

## **ABOUT THE HOME-BASED PROGRAM**

Good Shepherd's home-based religious education program is open to children in the first through 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

Home-based families are asked to plan

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.

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.

**In the past, our annual GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) sessions**, have been a required part of the home-based program. These multi-age events include a meal, group learning, age-appropriate activities and prayer. With the transition this year, it is not clear if these will be offered. Watch for updates.

## **HOME BASED SCHEDULE: 2010-11**

### **Parent Information Night**

**Sept. 15 or 16 at 7 p.m.** (attend one)  
Pick up textbooks and get an overview of the year in the 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. 23

**Grade 2:**

First Reconciliation retreat: Jan. 15

First Eucharist retreat: April 2

**Grade 3:** Nov. 6

**Grade 4:** Feb. 12

**Grade 5:** Dec. 11

#### **Middle School (9 am to noon)**

**Grade 6:** Jan. 8

**Grade 7:** April 9

**Grade 8:** Dec. 4

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

**Grade 9:** Jan. 8 with parents (sponsors are invited as well)

**Grade 10:**

Dec. 4 (students only)

April 9 (with parents and sponsors)

## **Youth Ministry**

## **FIRST COMMUNION** **SCHEDULE 2010-2011**

The middle school youth ministry (Shout!) and the high school program (Word!) engage parish youth in activities that are spiritual, social and fun! These are separate from our TYM program and are open to all.

Please encourage your middle and high school students to participate, as this is a great way to share faith with their peers. Our new youth minister, Elaine Scutti, has some great things planned for this year.

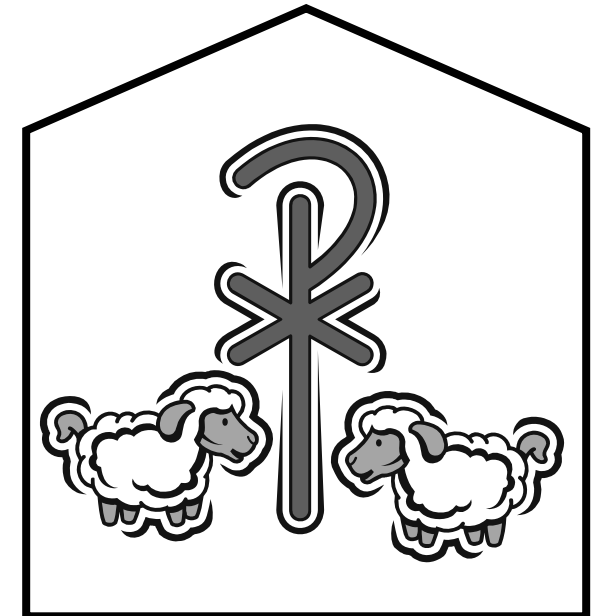
There are several ways to stay in the touch with what's happening Youth Ministry:

- Join the youth ministry Facebook group, listed as **Word and Shout Youth Ministry**. It's a great way to get updates.
- Visit the religious ed web page at [www.shepherded.pbworks.com](http://www.shepherded.pbworks.com) and click on Youth Ministry.
- Check out Elaine's colorful bulletin board in the parish hall.
- Watch the bulletin or contact Elaine directly at:  
elainescuttiym@gmail.com

## **GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH**

### ***Home-Based Program***

**2010-2011**



**Faith Formation Office**

Phone 238-0649

e-mail:dirred@goodshepherd-sc.org

#### **Parent Meeting on Reconciliation**

Nov. 9 or Nov. 11 at 7 pm in the church  
(attend one, parents only)

#### **First Reconciliation Rehearsal**

Jan. 27 at 7 pm in the church  
(child and a parent)

#### **First Reconciliation Celebration**

Jan 29 at 10 am in the church

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#### **Parent Meeting on First Communion**

Feb. 22 or Feb. 24 at 7 pm in the church  
(attend one, parents only)

#### **For Sun. 6 pm & Mon. classes:**

- **First Communion Rehearsal**  
May 5 at 7 pm (child and a parent)
- **First Communion Celebration**  
May 7 at 10 am in the church  
(reception follows in parish hall)

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

- **First Communion Rehearsal**  
May 12 at 7 pm in the church
- **First Communion Celebration**  
May 14 at 10 am in the church

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION/**