

St. Matthias Faith Formation Registration Information

Catechetical Year 2017-2018



**1685 Cordilleras Road
Redwood City, CA 94062
(650) 366-9544**

www.stmatthiasparish.org

Welcome	1
Adult Catechism Series	2
Strong Catholic Family Sessions	2
Programs	3
The GIFT Program: Generations in Faith Together	3
ChristLife Small Faith Sharing Groups	4
Adult Faith Formation Opportunities	4
High School Youth Ministry	5
Middle School Youth Ministry	5
FISH: Friends in Service to Him	5
Sacraments	6
Confirmation Preparation	6
Penance / First Eucharist Preparation	7
Parish and Liturgical Events	7
Parish Participation and Mass Attendance	7
Altar Servers/Readers/Eucharistic Ministers	8
Family Prayer Opportunities	8
Safe Environment Requirements	8
Registration Instructions	9
Primary Faith Formation Events	10
Sacramental Preparation & Other Events	11

Welcome

Welcome to St. Matthias' faith formation programs. Whether you are new to the parish, just beginning with your child(ren) in kindergarten or other grade, or have been attending our programs for years, we are happy to have you as part of our parish community and our lifelong faith formation programs.

We are excited to be offering, for the 6th year in a row, a holistic, intergenerational approach to faith formation, called GIFT (Generations in Faith Together). We are the only parish in the immediate area offering intergenerational faith formation. This approach is designed to support all members of the family in their faith journey -- to meet each individual where they are. Because we are a small parish, we are able to offer topics that are important to you.

Our pastoral plan, *Shaping our Future*, affirms our commitment to building up the family as the domestic church and our programs are designed to support that vision. Families with children or youth preparing for sacraments continue to be guided through the preparation process together.

In addition, we are continuing to build up a youth ministry program for both middle school and high school youth that will meet monthly. New this year, we will be offering a monthly youth Mass at 5:00 pm on Sunday to encourage greater youth and family attendance and participation at Mass. The enclosed schedule provides the dates.

Please read more about all we have to offer on the following pages.

In Christ's Peace, *Sabrina Harper*, Pastoral Associate

Adult Catechism Series

August 7, 14, 21 & 28 @ 7:00 pm

Have you ever wondered how the tenets of our faith are transmitted and shared throughout the world? How do these beliefs get passed down to younger generations? What does the Church believe and teach about topics?

It is through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Our Catechism has changed over time; the most recent version was promulgated on October 11, 1992 by Pope John Paul II. Later, bishops determined that national catechisms - those that take into consideration the local language, culture and customs of each nation's Church - should be written and used as reference and to prepare catechism texts.

Sabrina will be hosting a study series based on the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults on Monday's at 7:00pm beginning August 7th for 4 weeks. For more information or to sign up, email sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org

Strong Catholic Family Sessions

September 6, 13, 20 & 27 @ 7:00 pm

During the month of September we are offering parent-only workshops, called Strong Catholic Families, as an orientation to our philosophy regarding faith formation. Parents are encouraged to attend the session to learn more about our parish mission to build and support Strong Catholic Families. Sessions are designed to give parents support in raising their children in the Catholic faith.

Sessions will be held on Wednesdays, Sept 6, 13, 20 and 27th from 7-8:30 pm in the Upper Room of Fr. Lacey Hall. More information about topics to be discussed will follow. Please mark your calendar.

**Intergenerational Faith Formation is holistic,
comprehensive and for the whole parish.**

Programs

The GIFT Program: Generations in Faith Together

For families, but not limited to just families, GIFT gatherings are our intergenerational approach to Faith Formation. Gatherings are held the first week of the month on Sunday from 11:30 - 1:30 pm. In order to accommodate families diverse schedules, the topic presented is repeated on Wednesday evening from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Families sign up to attend either the Sunday or Wednesday track, but can switch at any time.

At each gathering, there is a meal, opening prayer and introduction of the topic. Families participate in the activities and discussion, sometimes in a large group setting, sometimes in break-out groups by family or age range. Topics are presented in such a way as to coach parents in the practice of catechizing their own children. GIFT is intended to complement liturgical events and other parish activities.

Our GIFT Curriculum is going to be based on a series called, ChristLife. This is a three-year evangelization series; part one is called *Discovering Christ*. The objective of *Discovering Christ* finds its expression in the second goal of the U.S. Bishops' evangelization plan, *Go and Make Disciples*: "To invite every person in the United States to come to know Jesus in the fullness of our Catholic Faith" (53). *Discovering Christ* intends to ambitiously meet this goal by equipping Catholic individuals and parishes with a simple set of tools to invite others to hear and embrace the Gospel.

Supplemental meetings are held for all ages as follows:

- NEW THIS YEAR Christ Life small faith sharing groups for adults
- Adult Faith Formation Opportunities
- High School Youth Ministry
- Middle School Youth Ministry
- FISH: Friends in Service to Him

Parents are the most effective catechists of prayer for their young children...
Parents are catechists precisely because they are parents.
(National Directory for Catechesis 203.)

ChristLife Small Faith Sharing Groups

Each month, following the GIFT gathering, adults will gather for a small faith sharing meeting to discuss the topic introduced at GIFT in a deeper, more meaningful way. Child care will be provided if needed. See the schedule for details.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Our faith journey is lifelong. No one is a perfect disciple - following Jesus every minute of every day - willing to give up all as the early disciples did. (*And all those who had believed [ar]were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.* Acts of the Apostles 2:44-45)

However, with the support of the community and through regular study and reflection continued throughout our lives, we can align our lives more closely to Jesus' teachings. Parents need enrichment and support. Raising children in this ever-secularized world, where faith often takes a back seat, is difficult. How do we pass our faith on to our kids and why is it important to do so?

Here are a few examples of ongoing opportunities for adults to come together to learn more about their faith:

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - is a process which includes a series of rites in the context of learning about our faith and spiritual formation. Through this process, a person is fully incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church.

People involved in the RCIA process are either catechumens or candidates. Catechumens are those who have never been baptized. Candidates are those who have been baptized in other Christian denominations, whose baptism is recognized as valid. RCIA will be led this year by Deacon David Rolandelli.

Breaking Open the Word - is a program which meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. This group explores the Sunday readings in order to promote better understanding of the word of God.

Faith Formation Conference - is an annual gathering of adults held at the Santa Clara Convention Center. It features speakers, musicians, and exhibits from all over the country who come to share their experiences and expertise in faith formation.

Strong Catholic Families - see page 2 for more information.

Bible Study - led by Deacon Rich Foley held on Monday nights. The next series will begin on Sept 11th at 7:00 pm. More information will follow.

Adult Catechism Series - see page 2 for more information.

“The single most important influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents” (Soul Searching)

High School Youth Ministry

Our St. Matthias high school youth group meets once a month on the third Sunday of the month for Youth Mass at 5:00 pm, then dinner and activities designed to help foster their faith development at an age-appropriate level until 8:00 pm. These gatherings are organized by a Core Team of youth serving the parish community.

All high school-aged youth are invited to participate.

Youth are encouraged to participate in youth leadership opportunities, Archdiocesan events and retreats throughout the year. Youth Masses and meetings will be held at St. Matthias. Youth are also invited to attend St. Pius' Youth Ministry program which meets on the first Sunday of the month for Youth Mass at 5:00 pm and activities following until 8:00 pm.

Middle School Youth Ministry

Our Middle School Youth (MSYM) will meet once a month on a Wednesday evening from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. 5-8th graders are invited to gather and learn more about their faith in fun and engaging ways with their peers.

These gatherings are led by experienced catechists and designed to provide a forum for youth to discuss important issues in their lives while exploring what the Church teaches about specific topics. Parents will be encouraged to help lead activities and/or provide food.

This is for all 5-8th graders in the parish; those attending Catholic Schools are welcome to participate.

Each year, middle school youth serve at the annual Maple Street Shelter Dinner alongside members of our Justice and Charity Commission.

FISH: Friends in Service to Him

Beginning on Sunday, September 24th, our FISH program will again be offered during the 10:30 am Mass for children in Kindergarten through 4th grades. Children are dismissed by the community with a blessing after the Reader introduces the catechist. Volunteer catechists lead these sessions which include prayer, an exploration of thematic topics related to the Gospel reading for the day, and a simple craft or activity designed to engage the children. They return

to the Church during the Offertory Procession. After receiving a blessing from the presider, they return to their families for the Eucharistic Prayer and remainder of Mass.

Children who choose not to participate in this program are invited to follow along with Mass using the MagnifiKid! Resource which is provided each week (found on the book cart along the back wall of Church).

Parent volunteers lead FISH each week. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help lead, please contact Sabrina at sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org.

“As parents, we are concerned with our children’s academic and athletic lives, but not so much with their spiritual lives. My attendance at GIFT has taught me that my daughter’s spiritual life is just as important.”
(A parent’s comment at June 2013 GIFT gathering)

Sacraments

Confirmation Preparation

Youth Mass & BBQ Kick Off August 13th @ St. Pius 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Orientation for Youth, Parents and Sponsors - Sept 24th

Confirmation is the last of three sacraments of initiation that one receives. The sacrament is closely linked to Baptism in that it confirms one's faith and bestows the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Typically, it is celebrated during a young person's high school years. It has been our practice at St. Matthias to begin this preparation with 9th graders and for the last several years, it has been a two-year preparation process with the expectation that young people continue to be involved in the life of the parish through Youth Ministry or various other ministries.

Starting in 2017-2018, our Confirmation preparation will be combined with St. Pius parish. All high school-aged youth are invited to participate. Sabrina will coordinate this program with volunteers and staff from both parishes. Here are some highlights:

- Confirmation preparation will be a one year process (August-May).
- Our Confirmation program will be combined with St. Pius. Kids from both parishes will meet together. Gatherings will be held at both parishes, alternating one month here, one month there.
- We will continue involving parents and sponsors in the process.
- Families will attend at least two GIFT gatherings throughout the year.
- Youth Masses will be a component of both Confirmation and Youth Ministry.

- Youth Ministry will be offered at both parishes on different Sundays, but following the same schedule so youth will have the option of attending either one or the other, or both.

We are excited about the possibilities that this presents to the community. Age-appropriate spiritual development and nurturing will continue to be offered to all the youth of both parishes.

**Sacraments are visible signs of God's love in our lives.
The Church uses rich symbols;
water, oil, bread, wine, laying on of hands to make this love real.**

Penance / First Eucharist Preparation

All families seeking First Eucharist (First Holy Communion) for their sons or daughters must be enrolled in and attending GIFT.

Around the time a child reaches the age of reason (age 7), they begin preparing for two sacraments - *Penance and Eucharist* (Reconciliation and Communion). Typically, this preparation takes place during a child's 2nd grade year, provided they and their parents have completed one full year of faith formation (here or at another parish).

The preparation for the two sacraments is done at home, following two family retreats; one in November for Penance (which is celebrated in January), and one in February for Eucharist (which is celebrated in May).

For families who have older children (4th grade and older) who are seeking the sacraments of Penance and/or First Eucharist, one full year of faith formation (here or at another parish) is also required before preparation for the sacraments begins. Each family's situation is different, so please consult with Sabrina to receive more information about the process for preparation.

Letters of invitation with important dates about sacramental preparation are sent in October.

If you have any questions about these sacraments or your child's readiness to receive them, please contact Sabrina for assistance or advice.

Parish and Liturgical Events

Parish Participation and Mass Attendance

A very important component of our faith formation programs is participation in parish and liturgical events. Participation in the life of the parish provides rich growth experiences for families. Participation at Mass is "our privileged encounter with Jesus Christ." It is where we get

to most-intimately connect with our Lord through worship and prayer, Body and Blood, and community.

Mass is the source and summit of our lives as Catholics. Everything we believe is contained within, and flows out of Mass. One of the best ways to prepare children for sacraments is regular participation at Mass, and regular conversations about what happens during Mass in order to come to a greater appreciation for our faith.

We celebrate weekend Masses on Saturdays at 5:00 pm, Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Also, once a month, we'll have a Sunday 5:00 pm Youth Mass. If these times don't work for your family, we have several neighboring parishes that offer different Mass times. Please find one that works for your family schedule.

Other liturgical events we offer include the annual Christmas Eve Pageant where children learn the Christmas story by being part of it; Holy Week celebrations which include Seder Supper on Holy Thursday, solemn Good Friday and joyous Easter Sunday.

Participation in these events help children understand the cyclical nature of our liturgical year.

Mass is the source and summit for our lives as Catholics.

Altar Servers/Readers/Eucharistic Ministers

Have you ever heard your child say that Mass is boring? It could be that they don't understand what is happening! One way to encourage their attendance is to ask them to participate. Young people can serve as Altar Servers as soon as they have received their First Communion and can serve as Readers or Eucharistic Ministers once they have been Confirmed. EVERYONE can serve in our Music Ministry program or as Ushers or Greeters.

If you or your child would like to serve the parish community in one of these liturgical ministries, please contact Sabrina sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org.

Family Prayer Opportunities

Prayer brings us closer to God. There are many opportunities in the parish to participate in prayer. We have daily Masses at 5:30 pm, Monday - Thursday.

We host Eucharistic Adoration on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm where one can spend a few minutes in front of the Blessed Sacrament in silence to focus on God's still, small voice.

Every Saturday at 3:45 pm, the sacrament of Reconciliation is offered so that we can be forgiven of our sins.

We also have Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers during the Lenten season to help us remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.

We have a group that prays the Rosary every Friday morning at 8:30 am in the Merry Room. Contemplative Rosary is offered throughout the year commemorating feast days of Mary.

Safe Environment Requirements

Each year, we act in accordance with Archdiocesan mandates for background checks of all catechists and volunteers who have regular contact with children or youth. Also, all catechists and volunteers are required to complete an online course called, "Prevent Child Abuse" before they begin their ministry.

In an effort to help parents keep their children safe, the Archdiocese of San Francisco requires the following programs for children and their parents to complete.

For Preschool-3rd Graders: St. Matthias Parish and Preschool will provide a packet with helpful lesson plans and guides to teach their children safety tips at home. Topics included are bike and walking safety, gun and fire safety, safe touches and how to be assertive and stand up to bullies. There is a Completion Form which parents sign and return by December 1st to verify that the material has been covered.

For 4-12th Graders: There are online courses available for each grade level. These courses can be assessed through the website: www.shieldthevulnerable.org. It is mandatory that the appropriate course be complete BEFORE our programs begin in September. Please send a copy of the completion certificate with the registration forms.

We are mandated by the U.S. Bishops to offer these course and are required to complete "Compliance Reports" at the end of each year. To help us reach our goal of 100% compliance, PLEASE COMPLETE THESE COURSES BEFORE PROGRAMS BEGIN.

Registration Instructions

- 1) **Complete the Registration Form** (link to a google form or paper copy).
 - a) **All families register for GIFT** -- select which day of the week works best for your family's schedule -- Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening. (If you sign up for Sunday and can't attend on a particular date, you are welcome to come to the Wednesday gathering, and vice versa).
 - b) **Register for Sacramental Preparation** -- indicate if Baptism, Penance, Eucharist or Confirmation is desired for any member of the family. (Registration for Confirmation will be linked to another google form).
- 2) **If NEW to the program OR registering for Sacramental Preparation** -- provide a copy of the **Baptismal Certificate**.
- 3) **Prepare to submit the fee.** Statements will be mailed to families following registration. Payments can be made by check or credit card.

- a) GIFT fee is \$180 per family
- b) Add \$50 for Penance/Eucharist per child
- c) Confirmation fee is \$150 per child
 - i) If financial assistance is needed, please email sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org and arrangements can be made.

4) Complete Safe Environment Requirements.

5) Highlight or mark the dates applicable to your family.

All parents are encouraged to attend the *Strong Catholic Families* sessions to be held Sept 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 7-8:30 pm in the Upper Room of Fr. Lacey Hall.

Use to register for all programs, first.

[2017-2018 St. Matthias Faith Formation Registration](#)

Use to register for Confirmation.

[Sts. Pius & Matthias Confirmation Program 2017-2018](#)

Primary Faith Formation Events

	GIFT SUNDAY 11:30-1:30 pm <i>All families attend.</i>	GIFT WEDNESDAY 6:00-8:00 pm <i>All families attend.</i>	CHRISTLIFE SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS 7:00-8:30 pm <i>Adults only.</i>	HSYM Sun 5-8 pm <i>Youth Mass, Dinner and Activity</i>	MSYM Wed 6-8 pm <i>All 5-8th grade youth</i>	FISH <i>During 10:30 am Mass for K-4th graders.</i>
Sept	Strong Catholic Families Sept 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7-8:30 pm - Upper Room			OnFire Youth Rally @ Six Flags, Vallejo Sept 16th		Sept 24
Oct	10/1/17	10/4/17	10/18/17	10/15/17	10/11/17	Oct 8, 15, 22, & 29
Nov	11/5/17	11/8/17	11/29/17	11/19/17	11/15/17	Nov 12, 19, & 26
Dec	12/3/17	12/6/17	12/20/17	12/17/17	12/13/17	Dec 10 & 17
Jan	1/7/18	1/10/18	1/24/18	1/21/18	1/17/18	Jan 14, 21 & 28
Feb	2/4/18	2/7/18	2/28/18	2/18/18	2/21/18	Feb 11, 18 & 25
Mar	3/4/18	3/7/18	3/14/18	3/11/18	3/21/18	Mar 11 & 18
Apr	4/8/18	4/11/18	4/25/18	4/22/18	4/18/18	Apr 15 & 22
May	4/29/18*	5/2/18	5/16/18	5/13/18	5/9/18	May 13 & 20

*The Sunday GIFT gathering for May is actually in April.

Sacramental Preparation & Other Events

	PENANCE/ EUCHARIST PREPARATION <i>For children and parents.</i>	CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 3:30 - 8:00 pm Includes Youth Mass. <i>For High School Youth.</i>	ADULT FAITH FORMATION <i>Open to ALL adults or High School Youth.</i>
Aug		Youth Mass & BBQ Kickoff 8/13 5-8pm @ Pius	Adult Catechism Series - Aug 7, 14, 21, 28 @ 7:00 pm
Sept		Confirmation Orientation for Candidates & Parents 9/24 3:30 - 7:00 pm @ Matthias	Strong Catholic Families Bible Study - Monday's at 7:00 pm beginning Sept 11
Oct		1. Confirmation Meeting 10/22 @ Pius	
Nov	Family Retreat Penance 11/19 from 12-3pm	2. Confirmation Meeting 11/12 @ Matthias	Faith Formation Conference @ Santa Clara Convention Center - Nov 3 & 4th
Dec			
Jan	First Penance Celebration 1/13 @ 3:00 pm	3. Confirmation Meeting 1/14 @ Pius Candidates, Sponsor, Parent Gathering 1/28 3:30 - 7:00 pm @ Pius	
Feb	Family Retreat Eucharist 2/18 from 12-3 pm	4. Confirmation Meeting 2/11 @ Matthias Retreat 2/23 from 7-9 pm & 2/24 from 11-7:00pm More Details to Follow	Lenten Retreat - Feb 10th Women's Silent Retreat - Feb 23-25th
Mar		5. Confirmation Meeting 3/18 @ Pius	
Apr		6. Confirmation Meeting 4/15 @ Matthias	
May	First Eucharist Celebration % @ 10:30 Mass	7. Confirmation Meeting % @ Pius	

