

What is the cost to families and individuals?

The charge for the entire year of 6 celebrations is \$50.00 per family or \$20.00 per individual (rate for families utilizing this process for children's formation is higher). If you choose to attend a single Celebration, the cost is \$10.00 per family and \$4.00 per person.

How much will the meal cost?

Because the meal is an essential part of the Celebrations, they are FREE. However, there will be an opportunity to make a free will offering.

How do I register?

Registration forms are at the entrances of the church; in the Christian Formation and Parish offices. Fill out a registration form and return to Christian Formation Office by mail or the collection basket at Sunday Mass.

How will the Community of St. Thecla benefit from GIFT?

Our best measure of success will be an increase in the number of families and community members who more fully understand and value their Catholic faith. Our hope in shifting to this intergenerational model is that we **will know** participants are learning and growing in their faith when:

- ◆ More families and community members are praying together.
- ◆ More families and community members actually understand the value of our Sunday Mass and the Sacraments and Rites of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ More families and community members are actively participating in parish life.
- ◆ More families and community members are reading and sharing Scripture.
- ◆ More families and community members can speak of a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith
- ◆ More families and community members are forming real Christian community and supporting one another in living a Christ-filled life.

2009-2010

GIFT Celebration Schedule

All celebrations take place on Sundays
from 4:00 pm—7:00 pm in the gym.

October 4, 2009

We Believe in the Church

November 1, 2009

***We Believe in the Communion of
Saints***

December 6, 2009

We Believe in Jesus

January 31, 2010

We Believe in God

March 7, 2010

***We Believe in Jesus' Death and
Resurrection***

May 2, 2010

We Believe in the Holy Spirit

St. Thecla Catholic Parish

Christian Formation Office

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St. Thecla
GIFT

Gathering In Faith Together

2009—2010

We Believe...

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified

COMMON QUESTIONS

What is the vision of GIFT?

We are a community of disciples who follow the risen Christ. Faith formation is a life-long process. Participation in the worship and life of the church is essential. Faith is to be integrated into our lives and to inform and guide our actions.

Who participates in GIFT?

EVERYONE, EVERYONE and EVERYONE! All ages, individuals, families, visitors, teenagers, couples, people from other parishes, friends, neighbors, EVERYONE!

When do we participate in GIFT?

Celebrations will be held once a month on Sundays from October through May. The Celebrations will prepare us to more fully celebrate the events of the Church calendar, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, as well as Holy Days and Feast Days.

Do we attend with the whole family?

GIFT is intended to be shared by an entire household. We use the term “family” loosely. We know that families are sometimes one person or even 20 people, but the idea is for everyone in each household to learn and share together.

What about single parent families?

This is a great program for single parents. To name but a few benefits: a meal with no cooking or cleaning, all the children together in one place, the opportunity for the parent to speak with other adults, ready to use ideas of meaningful activities to do at home when boredom strikes or the TV-watching quota has been reached.

What about content? Will we learn about our Catholic faith, prayers, traditions, practices?

Through a six-year cycle we will cover the full content of our Catholic Faith. The curriculum is based on the teachings from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and correlates with the Six Dimensions of Catechesis from the *General Directory of Catechesis*: knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, belonging to community, and missionary spirit.

A GIFT Celebration

WE ALL EAT TOGETHER

No potluck, no cooking. Just come, eat and enjoy!



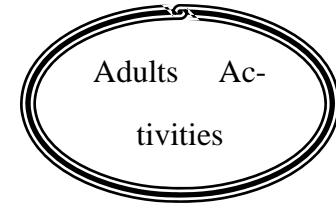
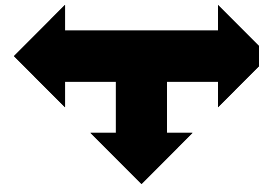
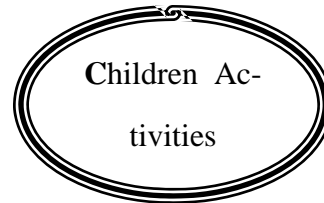
OPENING: ALL-AGE EXPERIENCE

Introduction to the topic to be learned to all ages using prayer, film story, activity, etc.



EVERYONE SPLITS INTO AGE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

All ages learn about the same topic according to their stage in life:
Children, Adolescents and Adults.



WHOLE GROUP SHARING EXPERIENCE

The different age groups come back together to share what they have learned, to pray and to receive Home Kits to continue to live what they have learned.

