

DID YOU KNOW ...

LEARNING LOVING LIVING ...

Spring 2007

... What PREP Means?

The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP), originally known as the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), encompasses students from the parish school, public schools and private schools, along with pre-school aged children and adults. Some of the programs are Little People's Sunday School, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Sacrament Preparation.

Parents who choose not to send their children to the parish school or to a local private Catholic school should enroll their children in PREP. A listing of class times appears at right. Parents also have the option of home-schooling.

The St. Luke program has an enrollment of over 250 students with 20 teachers, 10 classroom aides, and five office aides. Due to demand, PREP has enhanced its services with a website, computer-generated registration, a family directory, and a forthcoming logo designed by the students. There is a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) which meets monthly with the Director of Religious Education (DRE) to discuss programming and parish integration.

The program is seeking teachers and aides for the 2007-2008 school year and additional volunteers for other programs and the PAC. Registration for PREP begins in April. Please look for more information in the bulletin or check out the link at www.stlukerc.org.

PREP Classes at St. Luke's

Mondays

1st-6th grade: 4:15-5:30 p.m.

4th-7th grade: 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Alternative session— for Boy Scouts and others who can't attend Monday classes

8th Grade Sessions:

Twice per month in Chapel House [discuss and analyze media influences/films]

... Where You Can Find ...

- × Families learning and sharing their faith together [See page 2, "**GREAT STUFF**"]
- × Students volunteering and serving their community [See page 2, "**GREAT STUFF**"]
- × Adults learning and joining the church [See below left, "**RCIA**"]
- × Young adults socializing and serving their community? [See bottom page 2, "**GROUP**"]
- × Young children appreciating the Gospel? [See page 2 left, "**LITTLE ONES**"]
- × Preschoolers exploring their faith? [See page 2 left, "**LITTLE ONES**"]

Welcome to PREP: A Journey of Learning, Loving, Living in Faith with God.

RCIA

... We Welcome Catholics To Be!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

For those who have not been baptized, the process consists of various rituals and a time of preparation lasting about one year. The Rite of Initiation usually takes place during the Easter Vigil. Eleven were baptized in 2005!

The RCIA program also prepares baptized adults for Eucharist and Confirmation. The time of preparation varies according to individual circumstances.

The RCIA team, coordinated by Director of Parish Services, Jeanne Kyle, meets with candidates and their sponsors weekly. Our program runs year round.

"**DID YOU KNOW ...**" is a publication of the Parish Religious Education Program of St. Luke the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Glenside, PA.

Please contact Sharon D'Amore, Director of Religious Education (DRE) for more information

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... How to Involve the **LITTLE ONES?**

PREP offers two excellent options for young children to grow and learn their faith:

Little People's Sunday School:

- ◆ Open to all parishioners, ages 3 to 5 years old and not yet in kindergarten [about 25 participants].
- ◆ Most Sundays during the 9:30 a.m. mass, from September through May.
- ◆ Facilitators: Rachel O'Neill, an Abington Senior High School student, and Andria Johnson, an elementary school teacher.
- ◆ Curriculum: based on the week's Gospel, simplified to an age-appropriate level, with arts and crafts, games, snack.
- ◆ Registration: required and begins in May for the 2007-2008 year; Cost: \$50 for the year; Contact DRE for details.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

- ◆ For all parishioners grades K through 3 during 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays.
- ◆ Participants hear the day's scriptures specially adapted for young people.
- ◆ They participate in a short discussion based on readings, led by parent volunteers and followed by a fun, coordinated handout.
- ◆ This PREP program is run by volunteers. Commitment is one or two Sundays per year. Current coordinator, Patty Huntkowski, is seeking a replacement.
- ◆ Please contact DRE to volunteer!

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

"I like listening to the stories and then coloring the papers."

**Grace Spurrier,
first grader**

... PREP Families do **GREAT STUFF!**

St. Luke's PREP program strives to give children and their families a well-rounded religious education, with exceptional opportunities to learn and share their faith:

For the past two Septembers, the PREP school year has kicked off with the very successful "School Supply Bags for St. Malachy's." Students not only collect the supplies but gather after a Mass to assemble and decorate the bags, which are delivered to the needy students.

Throughout the school year, students take part in a variety of critical and beneficial programs: food drives, Operation Rice Bowl, senior citizen and prisoner outreach, and household item collections that benefit the community.

The PREP community gathers together at least three times a year to celebrate faith as a family. This is done in the evening - in lieu of class - so parents and siblings may attend. Students participate in all aspects of the celebration, including the popular PREP Choir. This year saw the introduction of an evening Lenten Supper followed by Stations of the Cross. The year concludes with a beautiful May Procession and delicious ice cream social.

All are welcome to attend these and other services sponsored by PREP. Please watch the bulletin or check out the website for a calendar of events [visit www.stlukerc.org and click on the "PREP" link on the left-hand side].

... It's **FUN**, it's a **GROUP** Thing!

For students in high school and college, the St. Luke's Youth Group combines socialization and community service ; the motto is FUN, FUN, FUN!

The Youth Group moderators volunteer their time, providing an outlet for the young adults of St. Luke's to complete community service projects and actively engage their peers at events that bring them back to St. Luke's.

The group meets for numerous occasions each year, mostly between October and March, and anchored by Mass on the second Sunday of each month followed by an event in Fr. Fitzpatrick Hall. Other events include Game Night, Operation Santa Claus and the assembly of Thanksgiving baskets.

Lock-in, another great event, focuses on team building. Young adults of the Parish are encouraged to bring their Catholic and non-Catholic friends to this all-nighter packed with challenging and fun activities.

Another premier event, the Battle of the Bands, first organized by Emily McCormick in 2005, then a senior at Abington High School, has given exposure to some of our home-grown talent, all while raising funds for our sister Parish in Haiti.

Future events for this summer are in the works. If you are interested in an outdoor Movie Night or a trip to Great Adventure, or just to find out more about the Youth Group, watch the bulletin, or check out the website and send your us email address - we'll add you to the list: e-mail stlukeyouthgroup@yahoo.com.