

Come Grow in Faith!

Fall 2020

In Baptism God plants a Seed of Faith in each of us which we are called to nurture throughout our lives. Our faith may be challenged in the rocky soil of this season of Covid, but we believe God is still here to sustain us. Please consider joining us for one or more the following events designed to help us grow closer to the God who loves us even in these difficult times.



NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR ONGOING EVENTS

THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP gathers every other Monday at 1:30 PM via conference call to pray for the needs of our parish and community. To join simply dial 425-535-9043. Upcoming meetings will be held on September 21st, October 5th & 19th November 2nd, 16th and 30th etc.

GRIT & GRACE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB is an opportunity for women of all ages to gather monthly to discuss books that help them explore their faith. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 28th @ 6:30 in church hall at Holy Rosary when we will discuss chapters 3-5 of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. Watch the parish website for other upcoming titles and meeting dates.

BIBLE STUDY, led by Fr. Steve, meets weekly on Tuesdays at 6:30PM. Through an open conversation, those attending explore the coming Sunday's readings by learning about their context and discussing their meaning for us today. You may join us downstairs in the hall at Holy Rosary or via conference call at 425-535-9043. These sessions do not build on each other so feel free to drop in as you're able.

CURSO BIBLICO Fr. Miguel is leading a Spanish Bible Study on Thursdays at 5:30 PM in the rectory at Holy Rosary.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. All are welcome to stop by Holy Rosary on Wednesdays any time between 6 AM and 8 PM to pray in the presence of the Lord. For your convenience, the ramp door is left unlocked all day. You may sign up at the back of church for a specific time every week or drop in as your schedule allows.

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN-AIR MASS

Weather permitting, we will hold Mass on the front Lawn in front of the Rectory on Sunday, October 4th at Noon. Bring a lawn chair and sit on the lawn or pull up in your car and tune in through your car radio.

JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

We will be offering a study on the person of Jesus Christ based on Marcellino D'Ambrosio's book by the same title on Wednesdays beginning the week of September 30th at Holy Rosary. Participants may come in person or watch the video online and then join us via Zoom for discussion discuss.

This series aims to help us better understand the historical context of Jesus' life and how He is the foundation of our catholic faith and practice, by bringing us visually to the places where He taught and healed, died and rose from the dead for us.

Our weekly in person gatherings will begin promptly at 6:30PM. Those participating from home may watch the video anytime during the week, before joining us for the discussion around 7:00PM.

The suggested donation of \$30 for this series, will help defray the cost of a copy of Marcellino Dambrosio's book *Jesus, the Way the Truth and the Life*, the workbook, a timeline of Jesus' life, and an online credit to enable you to watch the video at your convenience. No one will be turned away if they can not make a donation.

Pre-registration is required to help us make sure to have enough materials on hand. You may register by going to our parish website or by contacting Mrs. Sweeney in the Religious Education office at 978-632-0253.

ASK THE PASTOR

Got questions? Fr. Steve will be hosting a series of Facebook Live presentations this fall answering *your* questions regarding the faith. Tune in to our Facebook page live for the first one on Monday, October 5th at 7 p.m., or watch in "rerun" with a link that will be posted on our website. Feel free to send him your questions using the form on our website, by dropping your question in the collection basket, or by leaving a message with our office staff. Then stay tuned to see his answers.

JOIN THE FLOCK

Did you know that when you sign up for Flocknote, you not only get regular communication from our parish, but you can also choose to join groups that will send you regular reminders about upcoming events or short videos on a variety of topics so you can enrich your faith from the comfort of your own home. Featured series this fall include:

AMERICAN CATHOLIC HISTORY: short stories and podcasts about the lives of Catholics who made an impact on our American History. Curious about Sr. Blandina's interactions with Billy the Kid or how George Washington came to support the building of the first Catholic Church in Virginia? Then this series is for you!

SEVEN DEADLY SINS: Using Dante's Purgatory, Bishop Barron talks about both the deadly sins that separate us from God's abundant love and the virtues which are their antidotes. Each week will offer a 10 minute video and reflection questions that you can respond to.

HEROES OF THE FAITH: These longer videos (30 min) share the inspiring stories of the lives of saints and holy men and women including St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena and St. John Newman.

Details on how to sign up for these videos are on the back of this sheet.

PROJECT HOPE

What experiences or words of wisdom have sustained you during these past difficult months? What has been a source of hope and a reminder to you that God is with us even at this time?

It has been suggested by a few parishioners that it would be helpful for people to be able to share their stories of hope and hear those of their fellow parishioners at this time. So, we will be collecting your stories to share on our website. You may post your story in your own words there or if you prefer you may contact Mrs. Sweeney in the office at 978-632-0253. She can listen to your story, write it up for your approval and then share it on our site.

BRINGING FAITH HOME

Is a weekly newsletter geared towards families which offers reflections on the Sunday readings, suggestions for ways to discuss them with your family and ideas on activities to help bring faith into the home. Parents may sign up to receive this newsletter directly through Flocknote or check it out on our parish website.

IN THIS ELECTION YEAR

There are many confusing messages about how and if we should bring our faith into the voting booth this November. The Catholic church does *not* tell anyone whom they should vote for but neither does it say that we can ignore our faith when voting. Rather the church reminds us that we have a responsibility to be politically involved for the good of others as well as a responsibility to form our conscience about the moral issues that face our country.

To help us be better aware of these issues the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has put together a document offering us guidance. You can find a link to this and other helpful resources on our parish website:

<https://annunciationgardner.org/election-information>

WHAT'S FLOCKNOTE AND HOW DO I JOIN?

Flocknote is a communication tool that allows us to keep parishioners up to date on events via email and text messaging. Once you sign up you may choose which groups you want to hear from. And you can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to 84576. There is no charge for this service though data rates can apply for text messages depending on your carrier.

There are 3 easy ways to join our parish's Flocknote group.

1. You may go to our parish's website AnnunciationGardner.org and click on the little lamb in the blue box in the upper righthand corner of our home page.
2. *OR* visit our parish's page at flocknote.com/AnnunciationGardner.
3. *OR* text "**GoodNews4U**" to **84576** from your phone.

If you are having difficulty signing up for Flocknote please feel free to contact the parish office at 978-632-0253. Let them know your name and email as well as what groups you are interested in belonging to and they can connect you.



DON'T FORGET OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

When making a visit during the week please use the front door at Holy Spirit and the Ramp door at Holy Rosary.

Monday at Holy Rosary 9:30 AM - 7 PM

Tuesday at Holy Spirit 8 AM - 1 PM

Wednesday at Holy Rosary 6 AM - 8 PM (Adoration)

Thursday at Holy Spirit 8 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday at Holy Rosary 9:30AM - 7 PM

Saturday at Holy Rosary 8AM - 6 PM
at Holy Spirit 2:30PM to 5 PM

Sunday at Holy Rosary 7 AM – 6 PM
at Holy Spirit 8AM - 1 PM

Watch our website AnnunciationGardner.org & bulletin for details about these and other upcoming opportunities to deepen your faith this fall!



