

February 2, 2015

Dear Parishioner,

In January we heard Josh Henik speak at Mass about the power of small learning communities of faith. Since then, Fr Jack and Sue have shared their thoughts with us on how small learning communities help us deepen our faith as adults have conversation with other adults. If you have a desire to know more about the Bible, deepen your faith and enjoy the company of other adults than small learning communities are for you.

Small learning communities of faith are a safe place where you can share your lived-life experience with other adults to help make sense of one's life and better understand God's plan for us. Each small learning community is made up of 6-8 adults who will meet in people's homes or at church every other week. During each gathering, the facilitators help keep the conversation moving and keep the groups focused. The ultimate goal of these small learning communities is to connect the stories of Jesus in the Bible with the stories of our life. At the end of each gathering there is a social time to share and join in fellowship.

In addition to the general participation in the small learning communities of faith, we are also seeking individuals who are willing to host these gatherings in their homes. Please consider whether your home could accommodate a group of 6-8 adults.

We look forward to your joining us on this journey. Small learning communities of faith will meet every other week during the Lenten and Easter seasons (mid-February to late May). To sign up, please click this link: <http://bit.ly/1xdL3Hu> or fill out a Registration form that follow this message and mail to Linda Hansmeier, 212 7th St. SE, Mt. Vernon, 52314 or leave at the offices of Linda or Loraine. On the page you will be able to identify your participation preferences, whether you are able to host a meeting at your home, and if you are in need of a Bible for the meetings. If you can't make any of the times listed at the link, members of the Adult Faith Formation Team will be in the gathering area following Mass next Sunday.

Peace in Christ,

The Adult Faith Formation Team:

Linda Hansmeier, DFF: (319) 895-6758, lindastjohn@q.com

John Gruber-Miller: (319) 895-6763, jgruber-miller@cornellcollege.edu

Gwen Schimek: (651) 245-6903, gschimek@gmail.com

Vicky Wieseler: (319) 551-2324, vwieseler@mountvernon.k12.ia.us

Small Learning Communities of Faith Registration

St. John the Baptist Parish is thrilled to be starting small learning communities as a way for all adults of the parish who have completed confirmation to explore our faith, broaden our understanding of being Catholic, and develop meaningful relationships with our parish.

We invite you to register to be a part of a small learning community by indicating your interests below.

Each member of a couple should sign up independently of one another.

Deadline to sign up: February 11, 2015.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Meeting time preference:

- Thursday at 6:30 pm (Dave and Natalie Klostermann)
- Wednesday at 7:00 pm (Vicky and Tom Wieseler)
- Wednesday at 8:30 am (Angie Cannon and Jenny Dougherty)
- Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Coralie and Charlie Liberko)
- Thursday at 7:00 pm after March 9 (Sharon and Hal Dendurent)
- Sunday at 6:30 pm (Brett and Diane Kimm)
- Thursday at 6:30 pm (Sharon Grice and Jane Feldman)
- Tuesday evening (Tammy Latta and Ruth Horton)
- Tuesday evening (Josh Sundstrom and Brian Dake)
- Wednesday at 7:00 pm (Sheila Deninger and Kelly Leeper)
- Saturday at 7:00 am (Linda Hansmeier and Gwen Schimek)
- Saturday at 10:00 am (John Gruber-Miller and Matt Carrico)
- None of these times work, but I would like to participate

I am willing to host a small learning community of faith meeting at my home:

- Yes No

I have a Bible

I need a Bible

Other comments: