

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION (CONTINUED)

Baptism Preparation Classes

Baptism of adults is scheduled through participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program described below. A Catholic parent wishing to have a child (6 and under) baptized must be a registered and active parishioner for a minimum of three (3) months prior to the date of baptism. Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to setting a date for the baptism. Classes are generally held on the third Thursday of each month. See the bulletin for specific dates, times and location of the classes. Godparents must meet the requirements of canon law. For information about the classes or about the sacrament of baptism, please contact the parish office at 756-1213.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

In order to enhance our children's understanding and appreciation of the Word of God, one Sunday each month we invite children ages 6 to 12 to move to the Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word for a separate celebration and explanation of the Scriptures by trained catechists. With a sufficient number of catechists, Children's Liturgy of the Word is generally offered on the third weekend of the month at the Saturday 5:00pm and the Sunday 8:45am, 10:30am, and 12:15pm Masses. We welcome catechists or assistants to help us. For information, please contact Ernie Salera at esalera1@comcast.net.

Ladies Bible Study Group

The women's study meets weekly throughout the school year to provide an opportunity for women to further their understanding of the Bible and God's work in their lives as well as enjoy fellowship and support. The group meets on Mondays from 7:00-9:00pm (from September through May). For information, please contact Patsy Barrow at 753-7470 .

Parish Religious Education – P.R.E.

Religious education classes for children ages 4 years through grade 8 are taught by volunteer catechists and provide age-appropriate instruction in the Catholic faith. All Catholic children between 1st grade and 8th grade should be receiving religious education every year – either in a Catholic school or in our PRE program. Registration is held beginning in May and classes are from September through May. At other times during the year, children may be registered by calling the religious education office at 756-1213. Times and dates for all parish religious education activities are announced in the Sunday bulletin. PRE classes for 4 yr. old – 8th Grade are held on Sundays from 10:15-11:45am at St. Francis of Assisi School.

Generally, **First Reconciliation** is celebrated in the fall and **First Eucharist** is celebrated in the spring when the child is in the second grade. Confirmation is celebrated in the Easter season with those in the eighth grade or older. Diocesan requirements state that a child must be enrolled in religious education classes for at least one year prior to sacrament preparation. Children preparing for the sacraments at a Catholic school must also be registered at St. Francis in August if they plan to receive the Sacraments with St. Francis Parish.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – R.C.I.A.

Comprehensive instruction in the Catholic faith is offered for those interested in or considering becoming Catholic. A team of dedicated parishioners will accompany participants on this journey of faith. RCIA sessions are held on Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00pm, September through the Easter season. This program is also open to those who were baptized Catholic but who, for whatever reason, did not complete their Christian initiation with the sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist. Arrangements are also made for children or teens seeking to enter the Catholic Church or complete their sacraments of initiation either through the PRE program or through RCIA. For information, please call the parish office at 756-1213, email office@stfrancismemphis.org, or complete the Inquiry Form found on the "Becoming Catholic" page of our website.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

Our parish school offers an excellent academic education steeped in the Catholic tradition. The school serves full time students from 3-year old Pre-K through 8th grade. In particular, the preschool is state-certified and offers the option of full-time classes for 3K through K and of part-time classes for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. For enrollment information, please contact Susan Fetz, our Admissions Director at 901-388-2548 or by email: susan.fetz@sfawolves.org. Visit www.sfawolves.org for more information about our school.

Sunday Bible Study Group

This group is open to all adults: young or old, single or married. Various organized studies of scripture are undertaken. The group meets on Sundays at 11:30am (following the 10:30am Mass). For information, please contact David Crowder at 757-5880.

Vacation Bible School

Children (grades 5K-5) learn how God has worked in the lives of His people by experiencing a week of activities, drama, music, dance, snacks, etc. Youth and adult volunteers are actively sought as the program is organized and conducted entirely by them. The program is usually scheduled in June or July on dates and times announced in the bulletin. For information, please contact the religious education office at 756-1213.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

2016 - 2017 DIRECTORY OF PARISH MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

For information about all Worship ministries, please contact the Parish Office at 756-1213 or email office@stfrancismemphis.org or visit our website www.stfrancismemphis.org.

Altar Server

Boys and girls from Grade 4 and up assist the celebrant at weekend Mass and other liturgical services. St. Francis has an active program for high school servers as well as those in lower grades. This ministry requires that you have received your First Holy Communion and participate in training classes here in the parish.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Men and women distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful during weekend Eucharist and other liturgical services. This ministry requires that you be a practicing Catholic, regularly receiving Communion, participate in a Diocesan training course, and receive the approval of the pastor.

Lector

Men and women proclaim the readings from the Word of God along with the General Intercessions during our worship services. This ministry requires that you be Catholic, participate in a Diocesan training course and receive the approval of the pastor.

Minister of Hospitality (Usher)

Men and women greet parishioners and guests participating in the Mass and other liturgical services, help with seating, provide directions or assistance, distribute the offertory baskets, distribute bulletins after Mass and see that the church is tidied up after each celebration.

Music Ministry – Traditional Choir/Cantors/Musicians

The St. Francis Traditional Choir sings weekly during the 10:30am Mass (September-May) as well as other liturgical celebrations and special concerts. Cantors lead the worshipping congregation at each Mass. Those with vocal and musical talents are encouraged to share them with our parish family. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in Room 109 of the Parish Life Center.

Music Ministry – “Bells of St. Francis” Handbell Choir

The Bells of St. Francis are always looking for new handbell ringers. The ability to read music is very important.

Music Ministry – Contemporary Choir

The contemporary choir sings weekly during the 12:15pm Mass as well as other liturgical celebrations. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the church. This group is by invitation only.

Music Ministry – Funeral Choir

This choir has the uplifting function of providing music for funerals. Their vocal performance gives comfort to the families of the bereaved and adds a positive note to an otherwise solemn service. No auditions or previous vocal experience is necessary to sing.

Music Ministry – Youth Choir

The St. Francis Youth Choir provides music for Mass on Sundays at 5:30pm (September-May). This choir welcomes high school students. The music includes selections from a variety of popular praise and worship sources.

Sacristan

Women and men who care for the Sanctuary, including the sacred vessels, altar linens, candles and other articles used in our Eucharistic and other liturgical celebrations. They also assist with our decorations for the liturgical seasons. Teams volunteer one Saturday per month to prepare our worship space for the weekend Masses. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

MINISTRIES OF OUTREACH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

Kitchen Angels

Members of Kitchen Angels provide meals and assistance as needed to parishioners during illnesses or when a loved one dies. For information about this ministry, please contact the Parish Office at 756-1213.

Ministry to the Homeless

St. Francis parishioners, organized into three groups, prepare and serve dinner once a month to the women and children at the North Memphis shelter operated by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. Meals are delivered and served on the first and third Thursday and the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 4:30-6:30pm. For information about this ministry, please contact Kenny Bowen (3rd Thur.) at 755-6344, Irene Sablehaus (4th Tues.) at 901-388-4252, or Michelle Guzzo (1st Thur.) at 218-5593.

MINISTRIES OF OUTREACH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS (CONTINUED)

Ministry to the Sick/Homebound/Elderly

Ministers visit and often take the Eucharist to parishioners who are homebound or in hospitals, as well as to those in the four nursing homes within our parish boundaries. They try to be helpful and to perform tasks which will make life easier. Most importantly, they offer fellowship and caring to those they visit. Volunteers participate in a diocesan training session and are certified by the parish. Those who take the Eucharist to the sick also participate in the training required to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. For information about this ministry, please contact Pat Crowe at 372-1437.

Prison Ministry

Volunteers visit and attend Mass with the men and women in various local jails or prisons, as well as meet occasional special needs. A training program is provided for interested persons. For information, please contact Bill Payne at 901-494-1513.

St. Vincent DePaul Society

As the charitable arm of the church, the St. Vincent DePaul Society responds to the needs of those in the community, particularly within parish boundaries, without regard to race, color or creed. It endeavors to meet whatever short term needs exist, such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care, assistance with utilities or other bills, etc. The Society also sponsors a soup kitchen and a holiday Angel Tree. Financial assistance and volunteers are always welcome. For information, please contact Judy Cupp at 385-9474 or dgcupp@att.net..

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

Confraternity of Christian Mothers (CCM)

CCM promotes Christian family values in the home and provides all parish mothers an opportunity for fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and fun. Activities have included guest speakers, rosaries, socials, family events and parenting workshops. Membership is open to all parish mothers, regardless of their child's age. For more information, please contact Ellen Saba at Ellen@cakeoccasion.co (not .com).

Garden Club

The club installs and maintains decorative gardens on the grounds of St. Francis of Assisi Church, especially the courtyard, Parish Life Center, and rectories. The primary goal of this club is to beautify the church in order to give glory to God and to make the church memorable for everyone who visits. The secondary goal of the club is to honor St. Francis, our patron and the patron saint of ecology, by providing a hosting and feeding site for migrating monarch butterflies. For information, please contact David Finkelstein at 751-2063.

Good Friends (Senior Adults)

Good Friends is a social organization of parishioners and their friends age 50 or over (approximately). The purpose of Good Friends is to get to know each other better and have fun doing so. Activities have included local excursions, dinners, weekend bus trips, an Alaskan cruise, C.P.R. and safe driving classes, and service projects. Good Friends meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 6:30pm – usually for a catered dinner. For information, please contact Tom Viotti at 901-207-3160 or at 865-789-2427.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a worldwide Catholic men's group promoting church, family and community through a variety of programs and activities. The Timothy J. Coyle Council 9317 meets at St. Francis on the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm. For information about how you can become a knight, please contact Danny Doyle at ddoyle57@comcast.net, or ask any knight.

Ladies Auxiliary

The members of this organization assist the Knights of Columbus with various activities including parish dinners and picnics, and sponsor youth dances. Meetings are held quarterly and are announced in the parish bulletin. Open to all women of the parish 18 and over. No affiliation with the Knights of Columbus needed. For more information, please contact Judy Rogers: sfa.ladiesaux@gmail.com.

Library Volunteers

The Parish Library, located in the Church building, provides parishioners with opportunities to explore and enjoy scripture, our Catholic faith and teachings and to hear and read from our renowned scholars both past and present. The library has a collection of 1600 books and over 200 tapes and videos. Open Sundays after morning Masses & Tuesdays from 9am – 2pm. For information, please contact Evelyn Harmeyer at 213-4394.

Oktoberfest

Our annual parish festival, Oktoberfest, is a 23-year Cordova tradition. The festival runs from Friday evening and all day on Saturday featuring live music, entertainment, great food, games for children and adults, a bratwurst cooking contest, arts & craft vendors and plenty of fun for the entire family. The festival needs many volunteers and is a wonderful way to meet your fellow parishioners. Please watch the bulletin for details about Oktoberfest 2017. For information, contact Chris Lomasney at candelomasney@comcast.net.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

As an expression of God's love, this group gathers to pray, knit or crochet and socialize while making prayer shawls for those facing illness or difficult times, Baptismal blankets, and hats and scarves for the homeless or needy children and adults. Meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 am in Room 111. For information, please contact Marilyn Piccatto at 266-4180.

Rosary Makers Guild

The Rosary Makers Guild makes rosaries for the parish, the community, domestic and foreign missions and for our armed forces. New members are welcome at the Parish Life Center on Thursdays at 7:00pm in Room 111. For information, please contact Sam Kok at home (901) 753-7293.

Scouting – Cub Scouts

St. Francis is the chartering organization for Cub Scout Pack 457. There are Dens for boys in Grades 1-5. The Cub Scout program emphasizes God, family, and country. Various related activities as well as those involving nature and the environment are planned on a regular basis. There are weekly Den meetings and monthly Pack meetings. For information, please contact Jose Ortiz at 901-493-1412.

Scouting – Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 457, chartered by St. Francis, strives to get boys (ages 11 & up or those who have completed 6th grade) outdoors at least once a month for activities such as camping, canoeing and hiking, and have them be able to take care of themselves indoors and out. A variety of projects and activities are planned monthly. Weekly meetings are held on Monday evenings in the cafeteria of St. Francis of Assisi School. For information, please contact Harold Urban at 901-230-8105 or at scouts411@gmail.com.

St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group

This is a group of Catholic men who gather for prayer and fellowship and who are committed to supporting one another in a deeper life of holiness. They are striving to make a difference in their homes, parishes, workplaces and communities. The St. Francis group meets on Saturday mornings at 6:45am in Room 111 of the Parish Life Center. For information, please contact David Finkelstein at 751-2063.

Youth Athletic Programs

St. Francis sponsors numerous sports programs throughout the year. Current youth programs include basketball, tee-ball, softball, baseball, cheerleading, soccer, football, cross country and volleyball and are divided into two divisions: Non-competitive for children ages 4, 5 & 6 and structured league play (Parochial Athletic Association) for children in grades 1-8. Participants must be enrolled in either St. Francis of Assisi School or in the PRE Program of St. Francis. Information and registration for all sports programs is announced in the Sunday bulletin. For information, please contact the Athletic Director, Mrs. Kareen Baird, at 388-7321 or email kareen.baird@sfawolves.org.

Youth Ministry – Junior High

Edge is a Catholic middle school (7th and 8th grade) ministry aimed to present the truths of the Catholic faith in a hands-on and relevant format that features talks, skits, videos, small group discussions and sharing. The format is designed to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, educational and social needs of our middle school youth. Edge meets every Wednesday night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Outings and retreats are announced in the parish bulletin. For information, please contact Jeff Bogue at 901-756-1213 or email him at jeff.bogue@stfrancismemphis.org.

Youth Ministry – Senior High

LifeTeen is the high school (9th through 12th grade) youth ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Church. LifeTeen is designed to minister to high school teens from a Catholic perspective, providing spiritual growth, faith education and social events. LifeTeen meets every Sunday night during the school year immediately following the 5:30pm Mass, from 6:30-8:30pm. Components of LifeTeen are weekly gatherings, retreats, Teen Leadership in the parish community, Service and Outreach to those in need, and family ministry. For information, please contact Jeff Bogue or Michael Brooks at 901-756-1213.

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

Adult Faith Formation – Forward in Faith

Classes on Scripture, doctrine, liturgy, morality and various other topics are offered throughout the year for those Catholics who wish to grow in their faith. Some are single sessions, others continue for a few weeks. Some classes are offered in English and others in Spanish. Credit toward catechist certification is often available through the diocesan Department of Catechesis. Classes are announced in the parish bulletin. For information or to register for a particular class, please contact the parish office at 756-1213 or email office@stfrancismemphis.org.