

# **ST. GEORGE Faith Formation** **has a unique *GIFT* for you!**



## **ALIVE IN CHRIST!**

### **GIFT MISSION STATEMENT**

***St. George Ministry of Faith Formation offers lifelong education and spiritual enrichment in the Catholic Faith to all parishioners.***

***Our mission is to nurture the faith of our whole community: children, youth, adults of all ages, and families, so that they may **Grow In Faith Together** to become dedicated disciples of Jesus and faithful witnesses to the Gospel.***

## **WE BELIEVE**

- *Celebrating the Eucharist together each week, sharing and living faith in the home, and participating in parish life are vital to your faith formation.*
- *Our goal is to give you ample and varied faith formation opportunities to nurture the faith of your family and the parish community.*
- *Parents/guardians are the most important influence in the faith formation of their children. Your faithful example is essential to fostering your child's faith.*

## **GIFT includes:**

- *Weekly Sunday morning classes for children in elementary grades (preschoolers are welcome)*
- *Monthly Sunday afternoon **YOUTH Sessions***
- *Family Masses and Parish Faith Festivals*
- *Sacrament Preparation*
- *Adult Small Groups*

***Each element of **GIFT** is designed to work together to nurture our whole community as we **GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER.*****

## ***K-8 GIFT***

K-8 GIFT provides a warm, caring and nurturing environment for all children to grow in understanding of their faith. Prayer and scripture are an integral part of each classroom experience. Activities are meaningful and fun. Parents and children are encouraged to celebrate the Eucharist each weekend with the parish family. Family GIFT Masses are planned to give children and parents the opportunity to participate as greeters, lectors, singers and/or gift bearers.

Children with disabilities are always welcomed. They are integrated into the appropriate grade level and participate in all activities. If needed, a volunteer aide is provided. Preschool children are also welcomed to join GIFT.

## ***Youth GIFT***

Youth GIFT's mission is to lead students to a deeper understanding of the person and message of Jesus, through the study of the Word, the Sacraments, the Church and Social Justice. Our Youth will gain insight into self-acceptance, personal spirituality and their role in the Church today as lifelong disciples of Jesus.

Students who have been active in Youth GIFT and desire to become full members of the Catholic Church may apply for Confirmation preparation any time from sophomore to senior year. Readiness for the Sacrament is determined by the candidate, his/her parents, the Confirmation team and the Pastor. Outward signs of readiness include knowledge of the teachings and traditions of the Church, a willingness to share his/her gifts with the faith community and a passion to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world.

## ***Parish Faith Festivals***

Faith Festivals are an important part of each year's GIFT calendar. Parents, children, teens and parishioners of all ages gather together for refreshments and fun activities to learn about Catholic teachings and traditions. Don't miss these opportunities to share and celebrate your faith with your children and the parish community!

## ***Adult Small Groups***

Adult small groups are a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners, develop a closer relationship with Jesus and nurture your faith. This year we plan to offer a variety of opportunities for adults to gather together to explore and discover the treasures of faithful discipleship.

## ***Sacrament Preparation***

Preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is included in the second and third grade levels of the K-8 GIFT program. Teachers guide parents and children as they learn together the importance of these faith forming sacraments.