

GIFT - *Growing In Faith Together*

an intergenerational religious formation program

Will GIFT replace regular Christian Formation programs?

Households choose to be participants in GIFT or to involve their children in traditional Christian Formation programming. Sacramental preparation continues as it has with parent meetings, retreats and home texts for both First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Juniors in high school who choose to prepare for Confirmation will participate in that preparation process fully which means classes, large group events, a retreat and service projects.

Will our children learn the basics of the Catholic faith?

As always, this depends on the engagement of the family in their faith beyond attendance in any Christian formation process. The central themes of Catholicism are part of GIFT, and often there will be one “main” theme for the GIFT year for adults. Materials & on-line resources help parents reinforce faith at home. Students will have materials geared to their age level.

What is expected of my family if we participate in GIFT?

- Attendance at each of the 12 GIFT sessions.
- Working with resources at home to reinforce our Catholic faith.
- A commitment to Mass attendance and family prayer.
- Participating as a family in service and liturgy.
- Adult facilitation of a child/youth break-out group is greatly appreciated..

How will the experience benefit my family?

Adults deepen their understanding of their faith through presentations and interaction with speakers and in table discussions. All adult parishioners (and our cluster parishes), whether parents of grade/high school students or not, are welcome. One need not be Catholic to participate. The process provides a time for a meal, for a formational experience/discussion, for a deeper connection with other families and the parish, and for exploring Christian faith values with others.

Questions?

Please call the St. James Christian Formation office at (262) 251-0897.

GIFT



GIFT is an intergenerational approach to faith formation for everyone! It offers singles, older adults, couples, and families the opportunity to **GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER**. GIFT is a program for families who wish to experience an alternative to the traditional Christian Formation program.

GIFT includes:

A Meal – so we can relax, eat together and socialize.

An Opening Experience – An introduction to the theme of the session.

A Learning Session – Breakout sessions will allow for different ages to receive religious education in age-appropriate ways.

Group Sharing – Different age groups participate in shared projects.

Bringing GIFT Home – At home materials (some are on-line) with resources and activities for further learning opportunities are provided.

Sharing GIFT – Additional activities such as service, social gatherings, and liturgy involvement will help you bring the GIFT of faith into your family life.