

What does Jesus reveal to us about God?



St. Cecilia Faith Formation Newsletter

November 2011

Adult Faith Formation

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Faith Formation is off to an energetic start this year. On October 12 Art Zannoni spent an evening telling us stories about Blessed John XXIII: the Pope Who Convened the Second Vatican Council. It was fun and uplifting to learn more about the man who was one of the most influential people in modern church history. Art doesn't know it yet, but I'm going to ask him to considering repeating this presentation so those of you who missed it the first time can still be enriched!

We are in the midst of preparing for the new mass translations which we will start using on the first Sunday of Advent. On Friday evening, November 18, we are all invited to St. Thomas More for Table Prayer and a Pot Luck Supper. Fr. Joe Weiss will offer reflection on the celebration of the liturgy as a timeless experience of prayer. It's helpful to remember that mass is much more than the new translations—it's about how we pray together, how our lives are transformed and how we go forth to make a difference in the world. Some of the new language will help me with this and some of it won't, but either way, I am sure to be attentive to what I am praying these days. And that in itself is good!

On Thursday, Nov.17 from 7-9 p.m. we will once again be blessed with Art Zannoni's wisdom. This time he will give us an overview of the gospel of Mark to help us prepare for Cycle B—the new liturgical year that starts on the first Sunday of Advent. Please try to join us. You will be twice fed — first by the Scriptures and then by popcorn from Candyland!

This month's Faith Formation focus question is **"What does Jesus reveal to us about God?"** The quick answer for me is that Jesus makes God more believable! The challenge that flows from this to all the baptized is: what does the way I live my life reveal to others about God—in my home, in my church, in my school, in my community or in my job? **What am I doing to make God more believable?**

Faith Formation K-8

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First Reconciliation and First Eucharist



Are you and your child wondering about First Reconciliation and First Eucharist? Typically the children are in the second grade, but not always. If your child is beyond second grade and has not celebrated these sacraments, please know that they, and you, are very welcome to join us!

At St. Cecilia's we start with Reconciliation and after that celebration, in January, we start the preparation for First Eucharist. To get information and ask questions about First Reconciliation preparation please contact Ellie Barrett.

Have you been to the St. Cecilia's Website?

St. Cecilia has a website at www.stceciliaspn.org. Here you can always find the Faith Formation calendar, information about our programs and a copy of the bulletin. Click on Faith Formation. Check it out!

Parents' Group

Are you interested in meeting with other parents who have elementary school children to talk about issues we all face today? I would like to see if we can get a group together. Interested? Contact Ellie Barrett at barrettet@gmail.com.

Children's Action Item

Last week (Tu 10/25) National Public Radio broadcast an overview of its three-part investigative report on Native American children in South Dakota: *Native Foster Care: Lost Children, Shattered Families*. The year-long investigation spawned a number of related reports which were also broadcast throughout the week. The story interviews a variety of people involved in removing Native American children from their homes - nearly 700 each year - and placing them in foster care. The questionable circumstances surrounding their removal is the focus of the investigation, but the stories of grandparents, parents and children are at the heart of the story. You can find both the original audio reports and written transcripts at <http://www.npr.org/series/141763531/native-foster-care-lost-children-shattered-families>. Or access [npr.org](http://www.npr.org) and search for "Native Foster Care." This is an issue worthy of time spent contacting our legislators.

Youth News

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Feed My Starving Children

Calling all youth, families, adults, and singles. Join us for a fun night as we package food for children in other countries with limited resources. This is a fun and easy project for all who want to make a difference, especially during this time of Thanksgiving!

We will be at the Eagan site on **Wednesday, November 16th, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** For those interested in car pooling we will meet during the Whole Community Wednesday at St. Cecilia's at 7:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Tim via email: tim@stceciliapsm.org or call (612) 998-0772.

We have limited slots so call early!

Youth Group

All 6th through 9th graders are invited to Youth Group **Wednesday, November 9th** at St. Cecilia's for a night of fun activities, discussion, and pizza! **We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.;** all are welcome so bring friends!

Movie Night

Join us on **Saturday, November 19th** for an extraordinary documentary by grassroots films titled "The Human Experience." **We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm.** and go until about 8:15 p.m. Dinner will be provided. We will watch the movie and have a discussion afterwards. Snacks always welcome!



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mary Pat Roberts & Annamary Boler

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I have a favorite story about a 3-year-old who allowed me a glimpse into her relationship with God. Her story is unique, as is that of the boy in the next paragraph, but I could tell you about other young children who have demonstrated the same sort of disarmingly natural relationship with God. Anne was listening to bible stories one evening with her 9-year-old brother. Her brother interrupted to ask how his mother knew that God exists. The mother replied that she didn't *know*, but she *believed* that there is a God. Her son seemed to listen again, but soon interrupted with another question, "Well, what does God look like?" This time her response was, "I don't know, and I don't think anyone else does either." His little sister looked surprised and said, "I know what God looks like." When her mother asked how she knew, Anne paused, her face looking incredulous at the question. "Well, I was just *there*."

One kind of work that the children repeat often involves the small altar in the atrium. Once the child has placed an altar cloth, corporal, chalice, paten and candles on the altar, the child calls an adult to light the candles. At that point the child has a choice: sing a song, listen to a short bible passage, or say a prayer. One evening a child who was being introduced to the materials responded that he would like to say a prayer. I can't tell you the exact words he spoke because I was so caught up in his prayer. But I can tell you that in just a few sentences he expressed gratitude, offered praise and interceded for his family. He included multiple elements of prayer in a natural expression of what was in his heart.

A basic and very important assumption of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is that when children are born they are already in relationship with God. That is, we catechists and parents acquaint preschool children with Catholic Christian traditions that we share, and we learn from the children about God.