



St. Michael Church, Wheaton, IL
Adult Faith Formation Programs
August 2011 – May 2012

Dear Friends,

Below is a listing of Adult Faith Formation Programs for 2011-'12, which are offered here at St. Michael to help you as an adult Catholic to continue to grow in your faith. Such programs are opportunities for you to deepen your understanding and love of our wonderful faith tradition, and to grow in your relationship with God. They are open to all adults, whether you are a St. Michael parishioner or not. Recently our bishops have reminded us that faith is a life-long journey, and that the life of faith must be constantly tended and nurtured if it is to produce fruit in our world. So I urge you to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to deepen your Catholic faith this year. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns please feel free to contact me in the Adult Faith Formation office (630-462-5045 or mpozen@stmichaelcommunity.org).

Sincerely in Christ,

Matt Pozen (Director of Adult Faith Formation and RCIA)

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA experience involves a journey of conversion toward full membership in the Catholic Church for adults who:

- + are unbaptized
- + are baptized in another Christian denomination
- + are baptized Catholics but have not received the sacraments of reconciliation, eucharist, and/or confirmation
- + are Catholics who have been away from the Church for a considerable time

The entire process takes about 7 months, beginning in early September and ending a few weeks after Easter. The sessions are on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:15 am. We are always in need of sponsors.

(Facilitated by Matt Pozen and Bob Calamia)

“Catholicism”: An Audio-Visual Program

In this 10-session DVD series, noted expert Fr. Robert Barron travels the world exploring the truth, goodness, and beauty of our Catholic Tradition. Then Matt Pozen will facilitate a brief discussion. There are no fees, books, or homework, and no need to sign up; just come whenever you can.

Sundays 10:30 - 11:45 am

Sept 25, Oct 16, Nov 6, Dec 4, Jan 22, Feb 5 & 26, Mar 11, Apr 15 & 29

Youth United Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

Or

Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30 am

Sept. 7 - Nov. 16

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

Catholicism and the World Religions

In this 20-session course we will explore the world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, and Islam. We will especially focus on how Catholicism relates to these great religious traditions. In preparation for each class, students will read one chapter from the book God Is Not One by Stephen Prothero. Each session will involve prayer, group discussion, and a PowerPoint presentation by Matt Pozen. Please call or e-mail to register.

Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30 am

Nov 30 – May 16

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

The Catholic Moral Tradition (11-Week Mini-Course)

Some of the most hotly debated issues in our contemporary Church and world have to do with moral questions: what is right and wrong. As Catholics we believe that the risen Jesus bestowed the Holy Spirit upon the Church to guide it into all truth, and that he established his apostles as authoritative voices in that search for truth. In this course we will explore some key contemporary issues in ethics and morality and the ways that our Church has spoken to these.

Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:45 pm

Sept 6 – Nov 15

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

(Facilitated by Matt Pozen: please call or e-mail to register)

The Catholic Social Justice Tradition (11-Week Mini-Course)

Catholic teachings on social justice and charity have often been called “our best kept secret”. While from the beginning of the Church believers have been living lives of charity and applying their faith to social issues, it really wasn’t until the 19th century that the Church developed a systematic teaching in this wide area of life. Come and soak up the Church’s prophetic vision for social justice, that you might apply this teaching to your own private and public life.

Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:45 pm

Nov 29 – Feb 21

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

(Facilitated by Matt Pozen: please call or e-mail to register)

Christian Spirituality and Prayer (11-Week Mini-Course)

Because of God’s revelation and history of salvation, which began through the people of Israel and culminated in Jesus Christ, Christians approach God in spirituality and prayer in unique ways. Come learn the history of Christian spirituality and the many styles of prayer that have developed in the Church over the centuries. In doing so, you will gain wisdom and insight into your own relationship with God. (Facilitated by Matt Pozen)

Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:45 pm

March 6 – May 15

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

The History of the Church

Year I: From Pentecost to 1300 AD

In this 2-year course we will explore the fascinating history of the Church, from its beginnings at Pentecost to the present day. Year I (30 sessions) will take us to about the year 1300 and the end of the Middle Ages. Each session will involve prayer, group discussion, and a PowerPoint presentation by Matt Pozen.

Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 am

Sept. 8 - May 17

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

The Creed: Foundation of Faith

An 11-Week Mini-Course

In this course we’ll use the Nicene Creed which we recite at mass each Sunday, as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, to explore the foundational beliefs and doctrines of our Catholic faith. By the end of this 11-week course you’ll not only understand better the words which we rattle off each Sunday, but you’ll have a greater appreciation for the beauty and richness of our 2000-year-old Catholic faith. (Facilitated by Matt Pozen)

Thursdays 7:00 - 8:45 pm

Sept. 8 - Nov. 17

Adult Education Room (1st floor of Faith Center)

Exploring Christian Spirituality

Prayer, readings from Christian spiritual classics, reflection, and discussion will guide us on our spiritual journey. We meet on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month, from 9-11am in the Adult Education Center on the first floor of the Faith Center. Come join us anytime. For more information, please contact Bob Calamia at 630-690-7488 or robmandmar5@sbcglobal.net. (Facilitated by Bob Calamia)