

The Ascension Weekly

September 24, 2017

All Mothers Invited!

It has been just about five years now since the Mother's Group was first formed at Ascension. Maria Murphy says that when she initially proposed the idea of the group in the fall of 2012 to then-pastor Fr. Kyle Ingels, she was looking for a way to connect with other Catholic mothers in a way that would be helpful and of interest to the mothers themselves. "There were lots of playgroups in the area," she explains, "but it was harder to find groups that were intentional in focusing on the mothers themselves, on their interests and needs." And with that goal in mind the Mother's Group at Ascension was launched, with its stated aims being "fellowship, faith and fun." The group regularly meets every first and third Tuesday of the month in the St. Pius classroom of the Religious Education building from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Attendance can vary from week to week but those who are on the group's email list are kept apprised of upcoming speakers and discussion topics. "The format of the meetings can vary," Maria explains. "Often it centers around a presentation given by one of the mothers on a topic of interest to them or perhaps upon a book they have read and would like to share. Sometimes during the meeting we watch a video or read an article on an issue of relevance and then have a discussion about it. We have also listened to presentations by guest speakers." Memorable presentations in the past have included topics such as budgeting and five minute marriage boosters. Some weeks are set aside to offer the mothers a chance to visit the adoration chapel or pray the rosary together, and there is also the occasional potluck luncheon. Children are always welcome to come along and play while the mothers talk.

Although the meetings are generally comprised of stay-at-home mothers of young children, the group welcomes mothers of all ages and stages. Maria Murphy says she would love to see more older moms, working moms and grandmothers attend. She says, "Their experience and different perspectives would be a valuable asset to the



Members of the Mother's Group listening to a talk by Fr. Chris Seith in July about modern technology and its effects on the spiritual life.

group, and hopefully we would all learn from each other."

We caught up with a couple of the moms to ask how Mother's Group has been beneficial to them. Kaitlyn McGrath, a young mother who has attended in the past with her three young children, comments that, "I really enjoy the community created by Mother's Group. It is made up of a wonderful group of ladies who are able to share their joys and struggles in parenting and to grow and pray together. I've also really enjoyed the topics we've discussed. In particular, talks about homeschooling, birth order and love languages have helped me grow as a person and as a parent." Maria Centeno, another mom who attends, feels blessed by the friendships she's made through the group, and also appreciates the wide range of topics presented for discussion, which in the past have included talks on essential oils, selling on Ebay, estate planning, parenting issues and the Church's positions on life issues, among others.

Upcoming meetings will include an October speaker presentation on "How to Love Your Angry Child," another one later in the fall about the apparitions of Fatima, and the annual cookie exchange in December. If you would like to be added to the Mother's Group mailing list or would like to start attending, please email Maria Murphy at marispan@yahoo.com.