simple acts of service to the community that flow from our basic core of goodness bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We learn to be attentive to the present moment: the moment of God's presence. In silence, centering prayer becomes a universal prayer for the whole human family. Join us on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Ray Manning Center, Apartment 101. Call for entry instructions.

Contacts: Stasha Seaton
301-654-1962
sfseaton@aol.com

Ellen Kadow
301-656-2855
ekadow@hotmail.com



Faith Matters

The Centennial effort of Faith Formation will be focused on two series of discussions entitled "Faith Matters", one during Lent and one in the fall. These discussions will feature a speaker followed by discussion on the faith topic. Come enjoy an adult beverage in this low-key, open environment. If you have questions about the Catholic faith and wonder about its relevance for your life, this is the event for you. Childcare will be provided.

Faith Matters: March 22, 29 and April 5

Contact: Mary Shimp, 703-201-9803 mshimp@alumni.cmu.edu
Dcn Michael Roche, rochemj1@gmail.com



Infant Baptism Preparation Program

The infant baptism program at Blessed Sacrament has two main goals: 1) Help parents prepare for a meaningful celebration of the sacrament; and 2) Assist parents in an examination of their own faith and prepare them for the task of raising their own children in the Catholic faith. The program consists of two sessions (which do not have to be attended in any particular order) 1) *Meeting led by a priest or deacon* – deals with the meaning of baptism, the Rite of Baptism, and the symbols in the rite, and 2) *Meeting led by parents* – deals with the faith journey of the parents, the rituals and traditions of the Catholic faith, and the responsibility and joy of being the first teachers of the children in matters of faith.

Contact: Therese Recinella, 202-449-3989 trecinella@blessedsacramentdc.org

Wisdom Literature 2011

In January we will continue our study of Israelite Wisdom literature, specifically the Book of Job, the Book of Wisdom and the Book of Sirach. The Wisdom Books intellectual reflection about life's problems; they are a quest for universal truth, the rule of life and the nature of created reality. Wisdom is often described as a person accompanying God in God's act of creation; Wisdom is often personified as a woman in some of the Wisdom literature. Wisdom literature encourages the Wise person to question life, while at the same time analyzing and ordering common experience into rules to live by. Wisdom encourages discipline of thinking, careful reasoning and the control of the passions.

January 6: Book of Quohelth: Cps 1-12

January 13-February 24: Book of Job

March 3-17: Book of Wisdom

March 24-May 19: Book of Sirach

Contact: Brother Malachy Broderick FSC, 202-364-2932

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church, with well over three million active members in almost every country of the world. It has been active in the United States since 1931, has been approved by the last six Popes, and was endorsed by the Second Vatican Council. The main purpose of the Legion of Mary is to give glory to God through the sanctification of its members. We meet in the Ray Manning Adult Center every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We have two adult praesidia (groups) and one junior praesidium (group). New members welcome!

Contacts: Jovi Peralta, 301-942-0272 jovi156@aol.com
Claudia Diego, 202-363-1799 claudiacora@verizon.net

Centennial Lenten Parish Mission

A parish Mission is a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal for all parishioners and takes place over a period of four evenings, Monday through Wednesday (come to any or preferably all of them). This year, Fr. Kevin Nadolski and Fr. Jim Greenfield will lead our Parish Mission as we reflect on our relationship with God and others this Lent. The Parish Mission will begin at all the weekend Masses Saturday evening, March 12 and Sunday, March 13, 2011. The Parish Mission talks will start on Sunday, March 13 from 7:00-8:15 pm in the church and continue through Wednesday. These evenings are sure to put you in the right frame of mind for Lent and renew you spiritually!

Contact: Therese Recinella, 202-449-3989 trecinella@blessedsacramentdc.org

Library Programs

Become part of Blessed Sacrament's Parish Library and its friendly people! Your library provides books, magazines, films, and CDs for the parish community. There's an emphasis on great literature that specifically addresses Catholic interests. All parishioners are welcome to use the library and to borrow its contents. Also, library staff answer informational questions and can search the internet for you. Groups are welcome to meet in the library and make use of its resources. The collection amounts to over 6,000 books, tapes, CDs, videos and DVDs. Subjects include fiction, biography, art, scripture, social justice and spirituality, as well as books for very young children. The goal is to reflect your interests and your suggestions for new books and CDs are welcome. If you would like to become a library volunteer, possibilities include: cataloguing and preparing new items for the shelves, helping parishioners find books, planning special events such as speakers and author signings. If you can help or would like more information, please visit the library on the second floor of the Duffy Parish Center.

The Epiphany open house and crèche exhibit will take place on January 2 (plan to bring your nativity sets) in the library. Monthly dramatic readings and discussion led by Dr. John Dluhy will feature contemporary and classic plays chosen by participants. Outreach programs highlighting books of the season for those in assisted-living residences will continue, as will DVD screenings during Advent and Lent. See the bulletin and website for details or

Contact: Ellen Roth, 202-449-3974 eroth@blessedsacramentdc.org

Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter is a program designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together. The emphasis of Encounter is on private communication between husband and wife as they spend a weekend together away from tensions of everyday life, experiencing presentations given by a team of couples and a priest. This is not a retreat, a marriage clinic or group sensitivity training; it is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing marriage. Brochures are available in the vestibule at the Quesada Street entrance to the church, and announcements about Marriage Encounter weekends are regularly made in the parish bulletin.

Contact: Jack and Marilyn Gilles, 301-652-3214 jack@jagillis.com

Men's Retreat Weekend

The retreat weekend, scheduled for March 4-6, 2011 is open to all men ages 10 and up. Fathers can spend quality time with sons. The retreat begins on Friday with an orientation at 6:45 p.m. (Mass at 6:00 p.m.) and crab cake dinner (recipe for which has appeared in Washington Post) at 7:00 p.m. and concludes with lunch on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. The retreats are conducted in an atmosphere of silence. This 50-year parish tradition is led by the Jesuits at Loyola Retreat House in southern Maryland 35 miles southeast of the beltway on a cliff with a majestic view of a 16-mile wide expanse of the Potomac River (spectacular sunsets!). Fr. John has joined us practically every year which says a lot about what he thinks about this retreat given how busy his schedule is on weekends. For information and registration form go to www.loyolaretreat.org or call the retreat house at 301-392-0819 Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or email: reservations@loyolaretreat.org

For ride sharing, contact: Dr. Jim Richeson, 301-657-2695 jim@yourdentaldr.com



Marriage Preparation

Engaged couples who are planning to be married at Blessed Sacrament are required to participate in four marriage preparation sessions that are conducted by a parish priest and by married couples from the parish. Married couples that participate in the marriage preparation sessions share their own marriage journey with the engaged couples. Volunteer couples must be able to impart the Church's teaching on life, marriage, and the sacraments. Engaged couples meet with a priest first and then are referred for the Marriage Preparation program.

Contact: Katie and Brian Anderson, 301-657-4637 kathleen.anderson@comcast.net,
Chrisy Jelen and Jack Jaeger, 202-244-6349 jelen@comcast.net



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Would you like to learn more about the Catholic Faith? The RCIA is designed for adults who would like to learn (or even re-learn) the basic tenets of Catholicism in an atmosphere that is warm, supportive, and friendly. Specifically this class is for: 1) persons who wish to receive the sacrament of Baptism; 2) persons baptized in another Christian tradition who desire to become Catholic 3) persons baptized Catholic who wish to receive the sacraments of First Eucharist and/or the sacrament of Confirmation 4) anyone who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith for the first time or as a refresher. The sessions are free and imply no commitment to convert to Catholicism.

Contact: Therese Recinella, 202-449-3989 trecinella@blessedsacramentdc.org

Sacred Heart of Jesus Society

All parishioners are encouraged to join this society and participate in daily prayers, monthly adoration, and the annual novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the salvation of souls, reparation for sins, and the reunion of all Christians. The society will provide Sacred Heart badges and leaflets of the League of the Sacred Heart to interested parishioners. We focus on the love and mercy of God as manifested in His Sacred Heart.

Contacts: Charlie Missar, 202-686-2572 cdmissar@aol.com
Betsy Toland, 202-363-4343
Mary and Donald Cahill, 202-966-0823 mcahill789@aol.com

Serra Clubs

Serra is an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to promote, affirm and support vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life; and to assist its members to recognize and respond to Gods' call to holiness in their own lives. Membership is open to parishioners in the District and Montgomery County parishes. The Washington Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday for Mass at 7:00 pm in the Holy Family Chapel, Holy Redeemer Church in Kensington followed by 7:30 am meeting. The Downtown Washington Club meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 am Mass in St. Matthew Cathedral followed by 8:00 am Meeting.

Contacts: Washington Club: Mary Anne Corr, 202-362-7259 or Charley Missar, 202-686-2572; Downtown Washington Club: John Bayly, 202-363-6703 or Nancy McDermott, 301-920-0839

Sunday Morning Lecture Series

The Sunday Morning Lecture Series features faculty from local Catholic institutions of higher learning such as Georgetown University, The Catholic University of America, and Washington Theological Union. Lectures are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Duffy Parish Center Chapel. Coffee and rolls are served in the Duffy Parish Center beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Bread, Book and Brethren is a scripture study group of about 60 men and women of all ages and backgrounds. The group meets in the Duffy Parish Center on Wednesday mornings following the 8:00 a.m. Mass for a light breakfast. Using Collegeville Commentaries and Little Rock study guides we read scripture, ask questions, share insights and relate divine revelation to our daily lives. Scripture scholars visit weekly for talks which broaden our vision. In September we will begin our year long study of John's gospel. The group is open to all and welcomes newcomers throughout the year. Members of the group facilitate small group discussions, organize pot-luck luncheons, arrange for weekly guest speakers, offer the opening prayer, plan and coordinate the annual day of recollection at the Washington Retreat House and provide care and concern for members with particular needs. Our Centennial event will be March 2, 2011, complete with a birthday cake and a history of our group. Ed McCormick of the Washington Theological Union, will speak at this event.

Contact: Lisa Greenberg, 301-657-3457 eogreenberg@gmail.com,
Nan Levine, 202-244-7691 seekings7@yahoo.com

Women's Parish-Based Weekend Retreat

The parish-based weekend retreat assists individuals in their spiritual growth in an atmosphere of prayer and silence. Each year, a different theme is developed in order to encourage our ongoing spiritual journey. This year's theme is "By His Wounds We Are Healed" (Jesus Transforms our Human Condition and Heals Us from Within). The retreat will take place March 18-20, 2011, at the Loyola Retreat Center in Faulkner, Maryland. Generous blocks of time are provided for prayer, personal reflection. This parish-based weekend retreat assists individuals in their spiritual growth in an and the cultivation of a deeper relationship with God.

To register, please download and mail the registration form or register online at www.loyolaretreat.com or contact Loyola at 301-392-0801 or at reservations@loyolaretreat.org.

Contact: Jessica Walsh, 301-385-9713 jessica@cosmocontracting.com



Youth Ministry: C.R.A.V.E. Catechists/Helpers

C.R.A.V.E. (Catholic Religion and Values Explored) assists in the shared leadership or facilitation in one area of the high school youth ministry program: help with the faith and personal development of high school youth through invitation, discussion, learning, friendship, and prayer. Members meet on Sunday evenings following the 5:30 p.m. Mass (roughly from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.) in the Main Level of the Duffy Parish Center. Training is provided.

Contact: Mark McCaffrey, 202-449-3978 mmccaffrey@blessedsacramentdc.org