

Growing in  
Faith  
Opportunities  
for All Ages



Pax Christi  
Catholic  
Church

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Dear Parishioners,



Welcome to our fifth year of Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.). In an effort to streamline our registration process this year, this booklet includes our parish preschool-adult faith formation opportunities. **It is your registration form and information for the year - please do not lose it!**

We will continue to build on our successes from past years, with some exciting changes and additions.

Last year two very positive additions were made with Diane Solheid-Miller and Joyce Lehman ministering to our preschool and elementary students. They allow us to offer age-specific catechesis to our younger members. Their talents will continue to enrich our parish.

A success from last year was basing our G.I.F.T. events on the four pillars of the Catholic Church. We will continue to learn about what we believe, how we worship, how we live, and how we pray in the upcoming year. A resource you may want to consider having in your home is *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The book answers many of the questions you may have about the four pillars. Cathy Tiegs, owner of Gifts of Faith (Rochester's only Catholic book store), will have that book and other resources available at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event or in her store at 1816 2<sup>nd</sup> ST SW.

Also, this year we have revised the fee schedule. The maximum annual fee any family will pay is \$120. For volunteering to be a catechist in a variety of ministry areas you may also receive a discount (see the yellow ministry form). Extra optional events such as skiing, bowling, etc. may have an event fee. If these fees cause a financial hardship, scholarships are available.

New this year, G.I.F.T. will be offered on Mondays and Sundays. We are replacing the Wednesday G.I.F.T. night with a catechist/parent faith sharing night. This will be an opportunity for our catechists at all levels (preschool-high school) to share their faith and to give input about the upcoming youth small group faith sharing sessions. Parents are also invited to attend these evenings.

Please take a few minutes to review all of the opportunities available, fill out the registration and volunteer forms and return them to the church office by September 1<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a drop box in the gathering area of the church for your convenience. We'll see you at the kick-off event on September 14<sup>th</sup> when we gather to enjoy Vallimar Jansen present, "*Passing on Your Faith by Growing in Your Own Faith.*"

Peace,

The G.I.F.T. team

## Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T)

### Kick-Off Event

**(all ages)**

Through a partnership with Resurrection Catholic Church and a diocesan grant from the "Seeds of Faith" campaign, we are pleased to offer nationally recognized storyteller/singer ValLimar Jansen on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

The evening begins with a meal at 5:00, followed by the presentation, *"Passing on the Faith by Growing in Your Own Faith"* from 6:00-7:30.

Here is information about ValLimar from the Spirit & Song website:

Blessed with an extraordinary voice, ValLimar Jansen is a highly regarded singer, cantor, and recording artist. She is also a college professor, a leader of worship and prayer, and a workshop presenter at conferences across the United States.

ValLimar received most of her training in music and performance from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She holds professional degrees in the arts from California State University, San Bernardino, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. She's got both experience and credentials!



She has sung and toured professionally throughout the United States, Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, and Japan. She played the role of Beneatha with the Broadway touring cast in the European premier of "Raisin." She went on to co-author a one-woman musical about the life of Ethel Waters that received a special commendation from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

## Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T)

**(all ages)**

G.I.F.T. is our primary faith-learning opportunity. Various topics based on the four pillars of the Catholic faith are explored throughout the school year in an inter-generational faith experience.

Monthly times are:

Monday—meal at 5:15, faith event from 6:00-7:45

**OR**

Sunday—meal at 4:30, faith event from 5:15-7:00.

### Topics for 2008-2009

September 15 or 21

Identity of Christ

October 20 or 26

Communion of Saints/All Souls

November 17 or 23

Love of God and Neighbor

January 19 or 25

Trinity

February 16 or 22

We Believe in the Church

March 16 or 22

Sorrowful Mysteries

April 27 or May 3

Living Faithfully (sexuality)

*Please fill out the enclosed blue Growing in Faith Together (G.I.F.T) family registration/stewardship form.*

Fee:

*none*

## Digging Deeper

(adults)

Did you hear something at G.I.F.T. that intrigued you?  
Do you have more questions? Do you just want to know more?  
Come and see.

Offered one Thursday a month from 6-7:30 pm.

### 2008-2009 dates

September 25	February 26
October 30	March 26
December 4	May 7
January 29	



The nursery will be available.  
Please let us know your needs.

*There is no fee or pre-registration required.*

## R.C.I.A.

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

(adults)

Do you have a friend or relative who may have a desire to become part of the Catholic faith? This is a gradual formation whereby those interested in learning or inquiring about the Catholic faith come together on a weekly basis to learn about scriptures and the teachings of the Church, while at the same time discovering where God is present in their lives.

This is for adults who are:

- Unbaptized
- Baptized in another tradition
- Baptized Catholic, but with no further sacraments
- Baptized Catholic, have received sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation, but want to expand their knowledge.

Contact Fr. Keefe, Fr. Caesar, or Joe Kelley to register.

## Catechist/Parent Faith Sharing

(adults)

New this year, on the Wednesday following the Monday G.I.F.T., we offer an adult night for parents and catechists to share their faith, get to know each other better, and to give input about our upcoming youth faith sharing sessions.

We will also be reading Luigi Giussani's book, *The Risk of Education*. All are invited from 7-8 pm, catechists remain for an additional half hour.

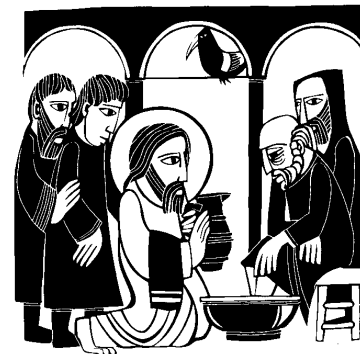
### 2008-2009 dates:

September 17	January 21
October 22	February 18
November 19	March 18

If you are planning on being a catechist,  
please mark these dates on your calendar.

The nursery will be available. Please let us know your needs.

*There is no fee or pre-registration required.*



## GS

Gioventù Studentesca (Student Youth).

**(9-12 grade)**

GS began in Italy in 1954 when Fr Luigi Giussani established a Christian presence in Berchet High School in Milan. At first the group called itself simply Gioventù Studentesca (Student Youth). GS has remained a nickname for the experience of Communion and Liberation on the high school level ever since. The GS group in Rochester meets at 6:30 pm on Saturday nights at Pax Christi. It is led by Angie Slattery and Sebastian Modarelli. The experience includes discussions, making meals together, hiking, canoeing, movies, and other community activities each month. We also participate in an annual winter and summer vacation with GS groups from all over the United States. New youth are always welcome.

Book we will be using:

*Is It Possible To Live This Way?* Luigi Giussani  
(McGill-Queen's University Press)      **\$18**

**Please bring your own book. It may be purchased at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event or at Gifts of Faith, 1816 2<sup>nd</sup> ST SW**

Activity code:

*GS – Saturday 6:30*

Fee:

*None. As activities arise throughout the year, there may be individual charges.*

## Confirmation Preparation

**(typically in the tenth grade)**

Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is an eight month preparation program which includes the following:

- G.I.F.T.
- faith sharing groups offered Sunday evenings
- large group events
- sponsor/candidate gatherings
- a retreat

Confirmation begins with a parent meeting at 7:30 pm on Sunday, September 14th after the G.I.F.T. kick-off event and concludes in the spring.

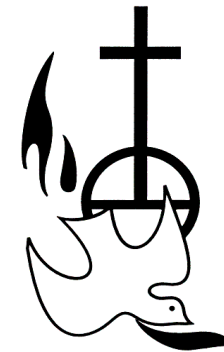
A full calendar can be found at [paxchristiyouth.org](http://paxchristiyouth.org). It will also be distributed at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event.

Activity code:

*CON - Sunday 6:30-8*

fee:

*\$60*





**PROOF**  
**(6-12 grade)**

PROOF is the name of our Wednesday night faith formation program. This gathering is PROOF that Christ is living among teenagers today.

We seek to empower teens to seek Christ in everyday life and live as disciples of Christ in the world. Grades 6-8 and 9-12 meet on Wednesday evenings. Our topics enhance the G.I.F.T. themes.

Middle School (6-8 grade):

6:30-7 pm Open R.O.C.K. (Come hang out before PROOF)

7-8:30 pm PROOF

High School (9-12 grade)

6:30-8 pm PROOF

8-8:30 pm Open R.O.C.K. (Stay and hang out after PROOF.)

Open R.O.C.K. will be held at the R.O.C.K., lower level of the former rectory.

PROOF is in the Centerspace, lower level of the church.

Books we will be using:

Middle School :

*The NAB Catholic Youth Bible* (St. Mary's Press)      **\$22**

High School:

*The Journey to Truth is an Experience*      **\$18**

Luigi Giussani (McGill-Queens University Press)

**Please bring your own book. It may be purchased at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event or at Gifts of Faith, 1816 2<sup>nd</sup> ST SW**

A full calendar can be found at [paxchristiyouth.org](http://paxchristiyouth.org).

It will also be distributed at the GIFT kick-off event.

Activity code:

PM57 - Wednesday 7-8:30

PH5630 - Wednesday 6:30-8

Fee:

None. As activities arise throughout the year, there may be individual charges.

Kingdom Kids

**(1-5 grade)**

KINGDOM KIDS are kids who live in the constant awareness that God is in charge. In addition to G.I.F.T., children attend age-specific faith sharing small groups that enhance the G.I.F.T. themes. The same group of children and adults meet throughout the school year. KINGDOM KIDS is offered Monday evenings at 4:45-5:45 pm and 6:30-7:30 pm.

Books we will be using:

First Grade:

*The Eager Reader Bible Story Book, Catholic Edition*

(Our Sunday Visitor)

*With Jesus Always Mass/Prayer book* (Sadlier)

Second Grade: (Sacramental Preparation)

*Call to Celebrate: Reconciliation* (Harcourt)

*Call to Celebrate: Eucharist* (Harcourt)

*With Jesus Always Mass/Prayer book* (Sadlier)

Third Grade:

*Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* (St. Mary's Press)

*With Jesus Always Mass/Prayer book* (Sadlier)

Fourth and Fifth Grade:

*Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* (St. Mary's Press)

*We Believe and Pray: Prayers and Practices for Young Catholics*

(Sadlier)

**Books will be distributed the first evening of KINGDOM KIDS, but if you have one please bring it.**

A full calendar can be found at [paxchristchildren.org](http://paxchristchildren.org).

It will also be distributed at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event.

Activity code:

KK445 - Monday 4:45-5:45 pm

KK630 - Monday 6:30-7:30 pm

Fee:

\$40

Children's choir will practice from 5:45-6:30 on Mondays.

Contact Joe Kelley  
([kellyjm@charter.net](mailto:kellyjm@charter.net))  
to register.

## First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

### Sacramental Preparation

**(usually in the second grade)**

Preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation/Eucharist is an eight month program which includes the following:

- G.I.F.T.
- faith sharing groups offered Monday evenings
- two Saturday morning retreats (11-8-08 and 2-21-09) for candidates and parent(s)

Faith sharing small groups are offered Monday evenings from either 4:45-5:45 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm. First Reconciliation begins with a parent meeting at 7:30 on Sunday, September 14 after the GIFT kick-off event and concludes with a communal reconciliation service on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8. First Eucharist preparation is from January-April. First Communion weekend is April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

A full calendar can be found at [paxchristichildren.org](http://paxchristichildren.org). It will also be distributed at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event.

#### Activity code:

RE 445 - Monday 4:45-5:45 pm

RE630 - Monday 6:30-7:30 pm

#### Fee:

\$60



## Children's Liturgy of the Word

**(3 years old - second grade)**

Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered every Saturday during the 5:15 mass throughout the year and also at the 9 am and 10:45 am Sunday masses during the summer. Children three years old through second grade leave mass after the Opening Prayer and explore the message further at their own level. They return after the homily.

There is no fee or pre-registration required.



### Sunday School

**(3, 4, 5 years old and kindergarten age)**

Sunday School is offered on Sunday mornings during the school year. These classes are held in a traditional classroom setting during either the 9 am or 10:45 am mass. In addition to Bible teachings, singing and learning about God's love, there is specific emphasis on the four pillars of the Catholic Faith.

A full calendar can be found at [paxchristichildren.org](http://paxchristichildren.org). It will also be distributed at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event.

#### Activity code:

SS 9 - 9 am mass

SS 1045 - 10:45 am mass

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
**(3, 4, 5 years old and kindergarten age)**

This philosophy is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. This program helps preschoolers become more familiar with the mass. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offered Monday evenings from 4:45-5:45 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm and also on Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:15 am.

A full calendar can be found at [paxchristichildren.org](http://paxchristichildren.org). It will also be distributed at the G.I.F.T. kick-off event.

Activity code:

COGS545 - Monday 4:45-5:45 pm  
COGS630 - Monday 6:30-7:30 pm  
COGS845 - Thursday 8:45-10:15 am

Fee:  
\$40



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
**(6-9 years old)**

Same description as above, with special emphasis on continuing the child's relationship with Jesus. Offered Thursday evenings from 6-7:30.

Activity code:

COGSTh6 – Thursday 6-7:30

Fee:  
\$40

**Growing in Faith Together**  
**(G.I.F.T.) Team**

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