

What is G.I.F.T?

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together – is open to *all* members of Saint Raphael Parish and non-parishioners, from preschool (age 5) through adult. It is our Saint Raphael Parish faith formation program. It is the way our parish educates children and youth about the basics of their Catholic faith. It is also designed for adults – to answer their questions about the Catholic faith, explain religious traditions, and help them grow in relationship with God.

Through GIFT, we build community by involving people of all ages in the life of the Church. GIFT learning is centered on liturgical and sacramental events. Materials are provided to encourage continued learning at home.

Following Jesus Through the Church Year

Our GIFT topic for this year is Following Jesus Through the Church Year. We will also learn more about Mary and the saints.

This topic is especially important since the way we follow Jesus will change as we continue our journey of faith. We will learn more about Jesus' identity as well as practical ways to become a follower of Jesus and to base our daily lives on his example.

We will also learn more about the Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons as well as ordinary time and how we can really integrate these church seasons into our lives.

Our young people will learn about these topics in age-appropriate ways – interactive and activity-based.

The program will be held on the 501 Naugatuck Ave Campus of Saint Raphael Parish, Milford.

2019 -2020 Following Jesus

September 20 and September 22
Identity of Christ (Ordinary Time)

October 18 and October 20
Becoming a Disciple (Ordinary Time)

November 15 and November 17
Preparing for the Coming of Jesus
(Advent & Christmas Seasons)

Friday, December 13*
Advent/Christmas Celebration

January 24 and January 26*
Child/Teen Lures Safety Program
(For families with children and teens)

February 21 and February 23
Suffering and Death of Jesus
(Lent and Holy Week – to Good Friday)

Sunday, March 1*
Lenten Activities

March 27 and March 29
New Life in Christ
(Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, Easter Season)

April 24 and April 26
Living as Disciples

Friday, May 29*
Pentecost Celebration

You choose either Friday, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. or Sunday, from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. – based on your schedule. All programs begin with a catered dinner. Asterisk indicates shorter program.

**Singles, Couples, Seniors:
Please Join Us!**

Expand your faith experience with GIFT – Growing in Faith Together. GIFT offers prayerful and educational experiences/discussions for *all* adults in our parish. Grow in your faith as you join other young adults, parents and children in their faith journeys. Consider signing up for a single topic of interest to you.

**Parents/Guardians:
Critical to GIFT Program**

The GIFT program requires that children and teens attend GIFT with at least one adult family member who provides guidance and support for the child/teen while growing in his/her own faith. Why is this so important? * GIFT can help to reinforce and fill in the blanks in our own religious education. We hear this all the time from our GIFT adults!

* Parent/guardian involvement shows our young people that we really care about and value faith formation.

* Parents/guardians are better equipped to share knowledge with children, who see that learning about our faith never stops.

* Parents/guardians have the tools to reinforce learning at home.

Six-Year Curriculum Cycle

Year 1: Celebrating the Sacraments

Year 2: The Creed

**Year 3: Following Jesus
Through the Church Year**

Year 4: Living the Moral Life

Year 5: Prayer Life

Year 6: Catholic Social Teaching

A disciple is one who is learning what it means to live his or her faith in Christ fully. “Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. At every step forward, one is challenged to go further in accepting and loving God’s will. Being a disciple is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion.”

(Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, p. 15)

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Growing

In

Faith

Together

2019 – 2020

**Faith Formation
for People of All Ages**