

WELCOME New Families and  
WELCOME BACK Returning Families!

**Family Faith Connection (FFC)** is the parent network designed to extend and support the St. Joseph Religious Education program. We are a group of connected parents who implement various programs and events for the families of our parish. As a parent of a Religious Education student, you automatically belong to FFC and the FFC board is always open to new members. The FFC board consists of 12-15 volunteer (not elected) members who meet once a month, September through May, to plan and organize these events. You do not have to chair an event to attend the board meetings; **we welcome your sharing and ideas.** Consider how you can become more involved in supporting faith formation for your children and family:

- FFC Newsletter produced 4 times a year
- Pennies from Heaven collected during sessions for local and global needs
- Welcome Coffees for parents and catechists to meet casually
- Advent Event for making wreaths and learning about the Season
- Family Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry for a spiritual and social Lenten activity
- Religious Gifts, Books and Bake Sale to provide easy access to spiritual tools and raise money for the Religious Education sponsorship fund
- FFC Board Meetings to share ideas and planning input

In an effort to send less paper home details about all of these items can be found on the Religious Education website: [www.stjoseph-libertyville.org](http://www.stjoseph-libertyville.org) Select Youth and then Religious Education. Under the Family Faith Connection logo you will find board meeting dates, volunteer forms, Event RSVP forms as they become available, copies of current and past FFC Newsletters and links to organizations we are collecting "Pennies" to support. The FFC programs and events are also listed on the Parish and Religious Education website calendars. If you do not have access to a computer or are still more comfortable with paper – watch for information in the weekly Carpenter, the quarterly FFC Newsletter, or call/stop by the Religious Education office.

2011-12 Board Members are listed on Page 5 and our Event Dates are listed below.

Come join us!  
Patty Lemberger  
FFC President

## 2011-12 FFC EVENT DATES

<b>Welcoming Coffees</b>	September 18 and 20 during RE Sessions
<b>Pennies from Heaven for Academy of Our Lady</b>	Start bringing in change in October
<b>Advent Event</b>	Saturday, November 19, 3:30 PM
<b>Change for Change for Orphans in Africa</b>	Start bringing in change during Lent Ash Wednesday – February 22
<b>Family Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry</b>	Friday, March 9, 2012, 6:30 PM
<b>Religious Gifts, Books and Bake Sale</b>	After Masses, Saturday and Sunday, March 17/18, 2012



**Thank you** to all of the children and families who supported the Family Faith Connection (FFC) programs last year! If you participated in any of the following then you were a contributor: **Pennies from Heaven, Advent Wreath Making, Religious Gift and Book Fair, Religious Education Bake Sale, Family Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry, Change for Change Lenten Almsgiving Campaign.**

None of these events are organized solely as fundraisers and yet through your generous participation and support a large sum of funds were raised and contributed to five different organizations. **Change for Change Lenten Almsgiving campaign** was a joint effort with **Religious Education and School families and contributed \$12,500 to the St. Joseph International Sharing Ministry** for the orphans in Tanzania, Africa. The **Religious Education program received \$3,200 in sponsorship funds as well as a new computer** for the Director of Religious Education. Donations were also made to **Academy of Our Lady in Waukegan, \$2,000, High School Ministry Appalachian Service Project - \$500 and Souper Bowl of Caring - \$167.**

We look forward to providing these opportunities, events and services to your families again this year. Please contact the Religious Education Office or any of the FFC Board Members listed on Page 5 if you are interested in learning more about Family Faith Connection.



## LIVING IN FAITH TODAY

A social/service organization for all parish 6th, 7th, & 8th graders.

### What is LIFT?

LIFT is St. Joe's social/service program for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their friends; in other words, any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grader is welcome, (St. Joe's member or not). For more information including forms and event details go to [www.stjoseph-libertyville.org](http://www.stjoseph-libertyville.org) (click on youth/LIFT) or contact *Linda Popeck* at 847.362.5797 or [Lpopeck@stjoseph-libertyville.org](mailto:Lpopeck@stjoseph-libertyville.org).

### Upcoming Events:

Sun., Oct. 16 **Have A Ball !**

Register by Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Dodge Ball, Balloon Volleyball, Other Ball games, and Ice cream sundaes**

Entrance fee – a new item for a boy ages 6-11, 15-18, or girl 15-18 which will be used at the November LIFT event to fill Christmas stockings which will be donated to Catholic Charities

Sun., Nov. 13 **Reach Out – Winter Clothing Drive**

Register by Monday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>

Come sort items and prepare Christmas Stockings which will be given to Catholic Charities

All Parishioners are encouraged to donate winter clothing (clean coats, sweaters, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, sweatshirts), blankets, sheets and new Christmas stocking stuffer items for boys ages 6-11, 15-18, and girls 15-18 These items will be accepted at the Foyer located in St. Joseph's School (Park Street Entrance) on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-1:30pm

Sat/Sun, Jan. 28/29 **LIFT Fundraiser Bake Sale**

Bake with friends for the sale and bring items from home on Saturday.

Help at the sale on Sunday after all masses.

We encourage interested adult parishioners and H.S. students (for the fun of it and/or service hours) to help plan and run LIFT events. Chairpersons are already in place, so you can rest assured you will join a strong support team.



### *"Growing God's Garden"*

Our Catholic tradition is rich with the use of symbols and because symbols draw us into the deeper meaning of ordinary events we treasure them. This year our symbol for our catechists and our children is the symbol of seed planting, of gardening, of tending to the growth of what is unseen before it finally sprouts.

Gardening (and seed planting) does not produce immediate results. Much time, effort, care, and cultivation comes first....long before any green shoots or colorful flowers appear. This work, sharing faith as a catechist or nurturing children as parents, requires trust in the hidden growth of those precious seeds we plant.

As parents, you plant "seeds" all the time...seeds of honesty, of compassion, of perseverance, of kindness, and certainly of faith. Our catechists support you in this and will strive to grow "God's Garden" in the lives and hearts of your children. As this year begins, we are happy to partner with you and "garden" together for the sake of your children and the Kingdom of God.



# Program Highlights



Did you see these lawn signs around town this summer? Faith Weaving families shared a June picnic together and then took home these signs to display in their yards which identified them as participants in St. Joseph's *Faith Weaving* family program.



Over 200 School and Religious Education children celebrated the Sacrament of First Eucharist with their family and friends during 4 special Masses in May.



More than 140 individuals have volunteered to serve as Catechists, Co-catechists and Adult Assistants for the 2011-12 Religious Education program. Many of them attended an All Catechist meeting in August which included a Commissioning Ceremony with our parish priests, Fr. Hennessey and Fr. Trout.

## What's NEW in Religious Education!

- All **7<sup>th</sup> graders** have been placed in a home group setting for their first year of Confirmation preparation.
- Our **4<sup>th</sup> graders** will receive their bibles during mass so the whole parish can witness the occasion and bless them, their families, and their study.
- Our **2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders** will experience an Interactive Mass which will walk them through the prayers and rituals of our Sunday worship.
- The **new Roman Missal translation** has been incorporated into the children's text books.
- The **sacrament of Reconciliation** has been expanded to include celebrations with our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Dates TBA.
- Our **family FAITH WEAVING** experience has a new three year curriculum: "Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life." Four practices will be explored each year.

# Upcoming Events



## CONFIRMATION

October 5 and 6, 7:00-8:30PM  
Koenig Center

All teens preparing for Confirmation in February were assigned one of these two meetings to attend with their parents. Information will be given regarding the exciting preparations ahead!



## PARENT SACRAMENT MEETINGS

### FIRST EUCHARIST

October 17, 7:00-8:30pm  
Koenig Center

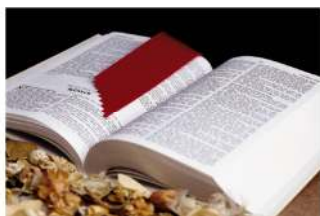
Parents only of students preparing to receive First Eucharist in the spring of 2011 should attend. Several important dates for the upcoming year will be given out.



### RECONCILIATION

November 7, 7:00-8:30PM  
Koenig Center

Parents only of Religious Education 2nd - 8th graders who have not received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, should attend to receive information on when and how to prepare your child for this Sacrament.



### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BIBLE SERVICE

During Saturday, September 24, 5:00PM,  
Sunday, September 25, 9:00AM and 10:45AM Masses  
in St. Joseph Church

All parents and families of 4<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend one of the above special Mass Celebrations during which 4<sup>th</sup> graders will receive their own Bible. Please arrive in the narthex 10 minutes early for instructions. This takes the place of Sunday/Tuesday sessions for 4<sup>th</sup> graders only on September 25/27.



### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHURCH TOUR

Sunday, October 23  
2:00 PM in St. Joseph Church

5<sup>th</sup> Graders and their families are invited for a "behind the scenes" tour of our church. This takes the place of Sunday/Tuesday sessions for 5<sup>th</sup> graders only on October 23/25.



## CELEBRATE OUR SAINTS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE HOLYWEEEN

During Tuesday Sessions, October 25  
During Sunday Sessions, October 30

Faith Weaving students participate with Tuesday 6:30 PM class. Children have fun dressing up as saints and participating in a variety of faith based games. More details regarding making costumes will be sent home by your child's catechist.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SAINT SHOWCASE

Saturday, October 29  
5:00PM Mass in Church

5:00 PM Mass will feature a Procession of Saints (All Confirmation Candidates) followed by exhibits in the Koenig Center created by the students representing the Confirmation name they have chosen.

## Marriage Enrichment Events

### *Celebrating Two*



“Houses, stocks, and jewels are nice. But remember to celebrate again and again the beautiful things money can’t buy; a hand in yours; shared dreams; purpose and meaning; friendship and laughter. And a true companion.

Some people never find love. If you have found it, be conscious of your treasure. Marvel at the perfect set of circumstances that conspired to help you find each other.” Taken from the book, TWO by Daniel Zadra and Kobi Yamada.

If you want to celebrate your marriage or rekindle a little spark please come to one, if not all, of St. Joseph’s Marriage Enrichment events this year. What do you have to lose?

The first event is a *Supper n Substance at 6 pm on Saturday, September 17* in the Koenig Center. The “Supper” main entrée will be chicken and ribs from Fodraks and the topic for our “Substance” is: Essentials for a Robust Marriage presented by Dr. Kevin Murphy. See the Marriage Enrichment Ministry (MEM) page on the parish website [[www.stjoseph-libertyville.org](http://www.stjoseph-libertyville.org)] for more details and registration.

*Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> is a Date Night-Movie Night* in the Formation Center for you and your spouse featuring the movie, *Date Night*. More details to come.

Please mark your calendars for these future MEM dates in 2012 : *January 28-Dancing like the Stars, February 25-Couples Strength Finders, April 14-Supper n Substance (topic TBA).*

If you are interested in more information on Marriage Enrichment events or helping with this ministry, please contact Dave and Glenda Braun at [dgbraun75@gmail.com](mailto:dgbraun75@gmail.com) or 847.816.0494.

## **Calling All 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> Graders**

*There are still a few seats open!*



**Children’s Choir will resume this fall for kids in grades 3 through 5 in both public and parochial schools!** Does your child have an ear (and voice!) for music? Consider joining the **CHILDREN’S CHOIR** for the 2011-2012 school year!

Participation in choir provides a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience **MUSIC MAKING**, but also the chance to **MINISTER**, adding vitality to our liturgical life! Rehearsals begin in the Fall and are on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30pm. The children sing approximately 6 times during the year, including Christmas Eve. Regular rehearsal attendance is required, as well as a commitment to the scheduled masses. For more details call or email Clare Marvin, Director of Music Ministry: 847-990-1224, [CMarvin@StJoseph-Libertyville.org](mailto:CMarvin@StJoseph-Libertyville.org)

## 2011-12 FFC BOARD MEMBERS

Rane Anderson	<i>Board Member</i>
Nicole Browning	<i>Advent Event</i>
Jo Anne Coughlin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Brigid Dutton	<i>Board Member</i>
Eileen Glynn-Tucker	<i>Family Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry</i>
Michele Hall	<i>Bake Sale</i>
Michelle Keating	<i>Board Member</i>
Patty Lemberger	<i>President</i>
Sharon Mullins	<i>Welcome Coffee</i>
Pat Peacock	<i>Family Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry</i>
Jane Risley	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>
Dorie Sanderson	<i>Advent Event</i>
Susanne Taylor	<i>Religious Gifts and Books Sale</i>
Regina Thibeau	<i>Dir. of Religious Ed</i>



## **Attention Third Grade Parents**

We will be ordering Eucharist Blue Books and Family Guides very soon. If you have not returned your Family Guide yet, please do so as soon as possible.

We save \$6.95 for every guide that is returned to be used by another second grade family.

In order to offer your family the best possible experience, faithful attendance is a must!

All session dates are available right now on our website calendar:

[www.stjoseph-libertyville.org](http://www.stjoseph-libertyville.org)

Select **Youth** tab; select **Religious Education**, select **Calendar**



When you click on any event on the Calendar you have the option to **Add to My Calendar**, which allows you to put RE sessions and events on your personal electronic calendars!

If your child(ren) will be absent, please **call our office before** the session begins.  
(847)362-5797

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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