

Whole Community Catechesis at St. Patrick Church

The weekend Liturgies of the Eucharist are the fonts from which the whole community draws catechesis. Whole Community Catechesis (WCC) as implemented at St. Patrick Church is a means to augment and enhance both adult and youth faith formation education. This is being accomplished through large group intergenerational, event centered, learning experiences. Interested households gather to share faith, ideas, and fellowship while participating in interactive learning activities.

We have named this process ***Gathering in Grace*** and have developed a logo which will appear on all WCC related materials. All WCC events in this document will be referred to as *Gathering in Grace* events or activities. There is a banner which will be hung in the church as a reminder to all parishioners that an event is planned.

As adults our faith grows, evolves and is challenged based upon our life experiences. Education in our Catholic faith should not end with Confirmation. Rather, as a sacrament of initiation it is the beginning of our adult life in the Church. As such, we must nurture our faith. This can be accomplished in many ways including structured programs, prayer groups and ***Gathering in Grace*** events.

Youth faith formation is a commonly accepted practice and viewed as a necessity by most parishioners. Traditionally, youth faith formation has taken place in small group structured settings. However, due to many factors new ways to provide faith based education have become necessary. Parents, families and the larger parish family all share a responsibility to assist and guide our children as they grow in their faith.

Adults, adolescents, and children, participating as households are welcomed to ***Gathering in Grace*** events. Households are comprised of adults with young children, adults with adolescent children, adults without children, older adults, single adults - ANYONE. Everyone participating in an event is both a teacher and a learner and can contribute equally to the process. Effective listening and an open mind are key tools in the success of any ***Gathering in Grace*** event.

Gathering in Grace events provide all ages learning experiences through the use of prayer, music, skits, discussion, crafts, stories, etc. Participants learn together through the sharing of ideas, opinions, and questions in small group and large group activities. Any learning done in the small group is then shared with the larger group. Adults and children learn with and from one another.

Although ***Gathering in Grace*** events will not replace traditional faith formation education in our parish, they will continue to provide another vehicle to deliver the Gospel message to all parishioners. Our parish family can strengthen the bonds of faith which bind us while strengthening our personal faith as we ***Gather in Grace***.

