

## Adult Faith Formation

June – August 2008

at

St. Michael the Archangel  
Catholic Church



Phone: 979-297-3041  
Website: [www.smlj.org](http://www.smlj.org)

The Adult Faith Formation Team, a ministry of the Envision program welcomes you to interesting and thought provoking programs being given to enhance and deepen your faith. Please look over the contents and plan to attend one or more of the programs being offered.

### St. Michael's Vision Statement

*A Eucharistic community in continual transformation,  
surrendering ourselves to God to be His instruments for world  
peace*

*Therefore, beloved, ... grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and to the day of eternity.*

*2 Peter 3:17-18*

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

As I think back over the years, I recall many of the prayers we learned—the Rosary prayers, the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity, the Hail Holy Queen—and the list goes on.

Then there was a short prayer, full of meaning: “Jesus, meek and humble of Heart, make our hearts like unto Thine”. Think about that short prayer. It says it all. It’s about asking Christ to continue to be present in our lives—allowing Him to minister to others through us. The heart is a symbol of love and Christ’s heart is a divine Heart loving us infinitely---wanting us to bring His message to the world. But we can’t do it by ourselves; we join with others as the Body of Christ, the Church. The heart moves blood to nourish the entire body. During June let us be conscious of the Heart of Christ continuing to nourish through us.

*“Jesus, meek and humble of Heart, make our hearts like unto  
thine”.*

Father Leo

The Adult Faith Formation Team is planning programs for the next 3 years. If you have suggestions for programs or speakers you would like included, contact Tommie Holt at [tholt@f8click.com](mailto:tholt@f8click.com)

Our next Adult Formation calendar will be published the first week of September. Please send information you would like included to Ruth Stone at [sophia75@peoplepc.com](mailto:sophia75@peoplepc.com)

or

Mary Cook at [jaspercook@aol.com](mailto:jaspercook@aol.com).

## Coming for your Listening Enjoyment and Spiritual Growth



Beginning in the middle of June, the Adult Faith Formation Team will introduce "Inspiring Catholic CDs". This program, developed by The Lighthouse Catholic Media ([www.lighthousecatholicmedia.com](http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.com)), is designed to provide inspiration and spiritual growth for our parishioners.

There will be a display stand in the library exhibiting the CDs which address religious topics of interest for the Catholic parishioner. Many of the renowned speakers are internationally known. *The Healing Power of Confession* by Dr. Scott Hahn, *Finding the Fullness of Faith* by Stephen Ray, *Three to Get Married* by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and *Mary, Handmaid of the Lord* by Mother Theresa are only a few of the CDs available.



What do you do with your time while driving on a trip? Become bored with the scenery and tired of listening to rock or jazz on your radio/cd player? Why not, with a nominal donation, take some of the CDs being offered with you so as to listen while driving. Do you listen/watch TV while doing housework? Why not put on a CD and perhaps get a little inspiration which will help you improve your spiritual life? Have a CD club and invite friends over for coffee while enjoying listening to the speaker of your choice. This is an excellent tool for parishioners to learn at any available time and to pace the learning at his/her own speed.



For a donation for each CD you can have these renowned speakers visit your home at any time you wish. They can travel with you any place you go. Stop by the library to see what is

available. Perhaps you are interested in brochures. *How to Make a Good Confession*, *How to Pray the Rosary* and *Why Does the Church Teach That?* are the brochures accompanying the CD display. A member of the Adult Faith Formation Team will be on hand the first few weeks to answer any questions you may have.



Doris Hickner, coordinator of the library ministry was kind enough to allow the Adult Faith Formation Team some space in the library for display. Please note that the librarian on duty has no responsibility for this program. Her responsibility is to help parishioners find books they may want, and to check books in or out.

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### Additional Learning Resources

St. Martha's Catholic Church in Kingwood has developed a sophisticated website featuring programs which have been presented in their parish. Audio programs are available on Scripture, Catholic Doctrine, Catholic Spirituality, Sacramental Liturgy, the Church Through Time, and Morality. We encourage you to visit St. Martha's website, [www.stmarthaaff.com](http://www.stmarthaaff.com). All of St. Martha's programs are free for listening or downloading.

**Our Hearts Are Burning Within Us!**

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### St. Michael's Library

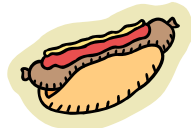
Our library is open after all Sunday masses and after the 8:30am mass on Wednesday. Books, videos, CDs and DVDs are available for your pleasure and education — adults and children.

## Stars Shining Over St. Michael's With



During the months of June, July and August the Adult Faith Formation Team presents for your enjoyment and entertainment "Summer at the Movies". The movies are part of a 10 volume video series by Stephen Ray: *The Footprints of God: the Story of Salvation from Abraham to Augustine*. We shall show only three during this series. All movies will begin following the 11:00am Mass on Sunday. Come and enjoy a picnic meal of hot dogs, chips, drinks and desserts. After that find a seat, relax and enjoy the movie – *Peter, Keeper of the Keys*,

**On June 8<sup>th</sup>** in the Family Life Center, St. Peter will be our first star. Travel with him as he goes from Galilee to Jerusalem and Rome. You will see why Jesus chose this simple fisherman to be "the rock". During the journey, you will learn about papal infallibility, papal succession and the truth of Catholic teaching plus more. You will see why St. Peter and his successors are called the Keepers of the Keys and the Shepherds of this Church. Through Peter and his successors the Christian faith of these earlier followers of Jesus became the Catholic faith in which we believe so strongly today.



**On July 13<sup>th</sup>** in the Family Life Center St Paul, our next star will take us through Israel, Syria, Turkey, Greece and Italy. Knocked from his "high horse" and blinded for a time, Saul of Tarsus, a persecutor of Christians, became Paul, a lover of Jesus and preacher of His truths and way of life.

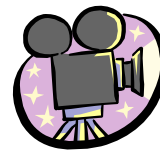
As you go on this journey with Paul, you will better understand the life, ministry and sufferings of St. Paul, the Apostle. With him, you will fall off a horse, be let over the wall of Damascus in a basket, cling to driftwood in the sea following a shipwreck, and walk with him along the ancient Roman roads. You will also see how our faith has developed from Jewish roots.

Don't forget – following the 11:00am Mass, picnic lunch followed by the adventures of St. Paul in the movie *Paul, Contending for the Faith*.



**On August 17<sup>th</sup>** in the Wolters' Room of the Education Building, we will have the final movie of the Summer at the Movie series. Join the crowd for a picnic lunch, chips, drinks and desserts. Then enjoy the movie *Apostolic Fathers: Handing on the Faith*. Our stars will be Ignatius of Antioch, Clement of Rome, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons, and Justin Martyr.

These Apostolic Fathers had been born and reared in a world of paganism. They heard the word of God from the Apostles and chose to follow the living God – blazing a trail that many would follow. This journey will take you to the Roman Empire and the world of the first Christians – Israel, Turkey, France and Italy. Employ your imagination and sit with them at the feet of the Apostles. Celebrate the Eucharist in hiding and see and, possibly, feel the suffering these Christians endured for Jesus.



There will be a free nursery for children ages 3 months to 3 years. The children need to have been fed before leaving them in the nursery. There will be a signup sheet in the hall after all masses on the two weekends before the first movie (May 24-25 and May 31-Jun 1). You are asked to sign up for the nursery and also the number in your family attending the movie.

**Join our parish family for this summer fun!**

## Weekly Bible Studies

Day	Time	Leader	Phone	Location	Focus
Sun	9:30am	Joe Lesnau	265-6221	149	Lectionary
Mon	7:00pm	Cecilia Gabba	285-0223	F Wing	Spiritual Weight Loss
Wed	6:00am	Duane Williams	297-5564	Angelina Room	Lectionary
Wed	9:30am	Bettie Carmody	265-6509	149	Baruch, Lamentations, then Recess
Wed	9:30am	Geri Elder	297-6784	E Wing	On Recess
Wed	5:30pm	Iris Howard	798-6967	F Wing	On Recess
Thu	9:30am	Jeanne Schroll	297-5860	F Wing	On Recess
Thu	4:00pm	Adele Baxter	297-6148	Library	Lectionary Contemplative Prayer
Fri	9:30am	Pam Walker	297-9746	SLC	On Recess
Fri	9:30am	Doris Hickner	297-7726	E Wing	Matthew

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Romans 11:33

## Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us – A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States

In November, 1999, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued the document *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us – A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*. In the document the U.S. bishops renewed their commitment to adult faith formation, addressing the qualities of mature adult faith and discipleship and offering plans and guidelines for adult faith formation ministry.

*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us* is relevant for all Catholic adults. We highly recommend that you read the document which can be found at [www.usccb.org/education/ourhearts.htm](http://www.usccb.org/education/ourhearts.htm).

### Excerpt from Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us

A living faith is a *searching* faith – it “*seeks understanding*.” Adults need to question, probe, and critically reflect on the meaning of God’s revelation in their unique lives in order to grow closer to God. A searching faith leads to deepening conversion. Along the way, it may even experience doubt. Yet the essence of this quality of adult faith is not doubt, but search – a trusting, hopeful, persistent “seeking” or “hunger” for a deeper appropriation of the Gospel and its power to guide, transform, and fulfill our lives.



## Prayer Groups

Day	Time	Focus	Location
Mon	7:00pm	Rosary & Communion Service	Church
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	7:00pm	Patriotic Rosary	Church
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	7:00pm	Lay Apostle Meeting Luminous Mysteries	Church
Tue	5:00pm	Rosary	Church
Tue	6:00pm	Chaplet Divine Mercy	Church
Wed	8:00am	Rosary	Church
Wed	9:00am	Chaplet Divine Mercy	Church
Thu	5:00pm	Rosary	Church
Thu	6:00pm	Chaplet Divine Mercy	Church
Fri	8:00am	Rosary	Church
Fri	9:00am	Chaplet Divine Mercy	Church
Sat	6:30am	Men's Prayer Group	F Wing
Sat	8:00am	Rosary & Chaplet Divine Mercy Communion Service	Chapel

Alleluia! I am filled with love when Yahweh listens to the sound of my prayer, when he bends down to hear me as I call.

Psalms 116:1-2

## FORMATION TOWARD CHRISTIAN MINISTRY



For many Catholics in the past, faith learning after Confirmation consisted in what was heard in Sunday homilies. In our modern Church, we recognize the real need of adults to continue growing in their faith for their entire lives.

With this in mind the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has developed The Formation Toward Christian Ministry (FTCM) program. This program offers "basic theology and spiritual development to Catholic adults who want to deepen their commitment to Jesus and more fully answer their baptismal call to service as a mature disciple."

The program consists of three 15-week semesters covering all aspects of Catholicism – Bible studies, Church doctrine, Sacraments, Morality, etc. An

individual is welcome to commit to the entire program, individual semesters, even individual courses.

We are fortunate in that the first semester will be offered at Most Holy Trinity Church in Angleton beginning Thursday, August 28, 7:00pm-9:00pm. A brochure with complete information and registration form can be found on St. Michael's home page <http://www.smlj.org/main.htm> under FTCM Course & Registration Information. Printed brochures can be found in the Family Life Center.

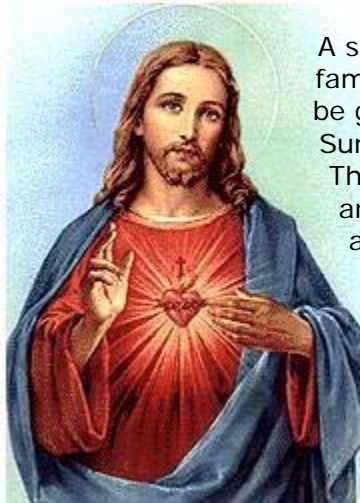
Please, prayerfully consider registering for this program. It is one of the best our diocese has to offer.

**Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

This year we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart on May 30 and throughout the month of June. According to Pope Benedict XVI, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus helps Catholics focus on the reality of God's love and their obligation to love others.

In the Sacred Heart, "we can recognize in an ever clearer way the limitless love God has for us," the pope wrote in a May 15, 2006, letter. Pope Benedict said the devotion acquires its deepest meaning only when people express their awareness of God's love by dedicating their lives to his service. "The experience of the love of God is lived as a 'call' to which one must respond," the pope said.

Gazing upon Jesus' "pierced heart" is a reminder that he took on the sufferings and sins of all humanity, which "helps us become more attentive to the suffering and needs of others. It makes us able to entrust ourselves to his saving and merciful love and, at the same time, reinforces our desire to participate in his work of salvation by becoming his instruments," the pope said.



A special presentation for the whole family on the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be given from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm, on Sunday, June 1st in the Social Hall.

This will commemorate the 333 year anniversary of Our Lord's appearance to St. Margaret Mary in 1675 in France.

Pat Jimenez and Paul Cranley will share their understanding of this important message with a video which will instruct children on the true meaning of the Sacred Heart devotion.

If any of St. Michael's Ministries wish to sponsor Pat and Paul to give this 1 hour presentation to their ministry meeting they are available for this purpose as well. Paul can be contacted at [pecranley@hotmail.com](mailto:pecranley@hotmail.com)

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## Adult Catechism Classes Continue

Sundays, 2:30pm, F Wing  
Mondays, 9:30am, Angelina Rm  
Mondays, 7:00pm, Angelina Rm

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## Father Callistus Speaks on Social Justice Issues



Father Callistus has obtained a visa for his visit this summer. He will discuss social justice issues with us on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm. Mark your calendar now and watch for details in the bulletin.

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## Houston Family Foundation – Fatherhood Conference

The Houston Family Foundation offers several programs throughout the year. Their continuing mission is to provide encouragement and tools for the great adventure of parenting. *Raising Your Children Well* with Michael Johnson will be sponsored this summer. Check their website, [www.houstonfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.houstonfamilyfoundation.org), for details on this summer program.

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## Inquiry class

Interested in the Catholic faith? Inquiry class is held 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7:00pm in Room 149-150 of the Family Life Center. Call Tommie Holt for more information. 979-265-4685

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## Adult Learner Experience

Saturday, June 7 from 9:00am to 4:00pm  
Sunday, June 8 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
Morkovsky Hall at St Dominic Center, Room 205  
Cost: \$40.00 (includes lunch on Sat)

Come experience moral, faith and cognitive development, learning styles, personality traits and faith expression preferences, spiritual tasks and practical applications for adult learners.

For registration and questions call the Diocesan CCE office at 713-741-8730

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## Marriage Encounter Weekend

June 18-20  
Christian Renewal Center  
1515 Hughes Road, Dickinson, TX 77539

Marriage Encounter weekend is a program which gives married couples the tools to make a Good Marriage a Great marriage.

During this weekend you, as a couple, will experience intimate communication, forgiveness and commitment. Through this program the talks selected will lead you to a Catholic "experience" and you will also find the ongoing community support necessary for such a lifestyle.



Contact Brian and Tina Little, 281-485-5948, or email Brian and Tina at [wblittle1@comcast.net](mailto:wblittle1@comcast.net) for more detailed information.

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## Women's CRHP

This Women's Christ Renews His Parish or CRHP is a weekend of spiritual renewal which brings groups of adult women together to develop a closer personal relationship with Christ. It is a goal of our parish to have every parishioner, 18 years and up, attend the weekend and experience Spiritual Renewal.

Our next Christ Renews His Parish weekend for women will be June 21-22. For more information or to register for the weekend, please call Tricia Langner, (979)299-6176 or Marcia Peltier, (281)595-3006.

You may also sign up in the Family Life Center for this unique spiritual awakening experience.

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## Mass and Eucharist E-ZINE

E-Zine is an online magazine brought to you by the Envision Priority Area "Understanding The Mass And Eucharist" Team..

Regular features include

- Understanding the Mass and Eucharist
- What's the Word
- Test you Mass I.Q.
- Did You Know
- The Church Year
- Celebrating Our Saints
- Because You Asked
- Available in Our Library



See St. Michael's website [smlj.org](http://smlj.org) to subscribe.

## ***Summer Saints***

### ***St. Thomas the Apostle***

St. Thomas was a Jew who was chosen by Jesus to be one of the original 12 apostles. He is best known for his unwillingness to believe in the Resurrection and that Jesus had appeared to the other apostles in the absence of Thomas. The story of how he became known as "Doubting Thomas" is well known. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time Jesus appeared to the apostles, Thomas was present. Jesus allowed Thomas to put his fingers to the place of the nails in His hands and his hand to the side of the Lord. It was only then that Thomas believed and made a public declaration of faith – "My Lord and My God" which many of the faithful say today at the elevation of the Host during the celebration of Mass.

St. Thomas was also present at Lake Tiberias at the miraculous multiplication of the fish. Tradition says that after Pentecost, the Apostles were dispersed to their evangelizing missions. St. Thomas was sent to preach the Word to the Parthians, Medes and Persians. His journey carried him as well to India to the Malabar coast. Evidently he sparked a flame there which remains burning today. There is a large native population in this area who call themselves "Christians of St. Thomas."

St. Thomas suffered martyrdom, being speared to death at Calamine. His feast day is July 3<sup>rd</sup> and he is the patron of architects.

### ***St. Maximilian Kolbe***

St. Maximilian was born in Poland in 1894 and became a Franciscan. A bout with tuberculosis, from which he recovered, left him frail and sickly the rest of his life. He was the founder of the Immaculata Movement, a movement devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He continued devotion to her through a magazine, "The Knight of the Immaculata" and continued to spread the Immaculata Movement by helping to form a community of 800 men which was the largest community in the world at that time. Prior to this he had studied and received a doctorate degree in theology.

He felt called to Japan and it was there he built a comparable monastery. His journey then took him to India, where he continued to further the Movement.

Because of ill health he was forced to return to Poland in 1936. At this time the world was beginning to learn of the Nazi movement and Adolph Hitler in Germany and watched in horror and disbelief as the Nazis conquered one country after another. In 1939 The Nazis invaded Poland and Maximilian was taken captive and imprisoned for a short time. However, freedom was, indeed, short and in 1941 he was again arrested and sent to the concentration camp, Auschwitz.

On July 31, 1941, one prisoner managed to escape the camp. As a reprisal by the Nazis, ten prisoners were chosen to be executed. Father Kolbe offered to take the place of one of the men, a young husband and father. This wish the Nazis granted and Father Kolbe was the last to die. This ended two weeks of suffering, starvation, thirst and complete neglect. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1981. His feast day is August 14<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Blessed Virgin's feast of the Assumption.

### ***St. Rose of Lima***

Rose was born in Lima, Peru, April 20, 1586. Her real name was Isabel. However, she was such a beautiful baby that people took to calling her Rose and thus she was known throughout the ages. She became even more beautiful as she grew older. One day her mother put a wreath of flowers on her head to enhance her beauty. Not being vain and not wishing to exploit her beauty, as Rose had already dedicated her heart and life to Jesus, she put a long pin into the wreath trying to remove it. It pierced her so deeply that she had a difficult time removing the wreath. Another time she became afraid that her beauty would be a source of temptation to others. So she scrubbed her face with pepper until her face was all red and blistered.

Rose was the sole provider for her parents. She humbly obeyed their every wish. However, when they spoke of her getting married, she refused to hear of it. The love of her life was Jesus and she was not going to do anything that would change that. When she spoke of Jesus, her face and voice became very animated. One could see the love she had for Jesus glowing in her eyes and hear it in her voice as she spoke.

Rose was not above having temptations, though, and the devil tempted her many times. This led to feelings of terrible loneliness and sadness as God seemed far away. Yet as we, ourselves, have been told many times in times of trouble: "Offer it up to God". This is what Rose did, cheerfully offering Him all her troubles. Her last long and painful illness was marked by her beautiful prayer: "Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase Your love in my heart"

There were many miracles that followed her death in 1617. She was beatified by Pope Clement IX in 1667 and canonized in 1671 by Pope Clement X. She is the first American to be so honored. She is known as the patroness of Latin America and the Philippine Islands. We celebrate her feast day August 30<sup>th</sup> and she is always pictured wearing a crown of roses.

### ***St. John the Baptist***

St. John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zaccheus. They had been childless for many years and it was during their old age that an angel appeared to them and told them Elizabeth was to bear a son who was to be called John. This came to pass and John the Baptist became one who preached the coming of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God.

He was beheaded on the order of Herod who feared John was gaining too much power with the people. He is known in the New Testament as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the precursor of the Lord.

St. John the Baptist is the only saint to have his birthday and the date of his death listed on the liturgical calendar. His birthday is observed June 24<sup>th</sup> and the date of his martyrdom is August 29<sup>th</sup>.

