



GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves
amando como Cristo ama, sirviendo como Cristo sirve

August 12, 2011

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the Middle School (Grades 7-8) Faith Formation program (MSFF)! The purpose of MSFF is to assist you as the primary formers of your children's faith. We look forward to collaborating with you, forming youth in their faith, and preparing for Confirmation – all part of the lifelong process of growing in grace and wisdom.

If this is your first experience with the MSFF program, I hope you have found the registration materials and previous correspondence to be helpful. The program is significantly different than the Elementary (K-6) version; if you have questions, please contact Claudia DiRosario, MSFF Coordinator, or Joan Sheppard, Director of Faith Formation. You will also find helpful information on the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry pages of the parish website – www.gs-cc.org.

There are several changes to the Middle School and High School programs we would like to bring to your attention:

- Claudia DiRosario is the new **Middle School Faith Formation Coordinator** (including Confirmation preparation), reporting directly to Joan Sheppard, Director of Faith Formation.
- Seventh (7th) Grade students will attend a retreat scheduled for October 15, 2011 from 2:00pm – 6:00pm at Good Shepherd. The addition of a retreat at the beginning of the catechetical year sets the tone for the year and the journey to Confirmation and beyond.
- Confirmation is moving to the Fall. **Seventh (7th) Grade students entering MSFF this year** will be confirmed in the Fall of 2013. This year's 8th Grade will be Confirmed in Spring 2012.
- We congratulate Miguel de Angel on becoming the **Director of Youth Ministry** (former Asst. Dir. of Youth Ministry and leader of the Teen Faith Formation program). In his new role, Miguel is responsible for Youth Ministry for Grades 7-12, High School Faith Formation, Young Adult ministries for ages 18-25+ and WorkCamp.
- Faith Formation for Grades 9-12 will occur through High School Youth Group. A new **High School Faith Formation** program will be introduced over the next year to supplement Youth Group activities. **High School students needing Confirmation** will participate in supplemental Sacramental Preparation meetings in addition to High School Youth Group (schedule will be provided to individual families).

The first MSFF session is Saturday, September 10th from 10:00am – 12:00pm. The full schedule of classes is on the website and will be provided at the September 10 session.

Please let us know if we can do anything to assist with the transition into the MSFF program. **There is a mandatory Parent Meeting scheduled for all MSFF parents on September 27th, from 7:00 – 8:00pm.**

Cordially,

Rev. Tom Ferguson
Pastor

Joan Sheppard
Director of Faith Formation

Claudia DiRosario
Coordinator, MSFF