

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING

Summer time is a perfect opportunity to “grow” a relationship with God. The hours of daylight are longer. Most of the usual activities competing with our participation in events at church (sports, PTA, dance lessons, homework) take a summer break. We don’t have to dress up. We can finish a meeting or session at 9 o’clock and still be home before dark. With this in mind OLN presents this array of opportunities in the form of classes, evenings of reflection, retreat days. Check the bulletins for added ones as the summer progresses. **To register for them or for questions: call the office 774-0066.**

THREE SERIES

Three stories, three faiths, one God. (3 sessions) June 16, 23, 30 7:00-8:30 ish.

Three religious leaders (Jewish, Muslim, Christian) share how their faith is enriched by friendships with people of other faiths. Each session will consist of a 30 minute video followed by discussion and reflection. This series is offered by 3 parish members of Voices of Faith (Roanoke Valley’s inter-religious initiative).

Ecumenism 101. (6 sessions) Read and discuss 3 of the documents directing our work as Catholics for the *full, visible unity* of the Church. Learn what is going on in Virginia to overcome the divisions that divide us at the Lord’s table. And explore what you personally can do to help in bringing the churches together. Will require some reading in between sessions. Wednesdays July 7, 14, 21, 28 August 4 and 11. 7-9 pm.

Week of August 2-6 (5 sessions) 5:00 – 8:30 pm (A whole church event)

Come explore the Church’s most powerful gift for spiritual growth and practical living. Each evening we will gather for a meal and a segment of the video series “**Eucharist, a taste of God**” and answer the question, “Why do we celebrate the Eucharist?” Fr. Joe Kempf offers a fresh look at the great treasure and challenge of the sacrament. This series is good for the whole family. Details will be available as the summer unfolds.

ONE TIME EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday July 15 10am -5:00 pm (includes meals and snacks) A Retreat for High School Graduates Now that high school has come to an end, how do you move on.? Nervous about preparing for life after high school? How do you prepare your faith for the adult world? This retreat is an opportunity to explore those issues around saying goodbye and moving on to a new part of life, whether its college or the working world.

One time Events (continued)

Tuesday July 20. 7:00 – 8:15 pm. A Primer on Prayer.

Come add to your “spiritual toolkit” by exploring the rich history and variety of prayer. Using the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the wisdom of the saints as our foundation, we will explore what prayer is, the different kinds of prayer, the many ways to pray, and the development of prayer from the Old Testament to today.

Monday July 26. 7:00-8:30 ish. (in the regular adult faith formation program).

A mid-summer’s night reflection on the San Damiano Cross. The huge cross hanging near our parish’s baptismal font is a reproduction of the cross that “spoke” to St. Francis of Assisi. We will briefly ponder that cross: looking at its style, where it was housed, its message to Francis, and we’ll examine in detail its component parts. The evening will also include a time to reflect on the messages it might be “speaking” to us today.

Friday, July 30 7:30 pm (-9:00ish) Taize’s Prayer Around the Cross. OLN offers this powerful prayer experience yearly on Palm Sunday night to help us enter into Holy Week. But this experience is scheduled weekly in the ecumenical community in Taize, France and in some parishes/campus throughout the year. What a wonderful way to spend a midsummer’s evening.

Saturday, August 14 (morning) Laps for Haiti: A Bike-a-thon. The recent earthquake caused concern for us all, including our young children. They feel helpless, as many of us do, when we consider the enormous tasks facing the Haitian people. This is an opportunity to address the compassion the children are experiencing. The younger children of our parish (ages 11 and under) will be invited to collect donations and then ride their bikes in the OLN parking lot to bring awareness back to the situation in Haiti. As part of this biking event, we will also offer instructions on bicycle safety. Watch the bulletin for specifics.

Thursday, August 19 10 am-5:00 pm (includes meals and snacks). Help I’m stuck in a locker! A Retreat for Rising 9th graders. Nervous about starting high school? Unsure what to expect? Wish you could go back to days of playdoh and recess? This is a retreat for rising freshmen to explore heading into the exciting new world of high school, with all its challenges and rewards!