

# **Go Deeper Topic Descriptions for Year I (2019/2020)**

All topics are offered on a Wednesday evening from 7:30 – 9:00  
You may attend one or all the topics in order or randomly.  
Registration recommended, but not required. Contact Faith Formation Office  
248-685-2702 or Deacon Tim Pilon at 248-390-5436

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## **#1 CATECHESIS AND THE CALL TO EVANGELIZE**

We are all called in one way or another to the ministry of Catechesis as Evangelizers; it is an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. Christians are persons who have answered a call from God to echo or proclaim the Good News. Fruitful evangelization ministry is founded on God's grace and the God-given personal qualities, gifts and skills of the evangelizer. The aim of this session is to enable participants to have a clear understanding of the nature of evangelization and to recognize, articulate and appreciate the unique vocation of the evangelizer.

## **#2 CREATIVE METHODS TO FOSTER FAITH GROWTH**

“Evangelization aims to bring about in the believer an ever more mature faith in Jesus Christ, a deeper knowledge of his person and message and a firm commitment to follow him.” (*NDC* #19A) All evangelization methods must be consistent with this threefold purpose. This topic explores various approaches to faith growth, moral and intellectual development as they relate to a deeper “communion with Jesus Christ.”

## **#3 FACILITATING A CATECHETICAL SESSION: GROUP DYNAMICS**

An evangelizer should be able to facilitate a group by understanding the dynamics and developing the skills of group interaction. The objective of this session is to become acquainted with general methods of group dynamics suitable to the many styles of evangelization in our faith communities.

## **#4 FOUNDATIONS IN SACRED SCRIPTURE**

Sacred Scripture, the self-revelation of God to human beings, lays the foundation for biblical understanding and invites participants into relationship with God. This topic aims to introduce participants to biblical content and structure, different translations, and the similarities among various publications of Sacred Scripture as a means to enhance one's relationship to God.

## **#5 MEETING JESUS**

The *General Directory for Catechesis* defines faith as “a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.” (GDC #53) If Christians are to lead others to Christ, they should first have an understanding of the nature of their own relationship with Jesus, the process and role of conversion in their lives, and an ongoing commitment to discipleship. The objective of this session is to lead participants to an ever more mature faith in Jesus Christ, a deeper knowledge and love of his person and message, and a firm commitment to follow him.

## **#6 SACRAMENT: SIGN AND SYMBOL**

An examination of the meaning, role, and purpose of signs and symbols is necessary to understanding sacrament as an experience of God’s action in the life and celebration of the community of faith. The objective is to enable participants to grow in their understanding of sign and symbol, and to foster a greater awareness of the nature of sacrament and its place in the life of the Church.

## **# 7 HOLY TRINITY: SACRED MYSTERY**

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. God, who is always one God, has revealed himself to us as a communion of three persons most often named as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a mystery of unity, diversity and relationship. Our objective is to better understand “the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the central mystery of the Christian faith, and the Trinitarian structure of the Church’s beliefs and teachings.”

## **# 8 THE CHURCH: PEOPLE OF GOD**

The Church is the assembly of God’s people. United in faith and guided by the Spirit, the Church is an essential part of the mystery of God’s saving love as it lives and acts as the Body of Christ in and for the world. The fullness of the Church subsists in the Catholic Church. In this session we hope to awaken and broaden our appreciation of the Catholic understanding of Church.

## **# 9 DYNAMICS OF FAITH**

We will explore the meanings of personal faith, scriptural faith, and faith as embodied in our Catholic Christian tradition. We will examine the spiritual life of the catechist/evangelizer and her/his role in faith formation and evangelization. Our objective will be to understand the meaning of faith and faith development, examine our own experience of faith, and articulate the relationship between faith growth and the role of evangelization.

## **# 10 SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**

The three sacraments of initiation closely combine to bring us, the faithful of Christ, to [his] full stature and to enable us to carry out the mission of the entire people of God in the Church and in the world. This topic examines the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist to

enable us to grow in our understanding of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, including the history of the sacraments, their relationship with one another, current practice, and their role in the sacramental life of the Church.

## **# 11 PRAYER**

Prayer is a response to God's initiative of dialogue with us. Through prayer we open ourselves to the presence of God. Personal prayer expresses the covenant relationship that binds God to the person and the person to God. In this session we attempt to recognize that personal prayer permeates the daily life of a Christian and to assist in expanding our repertoire of prayer forms.

## **TOPIC # 12 COVENANT LIVING**

The Ten Commandments are God-given laws of love meant to enable people to live in harmony. The gospel message of Jesus, based on love, is expressed in the Beatitudes given at the Sermon on the Mount. Christians understand the Ten Commandments in the "light of Christ's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount." In this session we will explore the Ten Commandments and the Gospel message of Jesus as complementary.

## **# 13 FORMING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

The work of Christian witnesses is to form Christian communities and help people discover how a Christian community forms its members. This takes place when members of the Church are a life-giving community, bear witness to faith, evangelize and preach the Good News, teach Christian faith and worship as a community. As Christian witnesses we strive understand our role in forming community, the role of the community as formative, and the implications of both for growth in faith.

## **# A USING & EXPLORING SACRED SCRIPTURE**

Sacred Scripture elicits an encounter with Christ and provides the starting point, foundation and norm of Christian Life. It is the real presence of God in our midst along with Eucharist and Community. In this session we hope to explore various methods for bringing the message of Sacred Scripture alive

## **# B SACRAMENTS OF HEALING**

The Church is deeply concerned with calling the faithful to continual conversion and renewal. The Lord himself showed great concern for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the sick and commanded his followers to do likewise. This topic examines the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick to deepen our understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick; including the history of the sacraments, current practice, and their roles in the sacramental life of the Church.

## **# C CHURCH AT PRAYER IN THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**

Liturgy expresses in ritual what we believe to be the very heart of our existence, the Paschal Mystery. Eucharist is the most visible of all our liturgical celebrations. It is a radical call to faith and a means for renewing our bond with one another in Christ. Our objective in this session is to help us engage ourselves in spirit, mind and body, heart and soul, through the ritual of the Eucharistic liturgy, continuing transformation through, with, and in Christ.