

St. John XXIII Family Faith Enrichment Sessions 2023-24

St. John XXIII Parish is excited to offer the following “Family Faith Enrichment Sessions” to all of our parishioners. As a family that participates in our CRE program, we ask that you attend at least one of these sessions during the 2023-24 academic year *in addition to* one of the LIFT (Learning in Faith Together) sessions in February. Of course, you are welcome to attend more than one! All sessions take place on the 4th Monday of the month (except LIFT) from 6:00-7:30pm in rooms 141/142.

For planning purposes, please sign up for the sessions you plan to attend at least one week in advance. You may register online here:

<https://stjohn23rd.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/113/responses/new> (or scan the QR code at the end of this document)

September 25 – “Celebrating Christ Present” This session helps participants to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the central Christian sacrament—the Holy Eucharist. The session focuses on the words of Jesus at the Last Supper: “Do this to remember me,” and encourages us to truly remember Jesus whenever we celebrate Eucharist, as well as in all of our daily activities and attitudes.

October 23 – “Scripture and Liturgy” This session is designed to help the participants to see how the Mass that is celebrated in the Catholic Church today finds its origins in “the breaking of the bread” that was celebrated by the early Christian Community. It shows how today’s Eucharistic liturgy is based on the early Christian community’s experience of the risen Jesus as this is recorded in Scripture. By participating in this session, we look to regain something of the joyful attitude and commitment which characterized the early Christians.

November 27 – “With These Gifts: Eucharist as Thanksgiving” In this session, we will explore more deeply what is meant by Eucharist, which originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving. During the liturgy of the Eucharist, at the Preparation of the Gifts, the bread and the wine are being prepared. However, we are also being prepared. The gifts of bread and wine represent you and me. We bring all of our gifts in thanksgiving to the Lord’s table. As they are transformed into the body and blood of Christ, we too are transformed when we eat and drink the body and blood.

January 22 – “Praying into Sunday: Eucharistic Adoration” Eucharist Adoration, spending time and showing respect for the Eucharist, draws us closer to Jesus and to the members of his Church. It increases our desire to participate in the Sunday liturgy. These are the purposes of Eucharistic adoration: to help Catholics carry the spirit of Sunday mass into the other six days of the week, and to help us prepare for the next mass on the Sunday that is coming. During this session, we will explore what Adoration is, how to pray this devotion and how it prepares us to encounter Christ more fully in the Mass.

February 18 or 19 LIFT – Learning in Faith Together “Eucharist: Source and Summit” The Church teaches that the Eucharist is the “source and summit of all Christian life,” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1324). In the Eucharist, we find the source of our greatest desire for connection with God and the summit of our deepest longing, which unites us to Christ and one another. During this session, we will explore what that means to us in our celebration of the mystery of the Eucharist as sacrifice, meal and real presence. (ALL CRE families are expected to attend one of the two sessions offered. To register, go here: <https://qrco.de/lift24>)

March 25 – “Do This in Memory of Me” As we prepare for our most holiest of weeks, how can we enter into this sacred time in a more meaningful way? In this time of Eucharistic Revival, we will focus more deeply on the signs and symbols of Holy Thursday and the institution of the Eucharist, as well as what it means for us today.

April 22 – “Gathered by Eucharist: Sent in Mission” The closing blessing at Mass challenges each of us to go in peace to love and serve. It is not just a nice idea – it is a real challenge. We are supposed to do that – just like the Gospel of Matthew said – feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison. We, too, must find a way to bring the Good News to others. During this session, we will look at how the Eucharist sends us out into the world transformed and what that means for us in practical ways.

For more information, contact Maureen Rotramel at rotramelm@stjohn23rd.org or Dawn Goodno at goodnod@stjohn23rd.org

To register for the above sessions, scan the QR code below with your phone!

