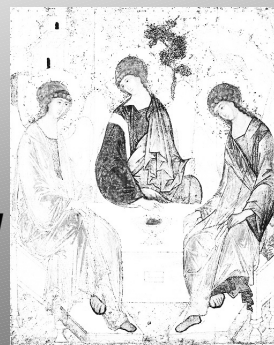


Celebrating Christian Mystery

Holy Trinity of God

All the baptized are called to participate in the celebration of Christian mystery. For some this starts with an awareness of being immersed in mystery and then reflecting on the words our Tradition gives us. For others it starts with an awareness that we have reached the limits of what our intellect can teach us, and subsequently being drawn into the wonder and awe of mystery. Immersion into Mystery and Tradition work together to lead us to transformation.



November 2009

Dear Friends:

Our faith formation focus during the month of November centers on the mystery that is the Holy Trinity of God. For most of my life I was of the opinion that our Catholic doctrine of the Trinity was the most boring and irrelevant teaching that we had to put forward for popular consumption. I no longer believe that to be true. Once you really consider what it means to say that God's very *being* is communion and self-offering in love, then it changes everything about how we think of human beings and how we are invited to live together. To be engaged in the life of our God is necessarily to be engaged in a communion of self-sacrifice. That is one of the brilliant insights of our Catholic faith, and one which I hope we can explore more deeply this month as we gather for conversations about what and who we are.

Fr. Mike Byron

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mary Pat Roberts
Annmary Boler
Kate Wagner
651-644-4502

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is St. Cecilia's pre-school program for students who are ages 3-6 years. They work in an atrium, a place to experience God. (In our church that's downstairs at the end of the first hallway near the downstairs door to the church..)

November's work builds on what we studied during October. We began with the altar and vessels used there, giving the children an opportunity to set their own altar in the atrium. Then we talked about the liturgical colors used throughout the church year, and the calendar used to represent them.

We'll begin November learning about the vestments that the priest wears. Students vest the priest figure in our classroom in an alb, and also a stole and chasuble in an appropriate color. Having worked with the signs, symbols and colors of liturgy, students move on to a sign that is more personal.



The children learn about the Sign of the Cross. From our teacher perspective, this presentation is about the unity of the Trinity and the cross as a universal symbol. The children learn about gestures, a group which includes the Sign of the Cross. We talk about whether they've seen the Sign of the Cross at home or at church, about seeing crosses in their environment, and the crosses and crucifixes in their home and church. We hope you didn't see or hear us last Sunday (because we were trying to be very quiet) when we visited the holy water font at the back of the church.

The month of November ends as we work with a globe and relief map as well as the regions of Israel, another gesture (epiclesis) and cruets. Then we're ready for prophecies and Advent.

First Reconciliation/ First Eucharist

Ellie Barrett
651-645-1731
barrettet@gmail.com

Are you and your child wondering about First Reconciliation and First Eucharist? At St. Cecilia's we start with Reconciliation and after that celebration, in January, we start the preparation for First Eucharist. For families that have not already picked up their materials, please email Ellie Barrett at barrettet@gmail.com or call me at 651-645-1731. Typically the children are in the second grade, but not always. If your child is second grade or older and has not celebrated these sacraments, please know that they, and you, are very welcome to join us! Please contact me.

Youth News

Cindy Windau
651-222-2500
cndybauer@yahoo.com

Youth Group

Hey Gang! The Youth Group will be attending the All Souls Evening Prayer on Sunday, November 1st as part of our exploring different aspects of our faith. We will meet in the link at 6:45 p.m. to go in together. We will adjourn to the Fellowship Hall after the service for some conversation, reflection, and refreshments. Please RSVP to Cindy at cndybauer@yahoo.com or call 651-222-2500. This way we will know how many spots to save. I hope to hear from you soon!

Don't forget to join us on Sunday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we continue to explore the mysteries of Vatican II. This is a fascinating and not completely understood subject. So bring your questions and opinions and I'll bring the snacks! (Yes, there will be Mike and Ikes.) Please RSVP by November 14th so I can get an accurate food count. You can RSVP to Cindy at cndybauer@yahoo.com or call 651-222-2500.

Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors

Just a reminder that WCS is coming up on November 8th and we will have our retreat on November 14th. We will rehearse for the Rite of Welcoming at the retreat. The actual Rite will be during the 10:00 a.m. Mass on November 15th. Candidates will have class on the 22nd reflecting on Prayer.

A guide to Whole Community Sunday and Whole Community Wednesday

Whole Community Sunday

After 10:00 a.m. Mass go to gathering spaces. K-2 in the Choir Loft, 3-5 in Room A, 6-8 in the Soft Room, Adults (9th grade & up) in Fellowship Hall.

Whole Community Wednesday

5:45 p.m. All parishioners will gather in the church basement for a simple meal (meal provided). We will have a basket out for a per person donation.

6:30 p.m. we will gather in the church for opening prayer. If you can't make dinner jump in here. 6:50 p.m. we will gather in groups of our peers for Faith Formation sessions. 8:00 p.m. we are dismissed.

Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 1 & 15	Youth Group—7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd—@9:45 a.m.
Sunday, Nov. 8	Whole Community Sunday following 10:00 a.m. Mass
Monday, Nov. 9	Youth Volunteers Meeting—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14	Confirmation Retreat 9:00a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sponsors attend 11:30-2:00
Saturday, Nov. 14	Movie Night—6:15 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 15	Welcome Ritual—10:00 a.m. Mass for Confirmation Candidates
Wednesday, Nov 18	Whole Community Wednesday. Supper at 5:45 p.m. Sessions at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 22	Confirmation Meeting—11:15 a.m.

Adult Faith Formation

Marge Virnig
651-247-0995
virnigma@comcast.net

Trinity

Trinity is not a math problem where we figure out how to make three into one, or one into three. Neither is it a committee of three persons with individual job descriptions.

Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. It is the perfect communion, receptivity and generosity, which happens in the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the message, the method and the mission of our faith. Although there is no way to capture the essence of Trinity with words, it is like a dance where God's love (perfect self-giving and perfect self-receiving) is constantly moving toward us to invite us in to participate in God's own dynamic life here and now. In turn, all the baptized are called to live lives that are flowing in love, justice and charity. Trinity asks and answers the question, "What is communion?"

Movie Night

Please join us for Movie Night on Saturday, November 14th at 6:15p.m. This month's PG-13 rated feature is "Shall We Dance" starring Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Jennifer Lopez.

As always, we will gather for popcorn, pizza, refreshments and great conversation.



Shall We Dance. Chicago lawyer John Clark knows his life is almost perfect. He loves his beautiful wife, he's built a successful career and raised two wonderful kids. And yet, the workday is always the same routine, the commute is a grind and the family's usually too busy to spend time together. Sometimes John wonders if this is all there is, until one evening on his way home from work he gets off his train and does the unthinkable. Without telling a soul, he secretly begins taking dance lessons. Suddenly, John is thrust into a whole new world--of motion, music, camaraderie and passion. As this very serious man becomes literally light on his feet, his whole life, and marriage, transforms.

Whole Community Wednesday is November 18th

This is open to all parishioners and we hope you will join us. These gatherings continue to explore the designated monthly topic by sharing practical ways we live out our faith. St. Cecilia's is a place where we value respectful dialogue – this includes raising questions and discussing challenges that may arise. We hope that WCW's are a place where space is created for this to happen.

Confirmation candidates and high school young adults are especially invited and encouraged to join us. You have wisdom to share and we are eager to hear your voices.