

# Catechetical Sunday

## *Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization*

**There are many ways each of us bestow the lessons of the Gospels** by what we say and do. We act in the capacity of catechists when we put into words the significance of sharing and witnessing our faith with each other:

- ◆ Every time you have put your arms around someone who is grieving or hurting you have evangelized in hope.
- ◆ Every time your kind words or smile brought peace to someone, you have evangelized in love.
- ◆ Every time you have forgiven someone who has hurt you, you have evangelized in peace.
- ◆ Every time you prayed with someone in need, you have evangelized in faith.

**Together, catechists and parishioners of St. James** enable our church to depend on each other and work as a unified team in bringing the message of the Gospel to all. By our words and actions we take an active role in living and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to pray that we continue to open ourselves to the Spirit, allowing the Gospel to come to life in us in new ways, sharing our faith as catechists, being a vital, caring presence to one another and to the world beyond.

**The Faith Formation Ministry** welcomes anyone interested in joining the ministry. To participate in the ministry or for more information regarding the ministry, please contact the ministry's chairperson, Chris Forbes, through the rectory at 412.241.1392 or email [stjameswilk@aol.com](mailto:stjameswilk@aol.com).



St. James Church  
Wilkinsburg PA 15221

September 16, 2012

*Presented by the Faith Formation Ministry*

**St. James Parish** celebrates Catechetical Sunday each year by special reflections on catechetical Sunday at each Mass, commissioning those who serve in the ministry and the school and the verbal support of the ministry by the parishioners of St. James.

**Catechists** are those who teach in the name of the church. They instruct and explain our faith to others. There are special people in our parish who come to mind when reflecting on the role of the catechist.:

- ◆ The wonderful volunteers in our CCD program and the teachers in our Catholic schools who help parents with the religious education of their children.
- ◆ The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) team who prepare and support people who are coming into our church and those who are returning after an absence.
- ◆ The adult education teachers preparing parents for the Baptism of their child.
- ◆ The leaders of Children's Liturgy who instruct the children at the 11:30 Mass.

**St. James Parish celebrates Catechetical Sunday** to honor our teachers, catechists and evangelists as they teach our faith, in the name of our parish. Our parish is proud of the effort and dedication they provide to our children and adults.

**There are many opportunities at St. James** for us to participate in the catechetical ministry of our church. If you have not done so in the past, we encourage you to take advantage of the parish's religious educational opportunities:

- ◆ Each year there are the informational sacramental classes for parents who have children receiving the sacraments. You do not have to have a child receiving the sacraments to attend, everyone is invited.
- ◆ Thursday evening's new topics of faith, sacraments and church are discussed in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is an excellent opportunity for you to support new members entering our church and to participate in the faith sharing that ensues.

**The Mission of the Faith Formation Ministry of St. James Pastoral Council** is to support the ongoing faith journey of all members of St. James Parish. The ministry provides opportunities to learn about the Catholic faith and is providing many adult faith education opportunities through retreats, days of reflection, discussion groups and special events.

There is a Day of Reflection during the Advent season; a series of contemplations on various topics during Lent; and in September, Fr. Eugene Lauer, noted theologian and renowned speaker will address the topic of forgiveness in a week-end mini mission. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in all faith activities sponsored by the ministry.

