

# Faith and Sacrament Information

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is a process of becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church. R.C.I.A. is also for baptized Catholic adults who need to receive the other sacraments of initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation). This process addresses the total formation of the person by focusing on believing with the Church community (doctrinal formation), living with the Church community (practical formation), praying with the Church community (liturgical formation), and serving the Church community (apostolic formation). This gradual development culminates in the celebration of the initiation sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist at Easter Time. A person may join the R.C.I.A. process at any time during the year. The next formal preparation will begin in April.

**When:**.....Every Wednesday, beginning April 1, 2009 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Where:**..... McDonald Family Center - Room 106

**Contact:**.....Elda Maria Estrada at **478-5007** or Deacon Norman Kutschenreuter at **478-5060**

## ADULT CONFIRMATION

Two programs are offered during the year, Spring and Fall, for catechized adults who only need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**When:**.....Every Monday, beginning February 23, 2009 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Where:**..... McDonald Family Center - Room 101

**Contact:**.....Elda Maria Estrada at **478-5007**

## ENGAGED COUPLES – MARRIAGE PREPARATION

The Marriage Preparation team extends a joyous helping hand to guide you on your journey of individual/couple reflection and growth. You are invited to participate once you have at least one interview with your priest and have chosen a marriage preparation program.

**Facilitators:**.....Parish Priest, Counselor, Sponsor Couple

**Contact:**.....Maria Leavy Hoelscher, PhD, at **478-5005** or  
Judith Poston, LCSW, at **478-5016**

## HISTORIA DE LA IGLESIA Y LA ESPIRITUALIDAD

“Nadie ama lo que no conoce.” Ven con nosotros a estudiar la historia de la Iglesia a través del pensamiento y la obra de los santos y maestros de espiritualidad de la Iglesia Católica.

**Cuando:**.....Todos los jueves

**Hora:**.....de las 7:30 PM a 8:30 PM (puntuales para empezar y puntuales para terminar)

**Donde:**.....McDonald Family Center – Salón 103

**Quien lo imparte:**.....Fr. Agustín Estrada

## VIDEO/DVD LIBRARY

Look, listen and learn in the comfort of your own living room. Check out a video tape or DVD from St. Matthew library in the Administration Building. Topics include the Bible, Church, Faith, Prayer, Sacraments, Saints, Social Issues, and many others. There are also a number of children's titles, especially stories from the Bible.

**When:**..... Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

**Contact:**.....Sr. Lucille Gardner, OP at **478-5036**

# Lenten Services & Liturgies – 2009

## **FEBRUARY 25, 2009 – ASH WEDNESDAY**

Times and Services as shown in Church bulletin.

## **MARCH 25, 2009 – PENITENTIAL SERVICES**

The Lenten Penitential Services will be held in the church beginning at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 25. There will be 15 to 20 priests present.

## **EASTER TRIDUUM**

The days from Holy Thursday Evening to Easter Sunday Evening are celebrated as one great feast called the Easter Triduum, the most solemn celebration of the Church. We invite each of you to observe this truly holy week by participating in the following services and liturgies:

## **APRIL 9 – HOLY THURSDAY – 7:30 PM**

### **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.**

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet. This Liturgy recalls the institution of the Eucharist; the establishment of the Priesthood; and our call as people of God to serve one another. It will be followed by the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The Exposition will follow until midnight. We ask that you come according to the alphabetical schedule published in the Church bulletin.

## **APRIL 10 – GOOD FRIDAY – 12:00 NOON, 3:00 PM, AND 7:30 PM**

### **Celebration of the Lord's Passion.**

Good Friday service includes the Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. **The Living Stations** will be the **ONLY** devotional held for the Stations of the Cross. The Living Stations will begin at 2:00 PM in the Church.

## **APRIL 11 – EASTER VIGIL – (HOLY SATURDAY) AND APRIL 12 – EASTER SUNDAY MASSES**

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), April 11, 2009 – Church – Time: 8:30 PM

Easter Sunday (Sunrise Service), April 12, 2009 – 6:00 AM will be held at the Devotional/Recreational Park (weather permitting) on Wurzbach between Vance Jackson and Lockhill-Selma.

7:30 AM – Church  
9:15 AM – Church  
11:00 AM – Church

11:15 AM – McDonald Center – Children's Liturgy  
12:45 PM – Church – Spanish Mass  
6:00 PM – Church

Please consult your bulletin for possible changes.

# Retreats and Missions

## A.C.T.S.

An A.C.T.S. retreat is a weekend patterned after the description of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:42-47); breaking bread together, worshipping together, receiving instruction together, sharing in common, and reaching out in loving service. The goal of the retreat is to strengthen faith and its application in daily life, provide spiritual renewal and build lasting friendships through community and service.

### **2009 A.C.T.S. WOMEN'S RETREATS**

February 19-22, 2009 at Cordi-Marian (in Spanish)

March 26-29, 2009 at Cordi-Marian

**For information:** See the Church bulletin, visit the A.C.T.S. link on the St. Matthew website at [www.stmatts.org](http://www.stmatts.org) or contact the A.C.T.S. Parish Liaison, Beth Duarte, at **478-5006**.

## BEYOND CANA RETREAT

The rush of the holidays is over and you're looking ahead to 2009.

**Plan a quiet weekend with your spouse in the Hill Country, where you can spend quality time together and revitalize your marriage.** You will learn and use effective communication tools in a spiritual, non-threatening setting. Beyond Cana retreats have been offered for over five years at St Francis of Assisi Parish and this is the first time it is being offered for St. Matthew parish couples. The retreat will be held April 17 thru 19 in Boerne, Texas.

For more information, contact Ken and Pixie Koch at **493-2996** or e-mail [kenpixie@satx.rr.com](mailto:kenpixie@satx.rr.com) or Beth Duarte at **478-5006**. Please visit our website at [www.beyondcana.org](http://www.beyondcana.org)

## FAMILY RETREAT

The parish family retreat affords families the opportunity to break away from the "busy-ness" of life and spend quality time in prayer, conversation, relaxation, and recreation. The retreat is held in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. This retreat is open to our entire parish family.

**When:**.....Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Where:**.....Linnet's Wings at HEB Foundation Camp

**Cost:**.....To be announced in Church bulletin

**Registration:**.....**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED as SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Registration forms are located in the Church Foyer and Church Administration Building.

**For more information contact:**.....Beth Duarte at **478-5006**

## LENTEN MISSION

The Lenten Mission welcomes all who are seeking to realize their destiny as beloved people of God. Come for the entire mission or whatever nights you can attend. In the tradition of Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we will prepare ourselves to move more deeply into the incredible mystery of Easter. A special invitation is extended to those who have been away from the church.

**When:**.....March 2, 3, and 4 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM

**Where:**.....St. Matthew Catholic Church

**Facilitator:**.....Reverend Phil "Skip" Negley, Missionary of Our Lady of LaSalette

# Consolation Ministries

Consolation Ministries provides assistance in death and dying. Parishioners may contact the office when:

- Someone you love is dying and you want to prepare yourself
- Someone you love is in hospice and you want to know what's ahead
- You are ill and want to prepare for your death and funeral
- You or a loved one want to make end-of-life decisions
- You or someone you know has suffered the loss of a loved one and need to talk with someone.

**For more information contact:.....Sr. Lucille Gardner, OP at 478-5036**

## **“NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF MY DEATH”**

Make funeral and liturgy arrangements in advance as one last wonderful gift you can give your loved ones. Making advance arrangements frees your loved ones from making hasty and perhaps expensive decisions. It also enables you to make a statement of your values and the meaning you find in life and death. The seminar provides information to make knowledgeable decisions regarding end-of-life, choosing a funeral home and cemetery, and planning for the liturgies surrounding death and eternal life. Sessions are Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Please check Church bulletin for more details.

## **LIFE AFTER LOSS**

This 6-week seminar is for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one within the past two years or so. Group conversations help with the emotional, physical, spiritual, and psychological impact of loss. Notice of dates and times will be posted in the Church bulletin.

## **WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS: COPING WITH DEATH**

Grieving the loss of a spouse is a difficult, long, lonely journey. An ongoing support group enables those who have lost a spouse to share with others who have experienced the same loss. All who have lost a spouse through death within the past few years are welcome.

**When:.....1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM**

**Where:.....McDonald Family Center - Room 104**

**Contact:.....Lupe or Bruce Orey at 348-6199 or Sister Lucille Gardner, OP at 478-5036**

## **LIBRARY FOR THE GRIEVING**

Books, DVDs, and CDs on loss and grieving can be checked out through the ministry office. Small “Care-Notes” are also available in the waiting area of the Administration Building.

## **SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF LOVED-ONE’S SUICIDE**

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. For information, contact The Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health at 616-0885.

# Scripture and Spirituality

## A LIFE WORTH LIVING

After Alpha, what happens next?

A LIFE WORTH LIVING, the official follow-up to the popular Alpha course, is a nine-week course based on the book of Philippians. Each talk explains how it is possible to live the Christian life positively, practically, and joyfully. There is no cost for the course, but registration is required. To register contact Beth Duarte at **478-5006**.

**When:**.....Tuesday evenings, beginning January 13 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Where:**.....St. Matthew's Parish Hall

**Contact:**.....Beth Duarte at **478-5006**

## INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

Deacon Jim Exparza provides an introduction to Sacred Scripture by addressing: 1) background topics including the nature and composition of the Bible, interpretation of the Bible, tools for biblical study, geography, history of biblical times, and archeology; 2) major divisions of the Bible with attention given to the historical background, literary forms, and theological themes; and 3) the role of the Bible in the life of the Christian Community.

**When:**.....Thursday mornings, January 8 through March 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM

**Where:**.....McDonald Family Center Room 106

**Cost:**.....Approximately \$35 to cover the cost of books and printed handouts.

**Registration:**.....Registration closes December 17. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

**Contact:**.....Deacon James Exparza at **698-2111** or email **exparza@sbcglobal.net**

## THURSDAY EVENING CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE STUDY

Enhance your experience of the special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul by participating in this fascinating study of 1 & 2 Corinthians. The first letter addresses the difficulties of maintaining a Christian community in a cosmopolitan city notorious for its moral corruption. The second letter reveals Paul's personality as he defends his apostolic ministry. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. Small groups meet to discuss questions taken from the lesson. Then all gather to hear the presentation given by Dr. Bob O'Connor, a dynamic Religious Studies professor from St. Mary's University.

**When:**.....Thursdays, through May 14, 2009, from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM

**Where:**.....St. Matthew School Cafeteria

**Contact:**.....Christine Lopez, Adult Education Office at **478-5018**

## ESTUDIO DE BIBLIA

¿Desea profundizar en La Palabra de Dios?

¿Que nos quiso enseñar Jesús por medio de sus parábolas?

¿Que hicieron los apóstoles con la tarea encomendada?

**Cuando:**.....Todos los martes del las 11:00 AM a las 12:00 de mediodía

**Donde:**.....Edificio de la administración – Salón 202

**Quien lo imparte:**.....Nancy Garza de Hernández – Teléfono: **479-7152**

# Scripture and Spirituality

## CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY

This 10-week course covers what Scripture teaches about money and possessions. Graduates confirm that marriages are strengthened and individuals are getting out of debt. They are becoming consistent savers, generous givers, and prudent consumers. Most importantly, people are entering a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Groups meet for 2 hours once a week. Meetings include Scripture memorization and interactive discussions. Personal financial information is not shared with the group.

**When:**.....Check Church bulletin for date, time, and location

**Contact:**.....Christine Lopez, Adult Education Office at **478-5018**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR PARENTS

Deacon Norman Kutschenreuter presents classes to expand your knowledge of the Church and sacraments and be better prepared to respond to your children's questions about the faith.

**All adults are welcome to this free class!** Take this opportunity to learn and grow in your faith!

**When:**.....Sunday evenings, from 7:20 PM to 8:20 PM

**Where:**.....St. Matthew School Music Room

**Contact:**.....Deacon Norman Kutschenreuter at **478-5060**

## THEOLOGY OF THE BODY BY CHRISTOPHER WEST

You are invited to participate in sessions for parents facilitated by Ted and Melly Trakas. This class runs at the same time as 9:15 AM Sunday morning children's classes and provides an opportunity for practical and religious education for parents. For more information call Ted and Melly Trakas at **699-0284**.

## THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY

*The Great Adventure Bible Timeline* study enables participants to read through the Bible historically while learning the "big picture" of salvation history. This course covers salvation history from Genesis through the coming of Christ and the establishment of the Catholic Church. Come learn how the people, places, and events of the Bible fit together in God's plan of salvation history. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. Small groups meet on Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evenings to discuss questions taken from the lesson. Then all view a Jeff Cavins video presentation on the lesson.

**Tuesday mornings** through March 31, 2009, from 9:45 AM to 11:45 AM  
in the McDonald Family Center Room 106

**Wednesday evenings** through April 1, 2009, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
in the Parish Hall

**Contact:**.....Christine Lopez, Adult Education Office at **478-5018**

# Resources for Spiritual Growth

## DIVINE MERCY CENACLE

This devotional group meets Monday nights to experience the richness of our Catholic faith. The cenacle encourages all to grow in their understanding and appreciation of God's great mercy by participating in an evening of song, prayer, discussion of Scripture, and the writings of St. Faustina. Come and learn how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the dying and for the souls in Purgatory.

**When:**.....2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Where:**.....Administration Building - Room 202

**Contact:**.....Glen or Charlotte Jones at **479-0039**

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

This prayer group welcomes newcomers. Meditation, or contemplative prayer, seeks God in the silence and stillness beyond word and thought. The one hour meeting includes quiet music; a short taped talk on meditation; 25 minutes of silent meditation; followed by a question and answer period.

**When:**.....Every Wednesday night from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Where:**..... St. Matthew School Music Room

**Contact:**.....Sr. Bernice Lindsey, O.S.B. at **445-1107**

## COLLEGE PRAYER GROUP

Come and join us for an hour of prayer and let us adore Him! Fr. Agustín leads the group in Scripture reading, prayers, and song.

**When:**.....Thursday nights from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**Where:**.....Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

## YOUNG CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY YC<sup>3</sup> (18-40)

**Mission Statement:** we are a Catholic fellowship of Young Adults that strives to foster a closer union with God through serving each other, the parish of St. Matthew, and the community at large. Please consult Church bulletin for activities, locations, dates and times. For more information or to receive a monthly mailing, contact Beth Duarte in the Adult Education Office at **478-5006**.

## ST. MATTHEW SINGLES 40+

**All singles are welcome** to attend a Catholic Mixer (a place to meet Catholic singles) on the first Friday of each month, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM in St. Matthew Parish Hall. For names of speakers and topics, please refer to the Church bulletin. A donation of \$5.00 per meeting is collected. In addition, SMS 40+ meets for companionship, spiritual growth, and service to the community. Fellowship begins Sunday at 9:30 AM followed by 11:00 AM Mass. Join us in the McDonald Family Center Room 101 for coffee, snacks, and reflections on Sunday Scripture.

**For more information contact:**.....Yolie Davenport at **334-0315** or **264-9239**.

# Resources for Spiritual Growth

## SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

You are encouraged to take part in a Small Christian Community of fellowship and spiritual growth. Participation can be especially valuable as you leave the mountain top experience of an A.C.T.S. retreat, the R.C.I.A., or ALPHA Course. Groups of 2-15 people gather to pray, read, and study Scripture. These small groups offer opportunities to share and deepen faith experiences while providing mutual support and encouragement in the quest for holiness. There are existing Communities in the parish. If you are interested in starting or joining one, call Beth Duarte, Adult Education Office at **478-5006**.

## COUNSELING BY APPOINTMENT

Counseling facilitates your journey to become the person you want to be by assessing you and your situation and by planning and adopting a strategy that empowers you to reach your goals. Counseling can help you deepen self-understanding; become more comfortable in relationships; identify and explore alternatives; and grow through life's stages.

**Contact:**..... Maria Leavy Hoelscher, PhD, at **478-5005** or  
Judith Poston, LCSW, at **478-5016** or  
Antonio Ramirez, PhD (bilingual), at **478-5029**

## DIVORCE RECOVERY GROUP

An 8 session series to help persons cope with the loss of a relationship. Watch Church bulletin for updates.

**When:**..... 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
**Where:**.....St. Matthew Administration Building – Room 200  
**Contact:**.....Maria Leavy Hoelscher, PhD, at **478-5005**

## DECLARATION OF NULLITY (ANNULMENT)

Msgr. Mike Yarbrough and Carmen Mason, a former member of the Marriage Tribunal, will hold their semi-annual workshop on the Declaration of Nullity, commonly called the Annulment Workshop. This is an informational and educational session concerning annulment in the Archdiocese of San Antonio where attendees will do a "walk through" of the actual petition. Anyone who wishes to learn about the process and deepen one's knowledge in regard to Catholic annulment is welcome.

**When:**..... Monday, March 23, 2009 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
**Where:**.....St. Matthew Parish Hall  
**Facilitators:**.....Msgr. Mike Yarbrough and Carmen Mason  
**Contact:**.....Carmen Mason at **492-2401**

## SINGLES ISSUES

A 6-week series covering topics important to singles, especially those re-entering the singles world following the loss of a relationship. Please check Church bulletin for updates.

**Contact:**.....Maria Leavy Hoelscher, PhD, at **478-5005**

# Resources for Spiritual Growth

## CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets at 7 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month. For location contact Norma Willett at **561-0581**.

## SENIOR CENTER

Anyone age 60 and over is welcome to join in the daily activities. A nutritional lunch is served at 11:15 AM with required registration. Donations of 50 cents for lunch is appreciated. For a fee, persons needing transportation to the Senior Center can have bus pick-up arranged if they live within St. Matthew's parish boundaries. Optional weekly activities include:

- Monday:** Bingo  
**Tuesday:** Bunco and Quilting  
**Wednesday:** Quilting, Bingo, and Dance Therapy Class (registration required with the City Lunch Program to attend Dance Class)  
**Thursday:** Instructional Art Class with Ceramics and Jewelry Making every other week  
**Friday:** Bingo

**When:**..... Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), from 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

**Where:**.....St. Matthew Parish Hall

**Note:**.....Days, times and activities are subject to change

**Contact:**.....Georgia Wall at **478-5017**

## THAT MAN IS YOU! – (A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS)

The third year of the That Man is You! men's leadership program focuses on Economic Leadership and Political Leadership. It recalls the moment Christ sent his apostles as a light to the nations commanding them to bring his message to the ends of the earth. Men are called to perpetuate the mission of Christ by acculturating truth, beauty and life in society. This program helps men discern how Christ wishes to use them in the new evangelization and equips them with the tools required to fulfill their mission.

**When:**.....Tuesday mornings, through April 7, from 5:45 AM to 7:15 AM

**Where:**.....McDonald Family Center Gym

**Contact:**.....Ralph Paglia at **itgolf@att.net** or call **744-1226**  
or Dr. Mitch Finnie at **mfinnie@satx.rr.com**

## ENDOW

**ENDOW** (Educating on the Nature and **Dignity of Women**) is an educational organization that provides women with a forum to explore and understand what it means to be a feminine person created in God's image. As a basis for discovery, **ENDOW** promotes the New Feminism, which is defined by the late Pope John Paul II. The New Feminism recognizes and affirms the "true genius of women" and responds to our culture's desperate need for an authentic feminine presence in life and society. **ENDOW** courses are based on Church documents, Sacred Scripture, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For more information visit the Endow website at **www.endowonline.com** or call Christine Lopez, Adult Education Office at **478-5018**.