



# Seasons of Faith

Lifelong, Intergenerational Faith Exploration

[holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)

Bringing Faith to Life

**The Good News: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”** Evangelii Gaudium 165

## DAYTIME COURSES

Thursday	9/8	10:00am	Simply Scripture	Parish Office
Wednesday	9/14	10:00am	Women in the New Testament	Parish Office
Thursday	9/22	10:00am	Simply Scripture	Parish Office
Wednesday	9/28	10:00am	Bible Study	Parish Office
Thursday	9/29	10:00am	Lumen Gentium - overview	Parish Office
Thursday	10/6	11:00am	Words of Wisdom Book Group	Parish Office
Wednesday	10/12	10:00am	The Church Comes to America	Parish Office
Thursday	10/13	10:00am	Simply Scripture	Parish Office
Thursday	10/20	10:00am	Lumen Gentium - Chapter 1	Parish Office
Wednesday	10/26	10:00am	Bible Study	Parish Office
Thursday	10/27	10:00am	Simply Scripture	Parish Office
Thursday	11/3	11:00am	Open Wide Our Hearts	Parish Office
Wednesday	11/9	10:00am	Black Catholic History Month	Parish Office
Thursday	11/10	10:00am	Simply Scripture	Parish Office
Wednesday	11/16	10:00am	Bible Study	Parish Office
Thursday	11/17	10:00am	Lumen Gentium - Chapter 2	Parish Office
Wednesday	11/30	10:00am	Advent Book Group	Parish Office
Wednesday	12/7	10:00am	Advent Book Group	Parish Office
Thursday	12/8	10:00am	Lumen Gentium - Chapter 3	Parish Office
Sunday	12/11	3:00pm	Advent Retreat	Church
Wednesday	12/14	10:00am	Advent Book Group	Parish Office
Monday	12/19	1:00pm	Simply Scripture	Parish Office
Wednesday	12/21	10:00am	Advent Book Group	Parish Office

**Adults:** Your faith journey is life long. We invite you to join us for our Fall Semester courses. We have many options for you to choose from. Take as many as you like for one low fee for both our Fall and Spring Semesters.

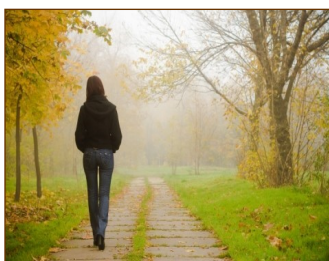
“...catechesis for adults, since it deals with persons who are capable of an adherence that is fully responsible, must be considered the chief form of catechesis.” Directory for Catechesis 77

**The family is the most basic foundation of the church.** Seasons of Faith is our lifelong, intergenerational faith exploration process for families and adults. As parents and guardians, you are the most important influence on your child’s faith. We at Holy Spirit are here to partner with you on this faith journey.

Families are pulled in many different directions, so we have designed Seasons of Faith for families to attend together. We recommend that your family begin Seasons of Faith by the time your child is six and continue throughout their childhood and adolescence. Having a basic understanding of our faith, and building a relationship with Jesus are essential before children can begin the process for discerning Eucharist or Confirmation.

We look forward to walking with all of our Holy Spirit Parish family as we grow and live in faith together.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Countryman, Pastoral Associate for Lifelong Faith, [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org)



**Tuesday Trekkers:** Join us at 1pm on Tuesdays beginning 9/13 through the end of October for a community walk around the neighborhood, weather permitting. We will begin with prayer and walk for 30 minutes, enjoying our community and God’s creation.

## EVENING COURSES

Thursday	9/8	6:30pm	Simply Scripture	Virtual
Monday	9/12	6:30pm	Civilize It!	Library
Wednesday	9/14	6:30pm	Civilize It!	Virtual
Sunday	9/18	6:30pm	Church Life	Virtual
Monday	9/19	6:30pm	Church Life	Library
Tuesday	9/20	6:30pm	Church Life	Virtual
Wednesday	9/21	6:30pm	Open Wide Our Hearts	Virtual
Thursday	9/22	6:30pm	Simply Scripture	Virtual
Monday	9/26	6:30pm	Lumen Gentium - overview	Library
Wednesday	9/28	6:30pm	Women in the New Testament	Parish Office
Monday	10/3	6:30pm	Faithful Citizenship	Library
Wednesday	10/5	6:30pm	Faithful Citizenship	Virtual
Monday	10/10	6:30pm	Family Night (Church Life)	Virtual
Tuesday	10/11	6:30pm	Family Night (Church Life)	Virtual
Wednesday	10/12	6:30pm	The Church Comes to America	Parish Office
Thursday	10/13	6:30pm	Simply Scripture	Virtual
Monday	10/17	6:30pm	Lumen Gentium - Chapter 1	Library
Wednesday	10/19	6:30pm	Open Wide Our Hearts	Virtual
Sunday	10/23	6:30pm	Church Life	Virtual
Monday	10/24	6:30pm	Church Life	Library
Tuesday	10/25	6:30pm	Church Life	Virtual
Thursday	10/27	6:30pm	Simply Scripture	Virtual
Sunday	10/30	6:30pm	Family Night (Church Life)	Virtual
Sunday	11/6	6:30pm	Church Life	Virtual
Monday	11/7	6:30pm	Church Life	Library
Tuesday	11/8	6:30pm	Church Life	Virtual
Thursday	11/10	6:30pm	Simply Scripture	Virtual
Monday	11/14	6:30pm	Lumen Gentium - Chapter 2	Library
Wednesday	11/16	6:30pm	Black Catholic History Month	Parish Office
Monday	11/28	6:30pm	Incarnation	Library
Wednesday	11/30	6:30pm	Advent Book Group	Library
Sunday	12/4	6:00pm	Youth Council	Library
Monday	12/5	6:30pm	Lumen Gentium - chapter 3	Library
Wednesday	12/7	6:30pm	Advent Book Group	Library
Monday	12/12	6:30pm	Family Night (Church Life)	Virtual
Tuesday	12/13	6:30pm	Family Night (Church Life)	Virtual
Wednesday	12/14	6:30pm	Advent Book Group	Library
Thursday	12/15	6:30pm	Incarnation	Virtual
Monday	12/19	6:30pm	Simply Scripture	Virtual
Wednesday	12/21	6:30pm	Advent Book Group	Library

## Information for Families

The family is the most basic foundation of the church. Seasons of Faith is our lifelong, intergenerational faith exploration process for families and adults. As parents and guardians, you are the most important influence on your child's faith. We at Holy Spirit are here to partner with you on this faith journey.

Seasons of Faith and sacramental discernment are designed for families to attend together. We recommend that your family begin Seasons of Faith by the time your child is six and continue throughout their childhood and adolescence. Having a basic understanding of our faith, and building a relationship with Jesus are essential before children can begin the process for discerning Eucharist or Confirmation.

For families with younger children, we recommend the Church Life courses. As your children get older, you can begin to choose from any of our Seasons of Faith course offerings. If your family has a wider age range, we would be happy to work with you to come up with a plan that best fits your family situation. We recommend that your family begin Seasons of Faith by age five and continue throughout their childhood and adolescence. Families that explore faith together experience many benefits. Therefore, for all Seasons of Faith and sacramental discernment events, it is vital that they are attended by parents and guardians along with their children.

**Projects:** All school age children are required to complete projects during each semester. For the families in the Church Life courses, the projects are included and we will share them on Family Night. For families with older children, we ask that the family complete a service project each semester (fall and spring) along with a service project reflection form. We are all called by our baptism to serve. Families that serve together plant seeds that will flourish throughout their child's lifetime.

Service projects for the fall semester will be due by December 1st.

Circle of Grace is also required for all school aged children by the Albany Diocese. We have two options this semester to choose from.

For more information to see how Seasons of Faith can enrich your family, or to register, contact Laura Countryman at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) or in the Parish Office to set up an appointment.



## Course Descriptions:

"The aim of catechesis is to "put people in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ" (GDC #80). As people grow in relationship to Jesus, they naturally want to know more about him and how to live more fully as disciples in the Catholic Church. This comes about, not solely through formal parish catechetical programming, but through life lived in the family and in the parish community." Curriculum Framework for Parish Catechetical Programs  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

**Advent Book Group** - We will read and discuss *Light of the World, A Beginners Guide to Advent* by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine. In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. We will gather on Wednesdays during Advent at 10am in the Parish Office or at 6:30pm in the library.

**Bible Study** - We will be guided by the book, *Moved by the Spirit, God's Power at Work in His People* by Kevin Perrotta. The Spirit acts in us as architect and contractor to bring about God's plan for our lives. This six-session Bible study explores such questions as: What does the Spirit come to do in us? How can we experience his presence and cooperate with him? What will happen if we do? Scenes from Luke's gospel featuring Mary and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna, and Jesus himself are included here, as well as two scenes from the Book of Acts. Perrotta concludes the study with a passage about the Spirit from St. Paul. Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in the Parish Office. (9/28, 10/26, 11/16)

**Black Catholic History Month** - Learn about the rich history of Black Catholics that have been a part of this land since the beginning of European exploration of the Americas. We will also explore the lives of Catholic leaders of African descent who are on the road to sainthood. Black Catholic History Month was established in 1990. What else is left to discover? Join us on Wednesday 11/9 at 10:00am or 11/16 at 6:30pm in the Parish Office.

**The Church Comes to America** - let's explore how Catholicism came to the Americas. Join us on Wednesday 10/12 at 10:00am or 6:30pm in the Parish Office.

**Church Life** - is for our younger families. We will explore the basics of our faith, including prayer, saints, holy days, the liturgical year and more. We will gather at 6:30 on Sundays (virtually), Mondays (library) or Tuesdays (virtually). Choose the option that works best for your family. (9/18, 9/19, 9/20) (10/23, 10/24, 10/25) (11/6, 11/7, 11/8). We will also gather for Family Night to share our projects.

**Civilize It!** - As a Church and a nation, we are polarized and divided. Pope Francis challenges us to respond by building a "better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good" (Fratelli Tutti, no. 154). *Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics* is a nonpartisan initiative from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that seeks to assist Catholics to counter polarization and division in Church and society by following the example of the Good Samaritan, who challenges us to "become neighbors to all" (Fratelli Tutti, no. 80). Join us at 6:30pm on Monday 9/12 in the library or Wednesday 9/14 virtually.

**Circle of Grace** - is required for all school-aged children who are participating in Seasons of Faith. Families will join us in the gym to begin and then we will break out the children (ES, MS, HS) for their lesson while the adults learn about Circle of Grace and how to help their children develop their circle of grace. Choose Sunday 11/13 at 6pm or Tuesday 11/15 at 6:30pm.

**Family Night** - is for our Church Life families to share their projects. We will gather virtually after each Church Life session at 6:30pm. Monday 10/10 or Tuesday 10/11. One night only on Sunday 10/30. Monday 12/12 or Tuesday 12/13.

**Faithful Citizenship** - *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is a document from the US Bishops on the political responsibility of Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. Join us as we explore the document on Monday 10/3 at 6:30pm in the library or on Wednesday 10/5 at 6:30pm virtually.

**Lumen Gentium** - we will be exploring how Vatican II solidified the changes that were taking place in the church, with the document *Lumen Gentium*, which defines who we are as church. It has been over 50 years since the conclusion of Vatican II. It is said that it takes 100 years to fully implement a council. Join us as we explore this document together, to see how we have made changes as church and how we are still a work in progress.

Join us on Monday evenings at 6:30pm in the library, or on Thursday Mornings at 10am in the Parish Office.

- Vatican II and an overview of *Lumen Gentium* (Monday 9/26 at 6:30pm or Thursday 9/29 at 10am)
- Chapter 1 - The Mystery of the Church (Monday 10/17 at 6:30pm or Thursday 10/20 at 10am)
- Chapter 2 - On the People of God (Monday 11/14 at 6:30pm or Thursday 11/17 at 10am)
- Chapter 3 - The Hierarchical Structure of the Church (Monday 12/5 or Thursday 12/8 at 10am)

**Incarnation** - we will explore the Incarnation and what it means for us today. Join us on Monday 11/28 at 6:30pm in the library or on Thursday 12/15 at 6:30pm virtually.

"In their dignity as children of God, all believers are *active participants* in the catechetical initiative, not passive consumers or recipients of a service, and because of this are called to become authentic missionary disciples." Directory for Catechesis 4



## course descriptions continued:

**Open Wide Our Hearts** - Join our continued discussion of *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege* by Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M. We will gather virtually on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.

- Chapter 5 - What Does The Catholic Church Teach About Racism? (Wednesday 9/21 at 6:30pm virtually)
- Chapter 6 - How To Be An Ally (Wednesday 10/19 at 6:30pm virtually)
- Chapter 7 - Where Do We Go From Here? (Thursday 11/3 at 11am in the Parish Office)

**Simply Scripture** - We will read and reflect on the readings before Sunday's liturgy. We have two options to choose from on Thursdays, 10am in the Parish Office or 6:30pm virtually (except on Monday 12/19). Come and join our great discussions.

- 9/8 - 24th Sunday in OT
- 9/22 - 26th Sunday in OT
- 10/13 - 29th Sunday in OT
- 10/27 - 31st Sunday in OT
- 11/10 - 33rd Sunday in OT
- 12/19 - 4th Sunday of Advent (Monday 1pm in the Parish Office or virtually at 6:30pm)

**Women in the New Testament** - Join us as we explore the role of some of the women in the New Testament on Wednesday 9/14 at 10am or Wednesday 9/28 at 6:30pm in the Parish Office. What will we learn from Phoebe, Sapphira and Candace?

**Words of Wisdom Book Group** - We will conclude Fr. Jim Martin's book, *Between Heaven and Mirth, Why Joy, Humor and Laughter are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life* on Thursday 10/6 at 11:00am in the Parish Office.

"Catechesis has the task of making the heart of every Christian resound with the call to live a new life in keeping with the dignity of children of God received in Baptism and with the life of the Risen One that is communicated through the sacraments." Directory for Catechesis 83

**Sacramental Discernment** is an important time a family's faith journey.

We look forward to walking with your family during this process.

**Confirmation Discernment:** begins in late spring with a fall celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Prerequisites** before beginning discernment:

- Nine courses (not including Church Life courses)
- Three parish retreats or Eucharistic Adoration
- Three Simply Scripture courses

**Requirements:** Candidates must be at least in 10th grade at Confirmation.

**Reconciliation and Eucharist Discernment** begins during the Fall Semester.

**Prerequisites** before beginning discernment:

- Nine prior Church Life courses
- Ability to make the Sign of the Cross and pray the Our Father and Hail Mary on their own.

**Requirements:** Candidates must be at least seven years of age by November 1st.

**Adult Discernment:**

It's never too late. Are you an adult who missed the Sacrament of Confirmation when you were a teen? Were you raised in another faith, or are unbaptized and are discerning becoming Catholic? It's never too late. We would love to meet with you and accompany you as you discern your faith.

**discernment** is a decision-making process that honors the place of God's will in our lives."

Joe Paprocki for Loyola Press. <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/ignatian-spirituality/discernment/discernment-making-inspired-choices/>

- Am I ready?
- Is this the right time?
- Is the family ready at this time?

If your child attends Catholic School, please contact Laura Countryman at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) to register and discuss any other requirements.



### July 2022 - June 2023 fees:

Seasons of Faith is \$25 per person with a maximum of \$100 per household. This fee is for the entire July 2022 - June 2023 season. Take as many courses as you like. We have many options for you to choose from.

- Checks can be sent to the Parish Office.
- Payment can also be placed in the offertory collection at Mass to the attention of Seasons of Faith.
- E-giving has a faith formation option.
- If you wish to use e-giving with a credit card instead of your checking account, we are charged a fee for processing. Please adjust the fee to \$26 or \$104. Thank you.