



*We invite you to take part in  
Nativity Faith Formation Programs!  
In this mailing: Registration Materials and  
Calendar for the 2011-2012 Year*

2270 S. Oneida St., Green Bay WI 54304

(920) 499-6012

Jamie Whalen: [natjw@nativityparish.com](mailto:natjw@nativityparish.com)

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Dear Families,

Some changes...but there's much that remains familiar as we welcome our new Pastor, Fr. Jack Harper. He's mentioned his excitement about Faith Formation offerings this year and, along with our staff, welcomes you to take part in them.

This year, our theme will be "Embracing Catholic Practices". One of these practices is Keeping the Sabbath. Making the Lord's Day special takes on even greater importance this year because of the new Mass translation we will begin using this Advent. We'll explore that practice and others during our Family Gatherings, Service Experiences, and throughout the program.

**First Sacraments** (First Communion and First Reconciliation): Families with children old enough to prepare for these Sacraments receive separate invitations for those programs by mail. These programs are a combination of meetings here at Nativity with the preparation families do at home, supported by the regular Religion Ed. Curriculum. We require that the child be enrolled in Religion Ed. Sessions or Home Study the year they are preparing for the sacrament. We highly recommend enrolling first graders in Religion Education Classes not just to prepare for First Communion, but as a basis for life-long learning about our faith.

**Registration Deadline:** Each child and youth deserves to be formed in the faith. Registering early helps us know how many catechists and textbooks we will need and how much space to allot. **Please** fill out the **registration and volunteer form** for your household, and return it no later than **Wednesday, August 31**. After that date we'll place children and youth into available groups in the order that registrations are received and as space allows.

May God's peace be with you during these beautiful Wisconsin summer days! Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our staff with questions.

In Christ,

Jamie Whalen  
Director of Faith Formation

## *Seeking Catechists for our Children and Youth*

Parents and other generous adults serving as **catechists** are the reason why our Religion Education programs are so effective. Many of us might feel called to serve as catechists, but do not feel we have enough knowledge of the faith to teach effectively. Not true—remember, "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called." Our staff, and your fellow catechists, plus God's grace, are there for you!

Catechists need **training** to be effective in the classroom, just like each of us do in our workplace. We offer three training sessions throughout the year to help catechists know their material and connect with other teachers. Our staff provides personal support and individual training for those with less experience. There is also a special West Side Green Bay workshop on Oct. 15, "Beginning With Open Hearts", very useful for beginning catechists.

Once again this year, as a way of saying *thanks* to our catechists, we are waiving the fee for one child enrolled in a Faith Formation program if a parent serves as a catechist for Religion Education Classes or Confirmation (or a stipend if one has no children in the program.)

If you are not currently serving as a catechist, but would like to find out more, please contact Jamie this summer. That way, we can find out if it is the right fit for you. We need more great catechists... is the Holy Spirit calling you?



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