

K-5 and Middle School

G.I.F.T. – Growing in Faith Together

St. Joseph Parish provides a dynamic, family-based K-8 Faith Formation. (*All children must be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian during each session in order to participate.*) Our multi-faceted approach to family catechesis is intentionally designed to equip and empower parents with all the necessary resources they need to pass the gift of faith on to their children, with confidence and prayerful enthusiasm. Our monthly gatherings as a parish community consist of a shared meal and dynamic, age-appropriate breakout sessions. Parents leave our monthly sessions with a simple, easy-to-use, lesson plan by *Sophia Press* to help foster dialogue, understanding, and enrichment in regard to our monthly topic. In order to refresh their understanding on an adult level, we strongly encourage parents to take advantage of additional resources throughout the year.

Our *G.I.F.T.* program consists of seven monthly sessions, including seasonal opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family, plus the return of VBS (Vacation Bible School)! Check the website for further details and dates: www.stjosephparish.org/gift.html. This year's *G.I.F.T.* theme: *The Creed*.

NOTE: Consider inviting a new family to *G.I.F.T.* this year – a personal invitation can make all the difference!

Year 1 Sacramental Prep: First Reconciliation

In addition to their participation in G.I.F.T., families with children preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation will attend two Saturday retreats (Fall and Spring). This is a similar format to *G.I.F.T.*, in which at least one parent must be in attendance and an easy-to-use lesson plan will be provided for the at-home, parent-child portion of the program. Visit the Laconia website for more information: <https://www.standrebesette.org/year-1-sacramental-prep.html>

PARENT MEETING: Parents with children entering Year 1 Sacramental Prep will begin the year with a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, September 14th from 7:00pm-7:30pm in the Pastoral Center, 271 Union Avenue, Laconia.

Year 2 Sacramental Prep: Confirmation and First Eucharist

In addition to their participation in G.I.F.T., families with children preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation will attend two Saturday retreats (Fall and Spring). This is a similar format to *G.I.F.T.*, in which at least one parent must be in attendance and an easy-to-use lesson plan will be provided for the at-home, parent-child portion of the program. Visit the Laconia website for more information: <https://www.standrebesette.org/year-2-sacramental-prep.html>

Mark Your Calendars for Vacation Bible School!

All K-5 children won't want to miss this very worthwhile experience! Junior High and High School Youth are invited to serve as leaders during this amazing week of faith-filled fun. This year's dates TBA: **mid-July, 2022**.

High School

Growing in Discipleship

Every Wednesday evening of the year, all teens from around the Lakes Region (age 13+) are invited to the JPII Youth Lounge (271 Union Avenue, Laconia) for food, fellowship, activities, and reflection. In addition, our high school youth are invited to participate as leaders in our *G.I.F.T.* and Sacramental prep programming, as well as in other parish and community ministries, such as *Coffee House* and *Hands Across The Table*.