

Adult Religious Studies



The model of church as a community of disciples of the Lord puts lifelong discipleship at the center of church life. This parallels the secular and religious educational emphasis on lifelong learning.

One's learning from and about Jesus, as well as about the implications of the Gospel and religious tradition for one's life, never ends. No matter how old or learned persons become, they must still have the humility to learn from others and be willing to have their views corrected by this learning. (*Christian Adulthood 1983, 7*)

The *Documents of Vatican II* and subsequent pastoral letters of the national Council of Catholic Bishops point to the necessity of focusing on the importance of Adult Religious Education.

To meet these directives, the following programs are offered at St. Mary of the Pines Church:

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR ADULTS

Infant Baptism: The Diocese of Shreveport requires Seminars for parents of new borns and small children. Godparents and others are encouraged to attend. The seminars keep parents and godparents up to date on the purpose of baptism, the role of godparents, and the rite of Baptism itself. The seminars are scheduled regularly at St. Mary of the Pines. Seminar dates are published in the Church Bulletin.

Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation: A series of preparatory sessions are offered for parents whose children will be celebrating these sacraments. Parent, (or guardian), involvement in these sessions is required.

Preparation for Adult Confirmation: This process prepares adults who have not received the sacrament of Confirmation and is scheduled as needed.

Adult Bible Study: Adult men and women of the parish share an opportunity of looking deeper into God's Word and sharing their insights.

This group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM.

Greco Institute: The Diocese of Shreveport sponsors eight-week courses in the parishes each spring and fall on such topics as Morality, Grace, Theology, Sacraments, Church and Church History, and Sacred Scripture. The courses are free. The only cost is for the textbook.

Through the University of Dallas, the Greco sponsors a Degree in Pastoral Studies for those who are interested. Catechists in the Diocese of Shreveport are encouraged to take advantage of the courses offered by the Greco Institute.

Other adult enrichment courses such as parenting, communications, organization and management skills, etc. are available upon request by the parishes. Please contact the Church Office 318 687 5121 to share suggestions or make requests.