

LESSONS

IN

FAITH

EXPERIENCE



2009-2010

A program for Adults who are looking to deepen their relationship with God and to enhance their life of faith.

Presented by St. Charles' Ministry of Lifelong Learning

Growing in your faith doesn't stop after you get confirmed; it is an on-going journey. One way of growing in your faith is to come to **L.I.F.E.** Here you have the opportunity to attend one or more of these evenings that is geared to enrich your life and understanding of what we as Catholic Christians are called to do – grow in our faith. Mark your calendar now to save one, two or more of the topics that interests you. You will not be disappointed.

All sessions will be held in Borromeo Hall in the Keeley Center on Tuesdays from 7:30 - 9:00 pm unless otherwise noted. A freewill donation of \$5.00 is always appreciated to pay for the evening

presenter.

Below you will find a description of each months LIFE opportunities. Scroll down to see what is coming up this month.

Your Lifelong Learning Minister,
Julie Gallagher

Please, feel free to contact me for more information about the program or to just talk about your faith at upcatholic@aol.com or 447-4549 ext 114.

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The Missing Books of the Bible:
Why are they Missing?
October 13, 2009

with Dr. "Kitty" Murphy

During the last few centuries, manuscript discoveries have revolutionized our views of early Judaism, early Christianity, and the Bible. From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Gnostic gospels to the Nag Hammadi, we now have a wealth of information that challenges our text of the Bible, our notions about Judaism and Christianity's relation to it, and our picture of the diversity of early Christianity. Dr. "Kitty" Murphy will knock your socks off as she talks and power-points her way through these major manuscripts. She'll enlighten us about religions past and present in regards to what the manuscripts tell or what they "don't" tell.

You loved Dr. "Kitty" Murphy last May when she was with us and spoke about *Jesus the Jew*. This time will be no different. Dr. Murphy is an Associate Professor of New Testament at Santa Clara University where she teaches courses on the Bible and apocalyptic literature. She has worked on the Dead Sea Scrolls publication team, she has traveled frequently to Israel, and she has written three books.

What Does Reconciliation Mean for Us Today?

November 17, 2009

with Fr. Kenan Osborne, O.F.B.

Do you think you know what reconciliation is all about? Come and learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation from a compassionate Franciscan priest. Fr. Kenan Osborne, O.F.B. will give us a look into what reconciliation is all about, the positive issues and the negative ones too. Both parents who are trying to help their children understand the Sacrament and those of us who have celebrated it before, will come away with a whole new understanding of this often feared and under-used Sacrament.

Fr. Kenan Osborne is a spirited and animated teacher known internationally and loved by all whom he has taught. Having served in every possible role from local chaplain to international lecturer, this Franciscan priest has been the bridge between the old, pre-Vatican II world and the contemporary. Fr. Kenan has written many books, *The Renewal of the Sacrament of Penance* being just one.



3rd Annual FRIDAY Advent Extravaganza
December 4, 2009
with "St. Charles' Advent Angels" @ 7:00-9:00 pm

How do you prepare for a special time? This Advent season, the St. Charles' Advent Angels are going to spice up our souls and warm our hearts with carols that will fill the hall, stories that will prepare us for that Christmas gift and so much more. This is an evening for all of our St. Charles family, 1 to 99, to join together. Leave those thoughts of chaotic Christmas behind for an evening, so you can really focus on the "Reason for the Season."

Of course, no Advent Extravaganza is complete without some good fellowship and awesome cookies and cider.

Islam- Understanding the Faith
January 12, 2010
with Dr. Farid Senzai

Come and discover what Islam is about. The evening will involve a looking into the basic history and founding of Islam. There will be a discussion of the pillars and articles of faith and we will briefly examine how Islam relates to other monotheistic traditions, such as Judaism and Christianity.

Dr. Farid Senzai is Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at Santa Clara University. He is also a Fellow and the Director of Research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, which focuses on researching the Muslim community

in the United States. Prior to teaching, Dr. Senzai was a research associate at the Brookings Institute and is presently on the advisory board of The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Dr. Senzai received his Ph.D. in politics and international relations from Oxford University.

Moved by the SPIRIT!



Torture & Conscience
February 9, 2010
with Fr. Louis Vitale O.F.M.

God calls his people to "act with justice." Anyone who opens a paper, listens to the radio or reads the web headlines sees that justice has turned into "retaliation." Torture and killing is what justice is today, is that what God wanted? Come and hear Fr. Louie Vitale share his personal journey of living out God's justice by trying to peacefully change what is happening in our world today.

Franciscan priest, activist, and co-founder of Pace e Bene, Fr. Louie Vitale has engaged in civil disobedience for nearly four decades in pursuit of peace and justice, and has been arrested more than 200 times. He has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the UCLA. Father Louie is involved in trying to raise awareness about issues of torture and the US involvement in it. In 2009, Fr. Louie took part in a peace delegation to Iran and a pilgrimage to Hiroshima. He also has spoke in over 40 cities across the United States about his peacemaking experience.

**"Searching, Discovering, Celebrating:
Experiencing God's Mercy & Compassion"
with Fr. Patrick Hannon, C.S.C.**

All of us, whether we are 1 or 101, routinely have a set of steps that we take when we have a goal to reach, whether we know it or not. Those steps seem to go in this order: 1) Searching, 2) Discovering, and 3) Celebrating. These three steps are not just used for our everyday existence only they are also used in our spiritual life. This Lent you are invited to join Fr. Pat Hannon as he walks with us through the searching, the discovering and the celebrating of God's mercy and compassion for each and every one of His children. This three day or evening retreat promises to change your heart. No one, adults and youth alike, will be the same afterwards. The youth of our parish also have this same opportunity on Wednesday, March 10th from 3:30 -5:00 pm.

Fr. Patrick Hannon, Castro Valley born and raised, is a Holy Cross priest who presently teaches at the University of Portland. Fr. Pat is a popular priest-storyteller who has many books and stories to his credit. Some of his stories come out of his experiences in a family which is made up of 9 brothers and sisters, and 37 nieces and nephews!

Fr. Pat graduated from Moreau High School. He has a BA in Political Science and Masters of Divinity. He has taught at Moreau and ministered in Hayward parishes. Fr. Pat describes himself as follows. "I am an avid reader, film connoisseur, and home brewer (that would be beer!). I love all things Irish and believe that second only to churches, the Oakland Coliseum, home to my beloved Oakland Athletics, is sacred ground."



St. Charles' Lenten Journey
March 8-10, 2010
(morning & evening sessions)

Science &The Bible: The Genesis Debate

May 11, 2010

with Dr. David Pleins

Why do religious fundamentalists and evolutionists continue to feud in the 21st century? Has science destroyed the Bible? Can a Darwinist be religious? Must our public schools serve as battlegrounds over “intelligent design” and “creation science?” This course considers the current debate over the Genesis creation story from a variety of angles, looking in particular at the theological debates, the scientific challenges, the history of the conflict, the public policy debates, and the enduring meaning of myth.

Dr. David Pleins is a professor in the Religious Studies Department at Santa Clara University. Pleins earned his MA in Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical Studies and Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the University of Michigan. Pleins’ interests extend beyond economics to encompass mythology and traditions in Job and Psalms. He has just completed a book that analyzes flood traditions, such as the story of Noah, in the Ancient Near East, and is now turning to the creationism debates.