

ABOUT THE HOME-BASED PROGRAM

Good Shepherd's home-based religious education program is open to children in the first through 10th grade. It flows from the belief that, when it comes to faith, parents are the primary educators of their children. That's why the family is often called the "domestic church." The home-based program is designed to support parents as they facilitate their children's religious education by providing:

- Diocesan-approved texts and teaching resources
- Opportunities to explore faith in the parish setting and outside the home
- An invitation to engage in service as a family
- Retreats and sacramental preparation resources in conjunction with the church-based program.
- Support, advice and information whenever it's needed. **The Faith Formation Director is happy to assist you. Call 238-0649, or e-mail dirred@goodshepherd-sc.org.**

What is expected?

Our religious education programs aim to offer between 30 and 40 hours of religious instruction and faith formation opportunities over the course of the academic year, Sep. – May. This includes classroom instruction, special liturgies, retreats and other activities.

regular sessions, using the text books as a guide for discussions and activities that are age appropriate. Discussing movies and books, exploring topics on the internet, studying Scripture together and taking trips are additional activities that families can build into their program.

Children in the home-based program are required to attend their annual grade-level retreat. **Parent volunteers are needed to facilitate the home-based students.** For children preparing for a sacrament, such as First Communion or Confirmation, families are required to attend all special meetings and rehearsals, as well.

Our annual GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) sessions, which are open to the entire parish, are a required part of the home-based program. These multi-age events include a meal, group learning, age-appropriate activities and prayer. This year one GIFT event will be offered in January.

In addition, home-based participants are asked to do at least one **family service project** during the academic year. Examples include volunteering with parish events, collecting money, food or clothing for people in need, or wrapping gifts for Toys for Tots during the holidays.

Twice a year, families are asked to submit a self-evaluation, reporting how many chapters they've completed in the texts and describing what they have done so far in their program.

HOME BASED SCHEDULE: 09-10

Home-based families are asked to plan

Parent Information Night

Sept. 22 or 24 at 7 p.m. (attend one)
Pick up textbooks and get an overview of the year. In Parish Hall.

Grade Level Retreats

(Retreats for grades 1-10 are held in the Parish Hall at Good Shepherd)

Elementary (9:30 am to Noon)

Grade 1: Oct. 17

Grade 2

First Reconciliation retreat: Jan. 16

First Eucharist retreat: April 10

Grade 3: Oct. 31

Grade 4: March 13

Grade 5: Feb. 27

Middle School (9 am to noon)

Grade 6: Dec. 5

Grade 7: April 17

Grade 8: Feb. 20,

High School (grades 9-10: 1 pm to 5)

Grade 9: Dec. 5 with parents (sponsors are invited as well)

Grade 10:

Feb. 20 (students only)

April 17 (with parents and sponsors)

Grade 11: Overnight at Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville, Nov 20-21, 2009

(Continued on next flap)

Home-Based Schedule cont.

Generations in Faith Together (GIFT)

Choose from one of the three dates listed.
Registration information will be sent out closer to the date.

- Sat., Jan 23, 11:30-2:30
- Sun., Jan 24, 12:30-3:30
- Mon., Jan 25, 6 pm to 9 pm*

* **Monday sessions are designed for adults and teens, to allow for deeper sharing. Saturday and Sunday sessions continue to be open to all ages.**

Parish Mission: Feb. 8-11

While this isn't a required part of the program, it's a great supplement to what you're doing at home. The parish mission features prayer, presentation and parishioner talks in evening sessions. More info will appear in the bulletin.

Youth Ministry

The middle school youth ministry (Shout!) and the high school program (Word) engages all parish youth in activities that are spiritual, social and fun! Watch the bulletin or contact youth minister Amelia McGinnis at amelia.mcginis@gmail.com

Visit the religious ed web page for great home-based resources:
www.shepherded.pbworks.com

username: parents
password: ccd

FIRST RECONCILIATION/

FIRST COMMUNION SCHEDULE 2009-2010

Parent Meeting on Reconciliation
Nov. 10 or Nov 12 at 7 pm in parish hall
(attend one, parents only)

First Reconciliation Rehearsal
Jan. 28 at 7 pm in the church
(child and a parent)

First Reconciliation Celebration
Jan 30 at 10 am in the church

Parent Meeting on First Communion
March 2 or March 4 at 7 pm in the parish hall
(attend one, parents only)

For Sun. 6 pm & Mon. classes:

- **First Communion Rehearsal**
April 29 at 7 pm in the church
(child and a parent)
- **First Communion Celebration**
May 1 at 10 am in the church

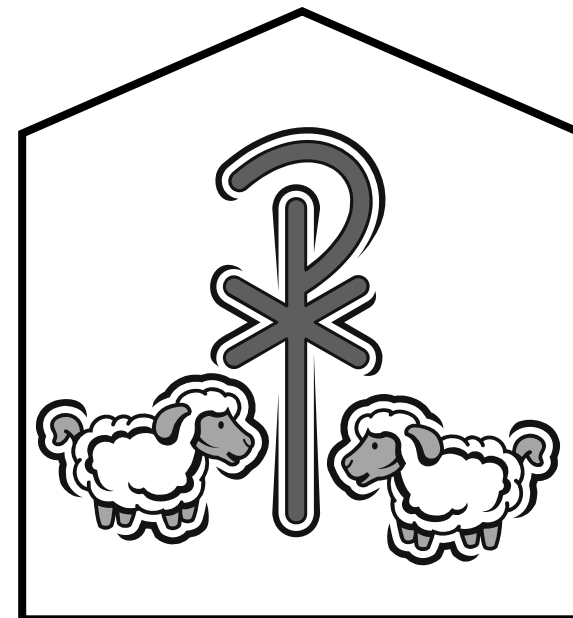
For OLV students, Sun. 4:15 classes and home-based students:

- **First Communion Rehearsal**
May 6 at 7 pm in the church
(child and a parent)
- **First Communion Celebration**
May 8 at 10 am in the church

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Home-Based Program

2009-2010



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