



We are sending you this brochure and mailing to personally invite you to consider the many opportunities we will be providing for you and your family at St. Patrick Catholic Church. This year we are sending two, separate mailings to all registered families of the parish. This brochure is addressed to all families of the parish that have children. The mailing and this brochure presents an overview of the many opportunities we will be offering. Your response will help us better respond by providing you information about programs that you have shown an interest in.

Please note that because of the need to cover the cost of providing Faith Formation programs in the parish, we have instituted a registration fee. **If you register by Sunday, September 11 the fee is \$25.00 per family. If you register after September 11 the fee becomes \$50.00.** As you can see, we are increasing the amount of programs that we are offering for your family and needed to begin to provide for some of the additional costs. By your early registration, you will save on your costs and you will help us prepare for your families participation.

We are excited to extend our initial appeal to all members of your family to learn about their faith. We are asking you to complete the interest finder form for Adult Education included with this mailing and return it to us to show that you are interested in a particular program. You may use the collection basket, US Postal Service, or simply drop it off at the parish office. In addition, you will be able to complete the form on our website at <http://www.stpatricktc.org>. You will find all the forms you will need to register your son/daughter for Faith Formation this year included in this mailing as well as on the website.

Generations of Faith

Last year we began a process of building a foundation for an active adult education process. We made a commitment to continue the **Generations of Faith Model** of adult education. In the monthly sessions, we gather members of the parish family; this begins with a community meal and brings different age groups together for focused learning and provides material to take home that helps all of us reflect in a personal way about what was taught. This year our theme for the sessions will be **"Catholic Morality"**. Our Generations of Faith sessions will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning in October. Because of the need for adequate classroom space, all Generations of Faith sessions will be held at St. Francis High School/Holy Angels Elementary School.



Growing In Faith

Last year we introduced the **Growing Faith** project to the parish. The adult sessions were held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the library at St. Francis High School. The **Growing Faith** project is a hands-on study of the Catholic Catechism. Topics this year will include:



The Reign of God
Liturgy and Trinity
Forms of Prayer
One True God
Keeping Sunday Holy
Reconciliation
Faith, Hope and Love
Matrimony

Creation
The Inborn Hunger for God
Faith is our Response
Rites of the Church
Sin and Grace
Magisterium
Church is a Mystery
Telling the Truth

It is our intention that Father Don and Deacon John will be teaching in this series. This series will be offered on specific Wednesday evenings. We will send you the dates when you have returned your interest finder form.

Sacramental Preparation



We now enter our third year of providing **sacramental preparation** model that is based upon a “**coaching**” process of inviting parent(s)/guardians to be active in the preparation of their son/daughter. In the Catholic Church we identify the initiation sacraments as Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. For many families your child has already been baptized. We now begin the process of assisting you in preparing your child to receive the sacraments of Confirmation, reconciliation and the Eucharist. We will have a special



meeting for all parents of young people preparing to complete the initiation sacraments. We are offering two options for this important meeting and they are:

Sunday, September 25, after the 11:00 am liturgy; our meeting will be held in the church sanctuary.

Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 pm; our meeting will be held in the church social hall.

This important meeting will give you a first-hand look at how the coaching process works and the importance of how we as a parish provide resources for helping families live their Catholic faith. As a direct result of feedback that we received in the written evaluations of the coaching process we are developing optional learning sessions. Adults will come together and we will prepare you for your coaching session with their son/daughter in the sacramental preparation process by helping you understand your own Catholic faith.

StrengthsFinder

We will continue introducing the **StrengthsFinder** process to the parish. Through the **StrengthsFinder** process, participants are encouraged to identify the strengths they have as a person created in the image of God. Each of us is created by God with gifts and talents that we are called to use through our Baptism into the Christian, Catholic family. As we write this letter, we are formalizing our training programs to develop parish leaders that will help you on this exciting journey of finding what is special about you. We encourage you to let us know that you are interested in finding out more about the talents God has blessed you with.

Six Dates for Catholic Couples

If you are a married couple that is looking for marriage enrichment, we would like to invite you to take part in the **Six Dates for Catholic Couples** program. This program consists of thought provoking materials for six dates. Spouses begin their date by coming to the parish where they view a brief video. They will continue on their date with a special dinner held at the parish social hall and participate in active communication with their spouse and other participants. The program includes six videos that blend candid interviews with couples, real situations, questions, Scripture stories, and references to the Catechism and the Church’s teachings. The themes for the evenings are:



Remember your love story.

Recognize the good in each other and in your marriage.

What do you believe about marriage?

Learning to love requires overcoming selfishness.

Christ’s love for the Church is the blueprint of love.

Prayer is the source of strength in our daily challenges.

Our intention is to offer this program once a month through the year and help you and your spouse keep the love that you have for each other growing deeper through support from your parish and the commitment that you share together to love God as a couple.

Order of Christian Initiation

If you, a member of your family or a friend is interested in becoming Catholic, we are now ready to begin our **Order of Christian Initiation** process. The Order of Christian Initiation consists of the Rites of Christian Initiation. The rites, as we celebrate them here at St. Patrick, are designed for all participants that are seven years and older. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) are designed to be year round models that respond to the needs of those interested in becoming Catholic.

Awakening Faith

New this year is a program called **Awakening Faith**. **Awakening Faith** is a process to help parishes organize an outreach to **inactive Catholics**. It provides six basic and four additional sessions where Catholics come together and explore questions of faith. The sessions are a communal process for reconnecting participants to the Church. **Awakening Faith** offers a topical approach to becoming reacquainted with faith, with an emphasis on conversation and sharing. While it has a range of specific topics, the process itself readily engages Catholics at all levels. As such, it reconnects and renews people who have become open to deepening their faith. The topics include:



Spirituality: What's the buzz?
Do We Need the Spirit?
Can Mass Make My Life Meaningful?

Who is Jesus?
Can I Accept God's Mercy?
The Church and Me?

Our intention is to offer this program twice throughout this coming year. We intend to advertise in the local area and encourage you to attend, if you have a desire to know more about your Catholic faith. You may invite family or friends that you would like to help become closer to the Catholic Church and help them deepen their faith in God.

Financial Peace University

We are planning to offer the Dave Ramsey **Financial Peace University** again this coming year. It is a 13-session in-depth study of how to live without debt. In our last session that Jim and Anne Smith led, over \$13,000 of debt was paid off by class members who began using the principles as taught in this life changing course. Once we know who is interested in taking this course, we will look at the best time to offer it.

Parish Mission



We are again planning for a Lenten Parish Mission. What is different this time is that we are planning to use materials that will allow St. Patrick parish members to lead our parish mission. These materials will provide a process to help our community grow deeper in our understanding of the Eucharist. The program is entitled **Living the Eucharist**. This is a new, parish-based program designed to help revitalize parish life and spirituality through a more profound experience of Sunday Mass. It helps the entire parish—adults, teens, and families—grow in their Catholic faith and live it more fully as disciples of Jesus. This program runs throughout Lent for three years. Please note that when you show an interest in this program you are only showing an interest for one year. Parishioners can take

part in adult and teen faith-sharing groups, family activities, devotional and catechetical Lenten readings, and a prayer campaign. The multi-media program materials are comprehensive, proven, and easy to use. Ongoing support keeps your parish on the right track throughout the program. Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic exhortation, *The Sacrament of Charity*, inspired **Living the Eucharist**. Our Holy Father calls Catholics to renew our experience of the Sacrament of the Eucharist as a mystery to be **believed**, a mystery to be **celebrated**, and a mystery to be **lived**.

This Lenten program renews and heightens parishioner involvement in the Sunday Eucharist, helps parishioners connect the celebration of the Eucharist more closely with the mission of Jesus Christ and the Church, and inspires them to live more intentionally as disciples of Jesus during the week. Multi-media program materials reach out to parishioners in the medium that speaks most meaningfully to them. All **Living the Eucharist** materials are available in English and Spanish and incorporate the changes of the Third Edition of *The Roman Missal*, which will be implemented in parishes in Advent 2011.

Little Books and Living with Christ Sunday Missal

One thing we have come to recognize is that learning does not take place just here at the parish. We have begun a tradition of ordering the yearly version of **Living with Christ Sunday Missal** to help parish members prepare for Sunday liturgy and to use the questions for reflection with friends and family. In addition, we have sent the **Little Books** from Saginaw to each registered parish household. The **Little Books** include scripture and a brief reflection that asks for six minutes a day of prayer and reflection. Let us know that you use the books by responding on our interest finder.

We hope you will be as excited as we are by the many programs we are offering this coming year. Please help us by responding with this participant interest finder. We pray that the many options will help you as a parish member on your spiritual journey of faith.

Fr. Don

Father Don Geyman
Pastor

Deacon John

Deacon John Ashmore
Stewardship and Lifelong Learning Coordinator

*St. Patrick Catholic
Church*

*Adult Participant
Interest Finder*

First Name:

Last Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Please respond by checking the appropriate item. Check as many topics and programs that you are interested in. We will send you registration material at the appropriate time.

Generations of Faith

Growing Faith, Wednesday Night Adult Ed.

StrengthsFinder

Six Dates for Catholic Couples

RCIA- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

CIC- Christian Initiation of Children

Awakening Faith

Dave Ramsey "Financial Peace University"

Parish Mission for Lent: "Living the Eucharist"

Living with Christ Sunday Missal

Little Blue Book for Advent

Little Black Book for Lent

