

## CHRISTIAN FAITH AND FORMATION CLASS

*Participants:* Middle School students (grades 6-8)

*Teacher:* Fr. Matthew Calkins; with assisting volunteers

*Time:* Mondays 5:30-6:30 pm

*Place:* St Timothy's Parish Hall

*Dates:* 3 times per month; 20 total; see schedule for dates

*Objectives:* over the course of study students will attain basic biblical literacy, develop an understanding of the Christian worldview, work on strengthening moral character and learn practices of prayer and reflection.

*Methodology:* Each class will incorporate a time for Bible study, including discussion, (20 min); a look a section of "The Outline of the Faith (or Catechism)" as presented in *The Book of Common Prayer*, pgs. 845-862 (15 min); and a weekly case study of a moral issue present in the lives of students or more generally in the world we live in (20 min). We will open and close with prayer, including an ongoing exploration of types and practices of prayer (5 min). Occasionally classes will feature guest teachers speaking about how their faith has impacted their life, work and family.

*Requirements:* Regular and punctual attendance. Homework: we encourage daily prayer and Bible reading (resources particularly appropriate for this age group will be made available). Each year the course will cover different Bible stories but reinforce basic understanding of Christian worldview, moral conduct and the practice of prayer.

*Schedule and curriculum:* (second semester)

- 1/15 Serve at Calvary/St George's Community suppers: 4:15-6
- 1/22 Topic: The Summary of the Law (Mark 12:29-34); Catechism: The New Covenant; Moral case: how can we love our enemies? Prayer of St Francis
- 1/29 Topic: What is Faith? Bible story: Hebrews: our ancestors in faith; Moral case: who do you trust? Prayer: for faith in the midst of uncertainty (Thomas Merton)
- 2/12 Topic: This I believe; Peter and Thomas, two disciples; Catechism: The Creeds; Moral case: making a commitment to Christ; Prayer: baptismal covenant
- 2/26 Topic: God the Father; Bible story: Sermon on the Mount; Catechism: God the Father; Moral case: unjust suffering; Prayer: Lord's Prayer
- 3/5 Topic: God the Son; Bible story: the baptism of Jesus; Catechism: God the Son; Moral case: restorative justice; Prayer: for renewal
- 3/12 Serve at Calvary/St George's Community suppers: 4:15-6
  
- 3/19 Topic: God the Holy Spirit; Bible story: Jesus led by the Spirit into the wilderness; Catechism: God the Holy Spirit; Moral case: temptations (Lenten practices); Prayer: for strength

3/23-4 Lenten Lock-in

- Meet at church 5:30 Friday eve.; finish Sat morning after breakfast. Friends are invited. Activities and late movie.  
Topic: the Christian Hope; Bible story: Jesus' arrest and trial; Catechism: the Christian Hope; Moral case: betrayal; Prayer: Christ in the garden
- 4/2 Topic: the Cross of Christ; Bible story: the Crucifixion; Catechism: atonement; Moral case: self sacrifice (story of the four chaplains); Prayer: Christ on the cross
- 4/23 Topic: the Resurrection of Christ; Bible story: Mary Magdalene's story; Catechism: the Holy Eucharist; Moral case: judgment; Prayer: the Great Thanksgiving
- 4/30 Topic: the Resurrection appearances; Bible story: road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-53); Catechism: The Church; Moral case: witnessing to the truth; Prayer: Alleluia the Lord has risen!
- 5/4-5 Diocesan Middle School Overnight at St Paul's Norwalk
- 5/14 Topic: the Body of Christ; Bible story: Jesus farewell prayer (John 14-15); Catechism: the Church; Moral case: church division; Prayer: for church unity
- 5/21 Topic: the Ascent of Christ and Descent of the Spirit (Ascension and Pentecost); Bible story: Acts 1-2; special exercise: homily for Youth Sunday; Prayer: for the Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church
- 5/27 Pentecost Sunday—party after church