



# ST. ANASTASIA NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019  
Faith Formation  
Edition

## Faith Formation 2019-2020

As Catholics living in the world today, we are all hungry to be filled spiritually and to know God more deeply. Knowing this, at St. Anastasia Catholic Community, we want to offer opportunities to learn and grow in our faith for all of our parishioners. This includes are smallest and newest members, along with are most experienced members. All are welcome!

Starting this fall, Wednesday nights will be Family Faith Night. All are invited to join in a meal and Faith Formation; children, parents, grandparents, school families, even bring your neighbors.

As a parish we are striving to achieve our vision of Intentionally Making Disciples for the Kingdom of God. This goal is not achievable by a handful of people, we need you. We need our entire Catholic Community to do this. We invite you to explore all the opportunities explained in the following pages and join us this fall.

## Wednesday Night Schedule

**5:15 - Daily Mass**

**5:45 - Meal Served in Cafeteria**

**6:15 - Faith Formation Starts**

**7:45 - Faith Formation Concludes**

In past years we have asked for tuition for each student to attend Faith Formation classes. This year we are asking for a total stewardship of your time, talent and treasures.

Stewardship of time and talent can be used to help run our Faith Formation Programs. Whether it be special projects or time spent in the classrooms, your time and talents will support us in teaching our Catholic Faith.

Stewardship of treasure will help pay for the materials and content used in teaching our classes. We ask that you consider donating our suggested amount of \$10 per month to help cover costs.

**Adult  
Formation**

**Elementary  
Formation**

**Middle School  
Formation**

**High School  
Formation**

# ADULT FORMATION

The goal of our adult faith formation is to help men and women continue to grow in knowledge, faith, and fellowship. It is to serve as the nucleus of parish catechesis and the foundation for all programs and activities that serve families with children. In 1999, the United States Conference Catholic Bishops' issued a Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation, "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us". This document reminds us that every adult must do their part to be mature in faith and able to share the Gospel message.

## R.C.I.A.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is an inquiry process for adults who are interested in learning more about and fully joining the Catholic Church. It is specifically designed for those 18 and older who have never been baptized, those who were baptized in other recognized Christian



denominations, and adults who were baptized as Catholics, but have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

The RCIA process requires a formal preparation period for Inquirers who are presented the official doctrines and teachings of the Catholic Church through attendance at weekly sessions [catechesis], Bible study [scripture], Mass attendance [liturgy], prayer forms [spiritual development], and community service [social justice]. Adults are prepared for the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist [Communion]. Those who have been previously baptized are prepared for formal, professed belief in the Catholic Church and the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The liturgy for the RCIA participants with the celebration of their sacramental initiation takes place each year at the Easter Vigil liturgy on Holy Saturday night.

The RCIA process may include age-appropriate groups for teens and older children who have never been baptized. If you have a relative, friend or coworker who has expressed interest in the Catholic faith, or if you yourself are interested in finding out more about the RCIA process, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

## Parent Sessions for Sacrament Preparation

**Baptism Preparation Class**—Classes are held every other month on the second Saturday at 9am. This short class must be attended by parents in order to have your child baptized. The next classes are as follows: June 8th, August 10th, October 12th and December 14th.

**First Reconciliation and First Communion Preparation Classes**—Please see page 4 for more information.

## Scripture and Other Study Groups

The study of Sacred Scripture is an effective method of continuing our adult faith formation. Saint Anastasia is developing groups that meet weekly during the school year, some that meet year-round, and others that meet only during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent.

## GriefShare

Fall session starts September 9, concludes December 2; Winter session starts January 6, concludes March 30, and is held at 6:30 Hospitality Area. GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. You will be able to continue with GriefShare through the next 13-week cycle and view any of the videos you have not seen.

## Alpha

Alpha is a chance to explore questions about faith, life, and much more. There is a short video followed by group discussion time. This discussion time is the time where you are free to ask any question and discuss it. We meet once a week to seek answers and learn the basics of Christian faith. Sessions are free and open to everyone.

Fall Sessions begin September 11 thru December 18; Winter Session begins January 8 thru April 1 at 6:30 in the Hospitality Area. Free will offering dinner is included. Drop your children off and their Faith Formation Program and stop in for yours!



# ADULT FORMATION

## FORMED.org

Our parish code is: T6HXGR. FORMED is the revolutionary digital platform that gives your parish unprecedented access to video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church's foremost presenters. Whether fallen away or deeply engaged, at the parish or on the go, FORMED helps us reach you anytime, anywhere. A couple of programs that we will use this coming year from this site are Eucharist, Evangelization, Prayer, and TMIY (you may use all them in your home by entering the above code). The Fall Session for the following programs will begin Monday September 16 at 5:30 pm and Thursday, September 19 at 2 pm. The Winter Session will begin Monday, January 13 at 5:30 pm and Thursday January 16 at 2 pm. A text book is required for purchase for these programs.

# FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

## Lectio "Eucharist,"

"The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ"... these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre rigorously digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. We'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God's plan for our salvation. Ten Sessions.



## Lectio "Evangelization,"

Who better to look to for guidance on evangelization than the Apostles and disciples of the early Church? And what better place to read their stories than in the firsthand account of the Acts of the Apostles? In the ten-part series *Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles*, Dr. Mary Healy combines insightful biblical study with Church teaching and practical advice to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact their world for Jesus Christ. She explores topics such as the call of Jesus to evangelize, the power of the Sacraments, the role of charisms for building up the Body of Christ, techniques from St. Paul for reaching a secular culture, and more.

## Lectio "Prayer,"

Though prayer is one of the essentials of a thriving faith, we often feel as if we're talking to ourselves—or, worse, as if we're talking to no one at all. How can something so vital to the Faith be so elusive? In six video sessions, *Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God* captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and resolving to live in and through his love.

## That Man Is You (TMIY)

That Man is You! honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive! Fall Session begins September 13 at 5:45 am.



"Our faith is not only centered on a book, but on a history of salvation and above all on a person, Jesus Christ the Word of God made flesh."

-Pope Francis



# ELEMENTARY FORMATION

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Ages 3-6)

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be held Monday mornings at 10am. CGS responds to the child's silent plea at every age: "Help me come closer to God by myself." This program uses Montessori teaching principles to present the most essential realities of the Catholic faith to even very young children. Specially designed materials and inspiring presentations help children explore areas of faith formation appropriate to their developmental age.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers a simple, synthesized, profound involvement with the Good Shepherd, the Gospel and with the liturgical life of the Church through the presentations and the opportunity for the children to work and so reflect upon these points time and again, making them their own.

## Kids 4 Jesus ( Kindergarten—grade 5)

This year our mission is to bring our youth into a lived experience of Jesus with: evangelization lessons that nourish the heart (virtue lessons with monthly missions), catechetical lessons that nourish the head (intellect), service missions to move our feet to love our neighbors and most importantly weekly conversation with Jesus in the Eucharist or through the reading of the Gospel with directed prayer, for how do we meet and be friends with Jesus but by talking to Him frequently.

We will use the materials from the Family Formation program, but transform them into classroom lessons and "stations": breaking the class into about 3-20 minute segments: catechetical lesson, activity, and Adoration .

**Eucharistic Adoration** will be a regular 'station' in our program. Since we are talking *about* Jesus in class, we will also learn *from* Him in adoration with guided prayer and dialogue. The last class of each month will focus on a means to live like Jesus: we want to walk as Jesus not merely learn about Him. Students will be in teams and make the rounds to 4 stations: Saint and Scripture; Games; Craft or Music; Mission (a means to live out the virtue at home).



## First Communion Preparation (Grade 2 and up)

As a parent interacts with their child, both in the home and at Sunday Mass, parents can discern



their child's readiness to begin preparation for First Holy Communion by considering the following questions:

- Has your child been baptized and reached the age of reason (about seven years)?
- Is your child interested in receiving Holy Communion?
- Does your child have a sense of belonging to the Catholic Church/community?
- Does your child participate in the Sunday Mass according to his or her ability?
- Does your child pray at home?
- Does your child relate to Jesus as someone who loves and cares for him/her?
- Does your child understand that he or she is to care for others?

Sacramental Preparation information continued on next page.

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"My dear young people, the church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity, and the joy that is so characteristic of you!"

- Pope Francis

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If you are interested in volunteering for CGS, K4J or VBS, please talk with Jen Eckstein or email her at [religiously@stanastasia.net](mailto:religiously@stanastasia.net). There are many different ways that your time and talent can be used to help our children learn about the unconditional love that Christ has for them.

# ELEMENTARY FORMATION

## First Communion Preparation Continued

When parents determine that their child is ready to receive the sacrament, then they can participate in the sacramental preparation. Our program, which is open to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and older, will be taught at home with the help of provided materials and will consist of:

- Regular Mass attendance with guide books
- Two parent meetings—more information to come
- Two home books for parents to go through with their child (one for each sacrament)
- A morning retreat focused on the Eucharist
- A Learning Mass (While Father celebrates Mass, he will add comments to aid the student/parents to know the importance of a symbol, rite or prayer)
- Rehearsal prior to the First Holy Communion Mass
- Special seating will be held for the First Communion students and their families at:
  - A Blessing Mass in October, praying over the children for their journey towards the reception of the sacraments
  - Holy Thursday. To commemorate the gift of the Eucharist by Jesus at the Last Supper.
  - Celebration of the Sacraments in community (Reconciliation in January 2020, First Holy Communion in April 2020).

## Vacation Bible School

### Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed

Dig into vacation Bible school! Bible stories, games, crafts, and other activities will help us dig deeper to reveal the treasures in Jesus' parables.

Children ages 4 and 5 are invited to participate in the Early Childhood component, while children in grades K–5 have their own Bible school.

**Join us for VBS at St. Anastasia Gym on June 10-13, 6:00 – 7:30 pm.**

Please register by May 31<sup>st</sup> or email with attendance intention. Registration forms found in the office, via email or download from the website.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL FORMATION

## EDGE (Grades 6-8)

EDGE is Catholic youth ministry program created by **Life Teen**. Each year, three different 'EDGE Support' shipments are issued to subscribing parishes—each of which, covers a different subject of the faith—some examples of this include: The Holy Spirit; liturgy; creed; social justice; sacraments; church and prayer and much more. All of these **Life Teen** has geared towards “leading teens closer to Christ.” Issue, social, life and EDGE nights are all the different categories of nights in which the lessons are delivered.

The typical night begins with a Gathering and introduction to the time ahead and prayer. Next, depending on the night, those gathered dive into some sort of activity and scripture associated with the night. Following the activity, all gather together to



hear and engage in the main teaching segment. The night moves into small group discussion and activity time. Lastly, depending on the night, a gather and sending forth of all gathered concludes the EDGE time.

We are looking at developing a CORE Team for this program! Calling all those who are enthusiastic and interested in being a part of the fun and formation of these students—in a way that may be more reasonable for some!



# HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION

## Confirmation (Grades 9-11)

Confirmation for all grades is run differently than the traditional textbook-style classroom. The grades gather within their own small groups and with their very own leader(s). This process is unique as we are always looking for, and already do have, amazing adult leaders who are willing to take on the beautiful role of leading their groups in becoming intentional disciples of Christ.



Each grade within the Confirmation program has its own specific track for the year. Ninth grade students dive into some of life's most burning questions—looking for answers as to how and why we were created and what it means to follow Christ, while also considering who God created us to be and taking a look at discovering our personal identities found only in our loving Father. Tenth grade students dive deeper into personal identity, the identity of God, Himself, the topic of life and other issues that are impactful on our lives in the world today. Eleventh grade students conclude the process by focusing on answering the call of Jesus, the sacrament of Confirmation, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and finally, being sent on mission.

The teaching and discussion within each small group is done through the “YDisciple” video series on **Formed.org**. Confirmation candidates also complete tasks that give them the opportunity to further grow in their faith including service hours, sermon notes, and a saint report. Candidates in confirmation will also attend a retreat experience, typically in the summer between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. Steubenville (Rochester) July 12-14 is coming up for this year!

## Steubenville (Grades 9-12)

Steubenville—Rochester is a weekend conference that evangelizes, equips and empowers 8th-12th grade youth to become radical, joyful disciples. Youth experience nationally known speakers, Mass, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and much more.

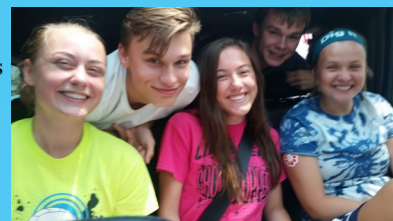
Steubenville—Rochester is held at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN. It is part of a series of 25 Steubenville Youth Conferences across North America that serve 50,000 young Catholics annually. This year's theme is *Belong* based off of this verse from 1 John:

**“See what love the Father has bestowed on us, that we may be called children of God.” –1 John 3:1**

## Mission Trip (Grades 8-12)

Mission trips provide an opportunity for youth to have an experience with Christ through service to others. Mission trips are intended to help out communities in need, but also to help our own hearts by growing closer to Jesus. Many say that these trips change their lives and that it is an experience they will never forget.

In Portland, our group will “come alongside local organizations and service partners to address issues Portlanders face, including struggles of homelessness, gentrification, historic and current racism, and concern over environmental issues. Our service will aid existing social service organizations in helping the most vulnerable populations of the city.



## Lifeline (Grades 8-12)

Do you want to see the young Catholic Church ALIVE? Join NET Ministries and over 1,000 young people on the first Saturday of every month for Lifeline Mass. With contemporary music, energetic crowds, and powerful presentations, Lifeline is focused on giving 8-12th graders in the Minnesota area the chance to experience the beauty of Mass with their peers.

We are looking to offer Lifeline nights for our youth as soon as possible! We are asking for any adults that would be willing to spend time with our youth during these nights & those that are willing to offer their service as drivers for these nights. Your service of time, friendship & resources would make these potentially life-changing experiences possible for everyone involved. Thank-you.

## Sunday Masses

Between now and the fall, St. Anastasia youth will be stepping-up their involvement with the 7:30 p.m. Sunday night mass! Youth will be greeting; ushering; singing/playing in the choir; and reading. All youth are warmly welcome to take part in helping and participating in these Masses! Please, come along side with our youth, alive and active in our church, to worship our King.

Please read entire Spring Newsletter for full explanation of programs and sessions offered.

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_



Adults Name	Session Attending	Start Date

[illegible]

Was your child baptized at St. Anastasia?	Yes	No	If not, have you transferred records to St. Anastasia?	Yes	No

In past years we have asked for tuition for each student to attend Faith Formation classes. This year we are asking for a total stewardship of your time, talent and treasures.

Stewardship of treasure will help us pay for the materials and content used in teaching our classes. The reality is that these classes cost money and we would not be able to offer them without you. We ask that you consider donating our suggested amount of \$10 per month to help pay for program costs. There will be an envelope included in your church offering envelopes each month as a way to donate. Another option is to set up a payment through our online giving site found on our parish website.

**Thank you for all that you do to support our Faith Formation!**

Copied to:

## Information Check



St. Anastasia Catholic Community

460 Lake Street SW  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Address service requested

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ORGANIZATION  
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A background graphic consisting of five overlapping circles in green, yellow, red, light blue, and dark blue. The text is centered over these circles.

**TO Intentionally**  
**MAKE DISCIPLES FOR**  
*the Kingdom of God*