

St. John's Adult Education and Spirituality Opportunities

Scripture and Theology Studies

Sun Morn Adult Education—Sessions begin August 23rd and are held each Sunday morning from 10:05-11:05am in the parish hall. This year, the group will focus upon topics associated with the "Year of Priests...Year of Vocations..." to include prayer, spirituality, the saints and the theme of all the baptized being "Called to Be Holy." All are welcome to attend.

Wed Eve Adult Education—The first half of the year will be a Bible study focused on the roots of the Mass and the Eucharist in Scripture. The second half of the year will focus upon the similarities and differences between the Catholic and Protestant traditions. The group begins meeting on August 19th from 5:25-6:25pm each Wed eve in the All Purpose Room. All parishioners are invited to participate.

Tues Morn Ladies Scripture Study--The Tues Morning Ladies Scripture Study will begin reading, *Mighty in Power: The Miracles of Jesus* beginning Tues., Aug. 18th. The ladies meet each Tuesday in the All Purpose Room from 9:15-11:00am. All are welcome to attend.

RCIA--for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or who would like to become Catholic. Sessions begin on Wed., Sept 9th from 7:15-8:45pm in the parish hall. Please contact Christina Semmens, 603-0225, csemmens@stjohnbchurch.org for more information. For additional resources about the Catholic faith, go to the St. John's Home page and click on "Our Catholic Faith."

Just Faith--JustFaith is a program that explores how the Sacred Scriptures and Catholic Social Teachings invite us to live out the Gospel call for justice in the world. During the 30 week program, participants will participate in retreats, immersion experiences as well as focus upon topics ranging from the scriptural background of justice and faith, preferential option for the poor, hunger, nonviolence, consumerism and third-world issues, to name just a few. The Sunday evening and Wednesday evening groups meet from 6:30-9:00pm beginning August 30th and September 2nd respectively. For those interested in participating, or would like to know more, please contact Cathie Buechler, 256-325-4606, catherineb@hgala.org

Prayer Groups and Retreats

Eucharistic Adoration--Occurs on First Fridays immediately following the 8:30am mass until 9:00pm. All parishioners are welcome to come and spend time in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on the first Friday of each month. For more information, contact Maura Edwards, 837-0385.

Holy Hour--each month immediately following the First Saturday mass at 8:30am. All parishioners are welcome to attend this hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in addition to Scripture readings, music and time for reflection.

Ladybug Rosary Group--Ladybug Rosary Group meets Tuesday mornings at 8am in the church to pray the rosary and offer intercessory prayers on behalf of the children of the parish. Nursery is available. Please contact Rita Nieves, 325-3121 for more information.

Intercessory Prayer Group--meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm to pray for the intentions of the entire St. John's parish community. Contact Miguel Rodriguez, 464-5866, for more information.

Retreats--Days and/or evenings of reflection for all parishioners are offered during each fall and spring. Specific days/times will be advertised in the bulletin. For more information, feel free to contact, Christina Semmens, 603-0225, csemmens@stjohnbchurch.org.

Faith Sharing and Journeying with Others

St John's Mother's Ministry (SJMM)--SJMM will be resuming its regularly scheduled meetings the week of August 17th and will be reading *Living the Catholic Faith: Rediscovering the Basics* by Archbishop Charles Chaput. SJMM meets each Tuesday OR Thursday morning from 9:15-11:15am in the parish hall OR Thursday evening from 6-8pm in the All Purpose Room. Nursery is provided.

Married Fellowship--looking to share your faith and meet other couples in the parish? Then Married Fellowship is for you! Married Fellowship consists of groups of married couples who meet once a month in one another's homes to share a simple dinner while sharing and discussing their faith. If you are interested in participating, please contact Gene Downs, 830-9425, gldowns@knology.net.

Mommy and Me--Group of mothers with younger children who meet each Wed morning at 10:00am in the nursery to socialize and share their faith as their children play. For more information, contact Christina Semmens, 603-0225, csemmens@stjohnbchurch.org.

Men's Ministry--Men who meet the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings of each month from 8:00-9:00pm in the parish library to learn about and share their faith. Contact Eric Hawkes, 325-7282, eric_n_jennifer@yahoo.com.

Exploring the Word Faith Sharing Groups--Parishioners who meet weekly in small groups to reflect and discuss the Sunday readings. Days, times, and locations vary. For more information, contact Terry Trinko, 325-3259, trinko@knology.net.

Women Sharing the Word--Women of the parish who meet to reflect upon and share about the Scriptures of the week using the resource, *The Word Among Us*. The women meet each Wednesday in the All Purpose Room from 9:30-11:00am beginning September 9th. All are welcome to attend.

Other Opportunities for Prayer, Faith Sharing and Service

Interfaith Mission Service (IMS)-- "Breaking Down Barriers, Relieving Human Suffering and Building Respect" among those of different faith traditions and races is the mission of Interfaith Mission Service (IMS). Celebrating its 40th year of work here in the greater Huntsville-Madison area, IMS has ongoing activities and events that are open to any interested persons. For more information, contact Christina Semmens, 603-0225, csemmens@stjohnchurch.org or go to the IMS website, www.interfaithmissionservice.org.

St Vincent de Paul (SVDP)--meets every Tuesday evening from 7:00-8:00pm. SVDP is a spiritual organization that provides hands-on help to needy families in the Madison area. They support those in need with food, prescriptions, rent and utilities. Each week, the requests are distributed to two-member teams who then visit the families and assess their needs. All parishioners are welcome to participate. Contact Gene Wrobel, 837-7133 for more information.

Cursillo Ultreya--Cursillo is literally, a "short course in Christianity." Cursillo weekends are offered two weekends annually in the Diocese of Birmingham. After attending a Cursillo weekend, Cursillistas are encouraged to meet regularly in small, personal groups in order to reaffirm their Christian commitment to each other and to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Contact John Kutsor, 721-0422.

Legion of Mary (LOM)-- The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church. The main purpose of the Legion of Mary is to give glory to God through the sanctification of its members. Members meet once a week for prayer, planning and discussion. Then they do two hours of definite work each week in pairs and under the guidance of their spiritual director. All parishioners are welcome to attend meetings held each Saturday morning from 8:30-10am) Contact Chris Sharp, 461-0602.

Marriage Encounter-- The Marriage Encounter weekend focuses on communication between husbands and wives and produces a conducive environment for couples to spend time together away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life as they focus on each other and their relationship. Contact John and Teresa Simmons, 772-8344

Knights of Columbus (K of C)-- The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society and is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. Contact Danny Garcia, 721-9938.

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDS)-- is a canonically recognized secular order within the Church that devotes itself to a special devotion of Our Lady of Carmel and to participate in her Order, the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Meetings of the Madison Study Group of OCDS occurs on the First Saturday of each month at St. Joseph Catholic Church (2300 Beasley Avenue, Huntsville, 35816) from 8am-1:30pm. For more information contact Bobby Pearson, 256-509-2441, madisonocds@discalcedcarmelites.net